

ChatGPT on Global Growth


Asking the Tough Questions of an analog thinking Robot

The Bot misunderstood only a few things and mostly kept to generalities, asked no questions, gave no alternate interpretations, and was otherwise quite responsive and focused on the questions asked.

[ChatGPT Jan 9 Version](#). Free Research Preview. [HELP fyi](#)


Our goal is to make AI systems more natural and safe to interact with. Your feedback will help us improve.

I. JLH 2023 01-15 - What about growth?

A. Would growth systems stabilize if they used their resources to care for their environments and themselves instead of taking growth to the limit? 

ans 1. It is possible that growth systems would stabilize if they focused on sustainability and self-care instead of maximizing growth. By prioritizing the health of their environment and themselves, growth systems would be less likely to deplete resources and cause damage that would ultimately inhibit growth. However, this would likely require a significant shift in societal values and economic systems.

- a) For shifting societal values and economic systems to care for themselves and their environments, what communities, if they understood the consequences, would have the most knowledge and influence: finance, business, government, social groups, nations, scientists, AI engineers?
- b) All of these communities have the potential to have knowledge and influence in shifting societal values and economic systems towards sustainability and self-care.
- c) Finance and business communities have significant influence over the allocation of resources and could play a large role in redirecting investment towards sustainable practices.
- d) Government also have a crucial role in creating policies and regulations that encourage sustainable practices, as well as investing in research and development in clean energy, conservation and sustainable technologies.
- e) Social groups such as non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, and grassroots movements can raise awareness about environmental issues and push for change in society.
- f) Scientists, researchers and academics can provide the necessary knowledge and understanding of the environmental issues and their implications, as well as possible solutions.
- g) AI engineers and other technology developers can help to create new technologies that support sustainable practices and make them more efficient and cost-effective.
- h) Ultimately, it will likely require a collaborative effort across all of these communities, along with individuals and nations, to shift societal values and economic systems towards sustainability and self-care.

B. In shifting societal values and economic systems towards sustainability and self-care what would be the greatest challenges in shifting societal values and economic systems? 

ans 1. There are several potential challenges in shifting societal values and economic systems toward sustainability and self-care:

- a) Resistance to change: Many people and organizations are invested in the current economic and societal systems and may be resistant to change. This can make it difficult to gain support for sustainable practices and policies.

b) Short-term thinking: Sustainability often requires long-term thinking and investment, but many individuals, organizations, and governments are focused on short-term gains. This can make it difficult to justify investments in sustainable practices that may not have immediate returns.

ans 2. Lack of knowledge:

a) There may be a lack of understanding or awareness of the environmental issues and their implications. This can make it difficult to build support for sustainable practices and policies.

ans 3. Lack of political will:

a) Political leaders are often focused on short-term gains and may lack the will to implement policies and regulations that may be seen as unpopular or costly in the short term.

ans 4. Financial costs:

a) Transitioning to sustainable practices can be expensive, and may require significant investment in new technologies and infrastructure.

ans 5. Lack of technology availability:

a) Some sustainable practices and technologies may not yet be available or economically viable.


ans 6. Distributional issues:

a) The transition to sustainable practices may have distributional effects, where some individuals or groups benefit more than others, and this may lead to opposition.

ans 7. International coordination:

a) Climate change and other environmental issues are global problems, and addressing them requires international coordination and cooperation.


ans 8. However, it is important to note that there are also many benefits to shifting towards sustainability and self-care, such as preserving the environment for future generations, improving public health, creating new jobs and economic opportunities, and increasing energy security.

C. Could people understand that, in truth, all growth systems that long survive their growth and have full lives switch from using their resources to multiply their own scale to caring for themselves and their environments? 

ans 1. It is possible that people could understand that growth systems that long survive and have full lives switch from using resources to multiply their own scale to caring for themselves and their environments. This is known as a concept of "Sustainable development" it's a balance between economic growth and environmental protection, where the use of resources is managed in a way that preserves the environment for future generations. This concept has been widely recognized and adopted by international organizations, governments and businesses.

a) However, it is important to note that achieving this balance can be challenging and requires a change in societal values and economic systems, as well as the development and implementation of sustainable practices and technologies. It also requires a long-term perspective and a willingness to make sacrifices in the short-term for the benefit of future generations.

b) Additionally, it is important to consider that different societies, cultures and economies may have different priorities and paths to sustainability, and this requires a flexible approach and a willingness to learn from each other.

