

Sustainable Enterprise Theory: A Starting Point for Reporting Sustainable Business Values

Authors : Arne Fagerstrom, Gary Cunningham, Fredrik Hartwig

Abstract : In this paper, a theory of sustainable enterprises, sustainable enterprise theory (SET), is developed. The sustainable enterprise theory can only be a valid theory if knowledge about life and nature is complete. Knowledge limitations should not stop enterprises from doing business with a goal of better long-term life on earth. Life demands stewardship of the resources used during one's lifetime. This paper develops a model influenced by (the classical) enterprise theory and resource theory that includes more than money in the business activities of an enterprise. The sustainable enterprise theory is then used in an analysis of accountability and in discussions about sustainable businesses.

Keywords : sustainable business, sustainability reporting, sustainable values, theory of the firm

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