Green lifestyles and subjective well-being: More about self-image than actual behavior?☆

Martin Binder,a,b, Ann-Kathrin Blankenbergc

aBard College Berlin, Platanenstr. 24, 13156 Berlin, Germany
bLevy Economics Institute of Bard College, Blithewood, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York 12504-5000, USA
cFaculty of Economic Sciences, University of Goettingen, Platz der Goettinger Sieben 3, 37073 Goettingen, Germany

Abstract

Does environmentally-friendly behavior necessarily imply sacrifice? In the metric of subjective well-being, research has shown that green behavior and sustainable consumption are positively related to life satisfaction. We extend this research analyzing UKHLS household panel data for Great Britain, showing that this boost in life satisfaction is mostly due to self-image (i.e. one’s own assessment of how environmentally-friendly one’s behavior is) but not due to concrete pro-environmental behaviors such as conserving water, recycling and so on. We further show that green self-image increases the extent and intensity of green behavior yet even the greenest (self-identified) individuals do not consistently exhibit all pro-environmental behaviors. By this, our data can be used to assess the varying extent of a value-action gap for different pro-environmental behaviors for our sample. (126 words)

Key words: sustainability, green lifestyle, environmentally-friendly behavior, subjective well-being, UKHLS
JEL codes: I31, Q51, Q58

☆We would like to thank Tim Kasser, Jorge Guardiola, Francisco González-Gómez, an anonymous referee, as well as the participants of the ISEE2016 conference for helpful comments. The UKHLS panel data set used in this publication were made available to us by the University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research and NatCen Social Research, Understanding Society. Neither the original collectors of the data nor the Archive bears any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here. Remaining errors are ours alone.

Email addresses: m.binder@berlin.bard.edu (Martin Binder), ann-kathrin.blankenberg@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de (Ann-Kathrin Blankenberg)

March 23, 2017
مقاله مقدمه‌ای

فرآیند دانلود این مقاله به‌طور کامل با کلیه داده‌ها و اطلاعات مربوط به آن وارد می‌شود.

دستورالعمل دانلود مقاله

1. دانلود دانلود این مقاله برای اطمینان از اینکه دانلود باید در محل مورد نظر بماند.
2. یک کلمه کلیدی برای کلیه داده‌ها و اطلاعات مربوط به آن وارد می‌شود.

مرجع مقاله

ISI Articles