

# Paul Hawken Quotes

*People, Order, Environmental, Business, Trying, Thinking, Powerful, Future,  
Way, Cost, Dark, Life, Healing, Earth, Humans, Years, Practice, Information,  
Responsibility, Use*

Good management is the art of making problems so interesting and their solutions so constructive that everyone wants to get to work and deal with them.

~Paul Hawken

Most floods are caused by man, not weather; deforestation, levee construction, erosion, and overgrazing all result in the loss of ecosystem services.

~Paul Hawken

All is connected ... no one thing can change by itself.

~Paul Hawken

What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world.

~Paul Hawken

Business is the only mechanism on the planet today powerful enough to produce the changes necessary to reverse global environments and social degradation.

~Paul Hawken

The future belongs to those who understand that doing more with less is compassionate, prosperous, and enduring, and thus more intelligent, even competitive.

~Paul Hawken

The first rule of sustainability is to align with natural forces, or at least not try to defy them

~Paul Hawken

Always leave enough time in your life to do something that makes you happy, satisfied, even joyous. That has more of an effect on economic

well-being than any other single factor.

~Paul Hawken

Don't be put off by people who know what is not possible. Do what needs to be done, and check to see if it was impossible only after you are done.

~Paul Hawken

The most unrealistic person in the world is the cynic, not the dreamer.

~Paul Hawken

Only caring individuals can restore the places we inhabit. The 'simple act of planting a tree' not only restores the places we live, but makes us whole and powerful again.

~Paul Hawken

Healing the wounds of the earth and its people does not require saintliness or a political party, only gumption and persistence. It is not a liberal or conservative activity; it is a sacred act.

~Paul Hawken

I'd rather fail at something important than succeed at something trivial.

~Paul Hawken

The bottom line is down where it belongs - at the bottom.

~Paul Hawken

Being a good human being is good business.

~Paul Hawken

Interestingly, the oil companies know very well that in less than 30 years they will not only be charging very high prices, but that they will be uncompetitive with renewables.

~Paul Hawken

Being in business is not about making money. It is a way to become who you are.

~Paul Hawken

We are losing our living systems, social systems, cultural systems, governing systems, stability, and our constitutional health, and we're surrendering it all at the same time.

~Paul Hawken

What we are missing, utterly and completely, in this government is accountability.

~Paul Hawken

The promise of business is to increase the general well-being of humankind through service, a creative invention and ethical philosophy.

~Paul Hawken

A local company has more accountability.

~Paul Hawken

We are now heading down a centuries-long path toward increasing the productivity of our natural capital - the resource systems upon which we depend to live - instead of our human capital.

~Paul Hawken

When the planes still swoop down and aerial spray a field in order to kill a predator insect with pesticides, we are in the Dark Ages of commerce.

~Paul Hawken

If there is to be an ecologically sound society, it will have to come the grass roots up, not from the top down.

~Paul Hawken

Wrong is an addictive, repetitive story; Right is where the movement is.

~Paul Hawken

We are the only species on this planet without full employment.

~Paul Hawken

It costs the same to send a person to prison or to Harvard. The difference is the curriculum.

~Paul Hawken

Inspiration is not garnered from the litanies of what may befall us; it resides in humanity's willingness to restore, redress, reform, rebuild, recover, reimagine, and reconsider.

~Paul Hawken

The bottom line is down where it belongs - at the bottom. Far above it in importance are the infinite number of events that produce the profit or loss.

~Paul Hawken

We can no longer prosper by increasing human productivity. The more we try to do, the more poverty we will create.

~Paul Hawken

First we need to decide what needs to be done. Then we do it. And then we ask if it is possible.

~Paul Hawken

Luck is earned. Luck is working so hard at your craft, service or enterprise that sooner or later you get a break.

~Paul Hawken

At present we are stealing the future, selling it in the present, and calling it gross domestic product.

~Paul Hawken

Working for the earth is not a way to get rich, it is a way to be rich.

~Paul Hawken

You are Brilliant and the Earth is Hiring.

~Paul Hawken

If everyone thinks you have a good idea, you're too late

~Paul Hawken

What a great time to be born! What a great time to be alive! Because this generation gets to essentially completely change the world.

~Paul Hawken

Mother's milk would be banned by the food safety laws of industrialized nations if it were sold as a packaged good.

~Paul Hawken

In short, industrialism is over.

~Paul Hawken

Green business is not about tie-dyed T-shirts. It's about transforming the industrial system itself into one that looks at all the connections.

~Paul Hawken

What we already know frames what we see, and what we see frames what we understand.

~Paul Hawken

Don't go to business school.

~Paul Hawken

We are speeding up our lives and working harder in a futile attempt to

buy the time to slow down and enjoy it.

~Paul Hawken

You can blame people who knock things over in the dark or you can begin to light candles. You're only at fault if you know about the problem and choose to do nothing.

~Paul Hawken

Capitalism, as practiced, is a financially profitable, non-sustainable aberration in human development.

~Paul Hawken

How much harm does a company have to do before we question its right to exist?

~Paul Hawken

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