

# **Sustainable Well-being as Sustainable Alignment**

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A great obstacle to ecologically and intergenerationally sustainable human well-being is the striving for ever higher material standards of living. What informs such striving is neither simple greed nor the mere desire for comfort but a pervasive alignment of agency and esteem with high levels of wealth and consumption. I propose to examine the relation between well-being and sustainability in terms of the concept of alignment. I argue for the idea that, for any particular society and for the world as a whole, the standard of normal human agency and esteem should be so conceived that it does not require the production and consumption of things of which there could not be enough for everyone except at the cost of ecological and intergenerational irresponsibility.