D. Isn't it true that most businesses and investors have not departed from the common practice of using their profits to multiply their profit-making that drives whole system growth and in overshoot, also threatens the profit-making system? What would make them aware of that? 

ans 1. It is true that many businesses and investors have traditionally focused on maximizing profits as their primary goal, and this can drive growth in the economy as a whole. However, this approach can also lead to

overconsumption of resources and environmental degradation, which can threaten the long-term sustainability of the profit-making system.

a) There are a few factors that could make businesses and investors aware of this issue:

b) Increasing awareness of environmental issues:

(1) As the impacts of climate change and other environmental problems become more apparent, businesses and investors may become more aware of the need to consider the long-term sustainability of their actions.

c) Changing societal values:

(1) As societal values shift towards greater concern for environmental protection and sustainability, businesses and investors may feel pressure to adopt more sustainable practices in order to maintain their social license to operate.

d) Government policies and regulations:

(1) Governments can play a role in encouraging sustainable practices by implementing policies and regulations that require businesses and investors to consider environmental and social impacts.

e) Market forces:

(1) As consumers become more conscious of environmental issues and demand sustainable products and services, businesses and investors may be incentivized to adopt more sustainable practices in order to remain competitive.

f) Long-term profitability:

(1) Businesses and investors may start to realize that sustainable practices can actually be more profitable in the long run. By conserving resources, they can reduce costs and mitigate risks associated with environmental degradation, while also tapping into new markets and create a positive brand image.

ans 2. Overall, a combination of these factors, along with education and awareness-raising efforts, could lead to a shift in the way businesses and investors think about growth and profitability, towards a more sustainable approach.

E. You've given good answers likely to not offend or really surprise anyone. What about sustainability implies a shift from focusing on growth to caring for the economy and its environment, using more and more of the economy's profits to care for what we profit from? Isn't that what every growth system does to have a life after growth, as you see a child emerging by explosive growth in the womb till birth and then begin to mature as its physical growth comes to an end and its mental growth accelerates?

H D S

II. 2023 01-15 3:08 PM - Chat 2


A. There was an error when I asked this before, after some good answers about world economic growth. So let me see if you can reply now.

H D S

B. What about how sustainability implies a shift from focusing on growth to caring for the economy and its environment, using more and more of the economy's profits to care for what we profit from? Isn't that what every growth system does to have a life after growth, as a child emerges by explosive growth in the womb till birth and then begins to mature as its physical growth comes to an end, and its mental growth accelerates?

H D S

ans 1. Sustainability is a concept that aims to balance economic growth with environmental protection and social well-being. It involves finding ways to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. One aspect of this is to shift the focus from growth for growth's sake to a more holistic approach that takes into account the long-term impacts of economic activity on the environment and society. This can include investing more of the economy's profits in protecting and preserving the natural resources that the economy relies on, as well as addressing social and economic inequality. The idea is that by doing so, the economy can continue to function in a healthy and sustainable way, in the same way that a child needs to mature after explosive growth in the womb.

C. How would a reduction in the reinvestment (i.e. compounding) of profits to care for what the economy profits from affect society? That would dramatically distribute wealth, for example, diminish the high concentration of wealth in the hands of smart creators and investors and, of course, retirees who rely on it too. It seems lots of growth systems manage that shift gracefully. How could humans handle it gracefully? 

ans 1. Reducing the reinvestment of profits to care for the environment and society can have a significant impact on society. It can lead to a concentration of wealth in the hands of a small group of people, as those who own and control the resources and means of production will be less inclined to share the benefits with others. This can exacerbate existing economic and social inequalities and can lead to a widening wealth gap between different groups of people.

a) However, it is possible to handle this transition gracefully, by implementing policies and regulations that redistribute wealth and resources more equitably. This can include progressive taxation, public investment in social programs, and regulations that ensure fair wages and working conditions for all workers. Additionally, investing in education and training programs can help to create opportunities for all members of society to develop the skills they need to participate in the economy and to share in its benefits.

b) It's also important to note that shifting focus from growth to sustainability can also create new opportunities for innovation, creating new jobs and industries, and overall a more balanced economy, less prone to booms and busts.

ans 2. Overall, the key to handling this transition gracefully is to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are distributed fairly and that the economy is managed in a way that promotes long-term sustainability. This requires cooperation between government, business and civil society and a shared vision for a more just, equitable and sustainable economy.

