



## Decision Analysis

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### Call for Papers on Decision Analysis to Further Environmental Sustainability

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## Call for Papers on Decision Analysis to Further Environmental Sustainability

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Decision analysis (DA) provides a rigorous framework to aid decision makers in identifying potential solutions and making high-quality decisions for difficult problems. The achievement of environmental sustainability goals (e.g., clean water, responsible consumption, life underwater, life on land, food sovereignty, and climate action; see <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) represents an unprecedented challenge requiring innovative solutions. These goals, like the ones devised by the United Nations to “protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations” (<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>), lead naturally to multiobjective problems under uncertainty that require finding solutions that integrate objectives such as equitable resource allocation, conservation of the planet and its resources, and fulfillment of economic needs. The INFORMS journal *Decision Analysis* is seeking papers on theory and applications of decision analysis for environmental sustainability.

Our hope is that the special issue will (1) provide an opportunity for DA practitioners to showcase unique applications of decision analysis for meeting sustainability goals, (2) raise awareness of the benefits of DA in helping to overcome challenges in meeting environmental sustainability goals that are being experienced by decision makers (governments, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations) and analysts, and (3) set the stage for future research in this area, perhaps by highlighting limitations or gaps.

### Topics of Interest (Not an Exhaustive List)

- Applications of decision analysis that have supported, or are relevant to, national or international sustainability challenges
- Advancements in decision analysis methods, motivated by decisions related to sustainability
- Papers that provide deeper insight on decision analyses that have been undertaken (and perhaps even published previously in another journal)
- Synergies and disconnects between decision analysis approaches and sustainability processes (e.g., value-based target setting, frameworks such as SCORE (Sustainability Competency and Opportunity Rating & Evaluation), doughnut economics, the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation)
- Trade-offs between multiple sustainability goals (e.g., biodiversity, climate change, equity, economic growth, food security)
- Challenges to meeting sustainability goals, such as long time horizons, uncertainty, risk, and governance
- Methods for including intangible objectives
- Inclusive and participatory methods for decision analysis that involve local decision makers, affected communities, and diverse epistemologies in the framing, analysis, and implementation of sustainability decisions
- Papers that discuss scaling down goals from international to local levels or scaling up local to regional, national, or international impacts.

Papers submitted to *Decision Analysis* will go through the regular refereeing process and must meet

archival quality for publication by *Decision Analysis*. Papers must also fit the scope of the journal; see <https://pubsonline.informs.org/page/deca/editorial-statement>. For example, a paper that provides only a discussion of sustainability challenges without a connection to decision analysis might be appropriate for another journal but not for *Decision Analysis*.

The journal is committed to a rapid turnaround of papers for this special issue, with the following expected timeline:

- Deadline for letter of intent with abstract: January 30, 2021
- Initial submission deadline: June 15, 2022
- First round of reviews: Approximately six weeks after submission
- Publication: June 2023.

Submission before June 15, 2022, is strongly encouraged; **accepted papers will be published online after submission of the final accepted version, before the special issue is complete.** Prospective authors should

email a short letter of intent and abstract to guest editor Victoria Hemming ([victoria.hemming@ubc.ca](mailto:victoria.hemming@ubc.ca)); please include “Letter of Intent Sustainability Special Issue” in the subject line. Submissions should be submitted to *Decision Analysis* (<https://pubsonline.informs.org/page/deca/submission-guidelines>; see “Submitting Your Manuscript”) indicating the “Sustainability” special issue. The cover letter should be addressed to Professor Vicki Bier.

### Guest Editors (in Alphabetical Order)

- **Erin Baker**, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- **Elizabeth Ewing**, Ewing Smith Consulting LCC
- **Victoria Hemming**, University of British Columbia
- **Melissa Kenney**, Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota
- **Kelly Robinson**, Michigan State University
- **Michael Runge**, Eastern Ecological Science Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge, U.S. Geological Survey
- **Robyn Wilson**, Ohio State University