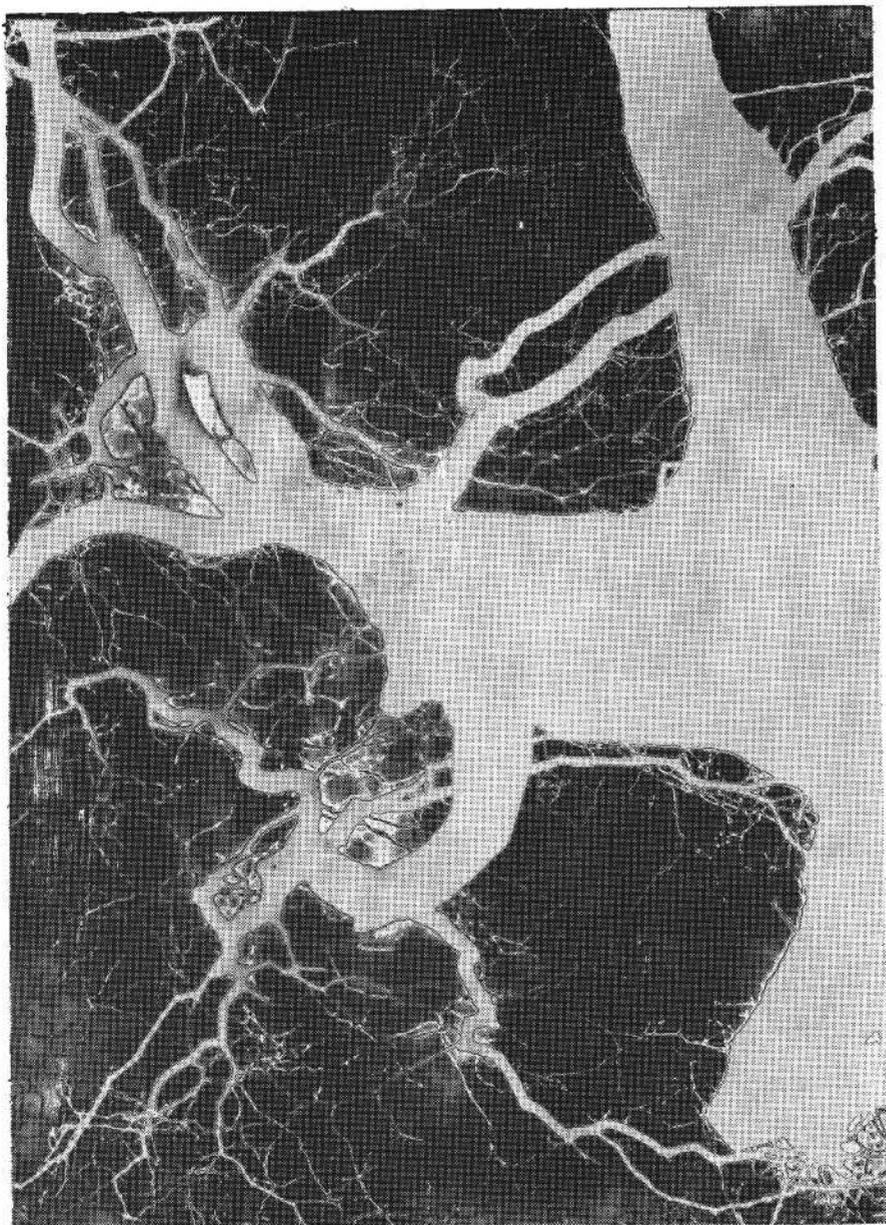


from an ecological perspective

The task before us, bringing our activities into tune with our needs and the earth's limitations, in itself requires energy. Remaining fuels should be mostly used for these tasks. As fuels are consumed in ignorance of this perspective, options are surrendered. Another consideration is how much fuel should we keep in reserve to meet unknown contingencies of unknown magnitude? Fossil fuels will perhaps offer alternatives under such conditions that future energy sources might not be capable of offering.



Our resource base must switch from new materials to the reuse of spent materials wherever possible. It must be understood that man hours are a renewable resource that should be utilized to the fullest in order to conserve the non-renewable resources. Unless we return organics to the soils, we will have no crops in the future. Obviously the economics of supply and demand in the market place have not reflected all the costs of production, use, and disposal.

The stability of the life process and the moderation or consistency of physical conditions on the planet is achieved through two avenues, homostatic mechanisms and organic diversity. Homostatic mechanisms control temperature, rainfall and other conditions. Stability of the life process within any of the planet's communities is provided by organic diversity. That is, a wide variety of characteristics in a community assures that nothing will get out of control or that one disaster will not destroy the entire community.

*Excerpts from an article by Clifford Humphrey,
Ecology Actional Educational Institute*

"In the new society, the existence of technology means that man's great goal must be consciousness . . . and consciousness is a very different thing than material goods of their equivalents, honor and status. These by their nature are in short supply. But consciousness, or to use an old expression, wisdom, is not a substance that is subject to upward limit. In seeking wisdom, men's interests are not antagonistic. No person's gain in wisdom is diminished by anyone else's gain. Wisdom is the commodity that is unlimited in supply. Indeed, each man, his experiences, his personality, his uniqueness, becomes an asset to other men when their object is to gain in wisdom. The more unique a person is, the more he contributes to the wisdom of others. Such a community makes possible and fosters that ultimate quest for wisdom—the search for self. Each person is respected for his own absolute human worth. No such luxury was possible during most of man's history. It is wealth and technology that have now make community and self possible.

In a community devoted to the search for wisdom, the true relationship between people is that all are students and all are teachers. Teaching in this sense consists of helping each person with his own personal search for experience and his own goals. Although the goals are individual, it is apparent that the search for self cannot take place in isolation, that self must be realized in a community, and therefore the community enhances each person no matter what his particular endeavor."

The Greening of America by Charles A. Reich
Bantam Books