[JLH here the recovery of the earth seems missing, and that's complex]

D. Could investors, guided by scientific impact assessments, be better at understanding how to invest in caring for the resources they profit from than government bureaucracies would be? 


ans 1. Investors can play an important role in promoting sustainable economic growth by making investments that support the transition to a more sustainable economy. By using scientific impact assessments to evaluate the environmental and social impact of different investments, investors can identify opportunities to invest in companies and projects that are taking steps to protect natural resources and reduce their impact on the environment, as well as promoting social well-being.

a) However, it's worth noting that some investors may prioritize short-term financial gains over long-term sustainability. Also, not all investors have the same amount of resources or knowledge to conduct these assessments. Therefore, government regulations, standards and oversight can help to ensure that investors are making sustainable choices, and can help to create a level playing field for all investors.

b) Additionally, government can set up policy frameworks that align with the long-term sustainability goals and provide incentives for businesses and investors to invest in sustainable projects and practices. Government can also

invest in research and development of new technologies and practices that can help to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability.

ans 2. In summary, Investors guided by scientific impact assessments can play a critical role in promoting sustainable economic growth, but government regulations, standards and oversight can help to ensure that all investors are making sustainable choices, and can help to create a level playing field for all investors.


E. Your reply refers to "sustainable growth" as a common goal twice, though all of science agrees there is no such thing. Why is it so hard for society, which appears to still believe in "sustainable growth," to recognize that believing in that is now a primary cause of continuing global warming and all the other ways the economy is overshooting its physical limits on earth? 

ans 1. You are correct that "sustainable growth" as it is often defined, is a misnomer. The concept of economic growth is often tied to the idea of increasing production and consumption, which is not compatible with the finite resources of the planet. However, the term "sustainable growth" is often used as a shorthand to describe the idea of balancing economic development with environmental protection and social well-being. The goal is to find ways to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

a) It is true that the belief in the possibility of "sustainable growth" has been a major obstacle to addressing the issue of climate change and other environmental problems. The idea that economic growth can continue indefinitely without negative environmental consequences has led to a lack of urgency in addressing these issues. Additionally, the focus on growth as the primary measure of economic success has led to a neglect of other important factors such as social well-being and environmental health.

b) However, in recent years, there is a growing recognition that the current economic model based on endless growth is not sustainable, and that a new approach is needed. This has led to the emergence of new economic paradigms such as the circular economy, the sharing economy, and the green economy, which aim to decouple economic growth from resource consumption and environmental degradation.

ans 2. In summary, sustainable growth is a concept that has been widely used to describe the idea of balancing economic development with environmental protection and social well-being, however, it is not a true sustainable solution, and the idea of endless growth is not compatible with the finite resources of the planet. A new approach is needed and it's being proposed by new economic paradigms that aim to decouple economic growth from resource consumption and environmental degradation.


F. Would it surprise you that, like other popular ideas for how to end economic impacts, without changing the economy, "circular economy, the sharing economy, and the green economy," are all euphemisms for neglecting the main cause of the economy's impacts? They are all well-meaning, of course, but also don't address the common desire to use, or hope to use, money to multiply money for private gain while remaining blind to the multiplying general impacts that it naturally produces. 

ans 1. It may not be surprising that the concepts of the circular economy, the sharing economy, and the green economy are not sufficient on their own to address the environmental and social impacts of the economy. These concepts are important in promoting more sustainable practices and reducing resource consumption, but they do not address the underlying drivers of economic growth and the desire for private gain.

a) The circular economy, for example, aims to keep resources in use for as long as possible and to minimize waste, but it does not necessarily address the root causes of overconsumption and the need for endless economic growth. Similarly, the sharing economy and the green economy promote more sustainable practices, but they also do not address the underlying drivers of economic growth and the desire for private gain.

b) To truly address the environmental and social impacts of the economy, it is necessary to address the underlying drivers of economic growth and the desire for private gain. This may involve rethinking the dominant economic paradigm and considering alternative economic models that prioritize social and environmental well-being over the pursuit of private gain. It also may require changes in societal values and attitudes towards consumption and economic growth, and a shift towards a more equitable distribution of wealth and resources.

ans 2. In summary, while the circular economy, the sharing economy, and the green economy can help to promote more sustainable practices and reduce resource consumption, they do not address the underlying drivers of economic growth and the desire for private gain, which is the root cause of many environmental and social problems. To truly address the impacts of the economy, it's necessary to address these underlying drivers and consider alternative economic models and societal values that prioritize social and environmental well-being.


