

Environmental Activism

Defining Ecosabotage

What a definition of ecosabotage must do:

- (1) distinguish it from **legal protests**.
- (2) distinguish it from other forms of sabotage (e.g., in wartime).
- (3) not restrict it to forms of **property damage**.
- (4) distinguish it from **civilly disobedient** practices of, e.g., Greenpeace.
- (5) distinguish it from **mere vandalism** — which is motivated by boredom, malice, revenge, etc.

Martin on Ecosabotage

Martin's definition of 'ecosabotage':

Person P's act A is an act of ecosabotage **iff**:

[goal]

(1) In doing A, P's **aim** is to stop, frustrate, or slow down some process or act that P believes will harm or damage the environment;

[reason]

(2) A is **motivated** by a sense of religious or moral concern;

[method]

(3) A is **illegal**;

(4) A is **not a public act**.

Ecosabotage and Civil Disobedience

An act, A, is civilly disobedient iff A is....

[goal]

(1) Towards some “vital social purpose” (sometimes: the revocation of the very law being violated);

[reason]

(2) Motivated by some higher moral or religious law;

[method]

(3) Nonviolent;

(4) Deliberately illegal;

(5) Public.

Howard Zinn: an act of civil disobedience is a deliberate violation of the law for a vital social purpose.

Ecosabotage and Civil Disobedience

	Ecosabotage	Civil Disobedience
Goal	To stop, frustrate, or slow down some process or act that P believes will harm or damage the environment;	To further some “vital social purpose” (sometimes: the revocation of the very law being violated);
Reason	The act A is motivated by a sense of religious or moral concern;	
Method	A is nonviolent against people . A is illegal ; A is not a public act .	A is nonviolent ; A is deliberately illegal ; A is a public act .