
Barry Commoner and the Science of Survival

Urban and Industrial Environments

Series editor: Robert Gottlieb, Henry R. Luce Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy, Occidental College

For a complete list of books published in this series, please see the back of the book.

Barry Commoner and the Science of Survival
The Remaking of American Environmentalism

Michael Egan

The MIT Press
Cambridge, Massachusetts
London, England

© 2007 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form by any electronic or mechanical means (including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval) without permission in writing from the publisher.

MIT Press books may be purchased at special quantity discounts for business or sales promotional use. For information, please e-mail special_sales@mitpress.mit.edu or write to Special Sales Department, The MIT Press, 55 Hayward Street, Cambridge, MA 02142.

This book was set in Sabon by Graphic Composition, Inc. Printed and bound in the United States of America.

Printed on recycled paper.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Egan, Michael, 1974–

Barry Commoner and the science of survival : the remaking of American environmentalism / by Michael Egan.

p. cm. — (Urban and industrial environments)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-262-05086-9 (hardcover : alk. paper)

1. Environmentalism—United States—History. 2. Commoner, Barry, 1917—Influence. I. Title.

GE197.E33 2007

363.70973—dc22

2006030288

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

for kieran and joshua
axe and handle

Blank Page

Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction: The New Apparatus	1
1 In the Thunderclap's Wake	15
2 Guarding the Public	47
3 The New Jeremiad	79
4 When Scientists Disagree	109
5 Biological Capital	139
6 The "Other" Environmentalism	167
Conclusion: If We Would Know Life	191
Notes	199
Bibliography	249
Index	277

Blank Page