G. So what do we do about all the sustainability strategies so far, serving mostly to delay addressing the real problem, that though while caring for local sustainability is truly more accessible, ignoring the global problem keeps being ever more destructive at much faster and faster rates? 

ans 1. One approach to addressing the limitations of current sustainability strategies is to focus on systemic change, rather than isolated solutions. Rather than trying to address specific environmental or social problems in isolation, it is necessary to address the underlying drivers of these problems, such as the pursuit of economic growth and the desire for private gain. This requires rethinking the dominant economic paradigm and considering alternative economic models that prioritize social and environmental well-being over the pursuit of private gain.

a) Additionally, it is important to recognize that sustainability is a global issue and that local solutions alone are not enough to address it. Climate change, for example, is a global problem that requires coordinated action at the international level. International agreements and cooperation are necessary to address issues such as deforestation, pollution, and overconsumption of resources.

b) Moreover, it's important to understand that sustainability is not only a technical issue but also a political and social one, that's why it's vital to involve all sectors of society, including government, private sector and civil society to create a shared vision and a shared responsibility to achieve sustainability. This can be done through the use of public policies, regulations, and incentives that support sustainable practices and discourage unsustainable ones.

ans 2. In summary, to address the limitations of current sustainability strategies, it's necessary to focus on systemic change and address the underlying drivers of environmental and social problems, such as the pursuit of economic growth and the desire for private gain. This requires rethinking the dominant economic paradigm and considering alternative economic models that prioritize social and environmental well-being. Also, it's important to recognize that sustainability is a global issue and that local solutions alone are not enough to address it, and that it requires coordinated action at the international level and the engagement of all sectors of society.

H. You've framed the general responses that need to happen to achieve sustainability, but discussing the underlying drivers is still almost universally taboo. That is even in the most dedicated activist as well as scientific networks. as if humanity has been fixated on the riches that have come to us for being both creative and blind to the effects that the subject is just beyond their thinking and making our situation even more dangerous than it is. What could make the underlying expectation of multiplying wealth more possible to discuss as a problem? 

ans 1. You are correct that discussing the underlying drivers of environmental and social problems, such as the pursuit of economic growth and the desire for private gain, is often taboo in both activist and scientific

circles. This is because the current economic model, based on the pursuit of growth and private gain, is deeply ingrained in our society and is seen as a necessary condition for prosperity and well-being.


a) There are several factors that can make it more possible to discuss the underlying drivers of environmental and social problems as problems. One is the growing awareness of the urgent need to address these issues. As the impacts of climate change and other environmental problems become more severe and more widely felt, the need to find solutions becomes more pressing.

b) Another factor is the emergence of alternative economic models and paradigms, such as the circular economy, the sharing economy, and the green economy, that provide examples of how to prioritize social and environmental well-being over the pursuit of private gain. These new models can help to shift the conversation and make it more acceptable to question the dominant economic paradigm.

c) Additionally, it's important to note that there are increasing numbers of people, organizations and movements that are starting to question the dominant economic paradigm and to propose alternative models that put the well-being of people and the planet first. This can help to create a sense of momentum and can make it more possible to discuss the underlying drivers of environmental and social problems as problems.

d) Finally, education and awareness-raising campaigns can be an effective way to raise the visibility of these issues and to engage people in discussions about the underlying drivers of environmental and social problems. By providing information about the impacts of economic growth and private gain on the environment and society, and by highlighting alternative models and solutions, these campaigns can help to create a more informed and engaged public.

ans 2. In summary, increasing awareness of the urgent need to address environmental and social problems, the emergence of alternative economic models, the growing number of people and organizations questioning the dominant economic paradigm, and education and awareness-raising campaigns can all contribute to making it more possible to discuss the underlying drivers of environmental and social problems as problems, and to find new ways to create a more sustainable future.

I. Good answer. How long will it take for humanity to learn that it needs to use its wealth to care for the world? 

ans 1. It is difficult to predict exactly how long it will take for humanity to learn that it needs to use its wealth to care for the world. It will depend on a variety of factors, including the severity and visibility of environmental and social problems, the effectiveness of education and awareness-raising campaigns, the ability of alternative economic models to gain traction, and the willingness of individuals, organizations, and governments to question the dominant economic paradigm and to make the necessary changes.

a) It's worth noting that there are already some signs that the conversation around the use of wealth to care for the world is shifting. The increasing awareness of the urgent need to address environmental and social problems, the emergence of alternative economic models, and the growing number of people and organizations questioning the dominant economic paradigm are all contributing to this shift.

b) However, it's also important to recognize that change of this magnitude takes time and it's a process that involves the engagement of multiple sectors of society. It requires a shared vision and a shared responsibility to achieve sustainability. It also requires a willingness to experiment with new approaches and to learn from successes and failures.

ans 2. In summary, the time it will take for humanity to learn that it needs to use its wealth to care for the world will depend on a variety of factors and it's a process that takes time, but there are already some signs that the conversation is shifting towards this direction.

End