

Chapter 13

Environment-Economics: The Game of Trade-Offs

DETERMINING TRADE-OFFS

The choices before us are tough, full of unknowns and lacking in some of the optimism and idealism of an earlier era. It is increasingly evident that economic prosperity, environmental improvement, speedy transportation, energy conservation and low density suburban living are not completely compatible goals. Resources are limited and, unfortunately, not all needs can be met. Priorities have to be established. Just as you have to make choices in your budget, government must do the same. Realistically, we cannot always have our cake and eat it too. As a warmup to making choices about which alternative direction you prefer and to assist you in understanding the kinds of trade-offs involved in making that choice, we invite you to play the following game. Since you will have limited resources in playing this game, it will be necessary to sacrifice some things you desire in order to gain certain other things.

In this game you will have \$1700 to spend on goods and services. The expenditures you make represents a combination of your personal costs and your share (taxes) of the cost to the general public resulting from the choices you make. Choose one item from each section. Indicate your choice in each section by an "X". Make choices you feel are realistic in terms of what you think is best for you, your children and for the public. We suggest you complete the form first in pencil in case you wish to make adjustments. Good luck!

1. HOUSING

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| A. _____ Single family detached home | \$800 |
| B. _____ Condo or townhouse | 700 |
| C. _____ Medium density apartment | 600 |
| D. _____ High density apartment | 475 |

2. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT*

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| A. _____ Within five miles from home | 250 |
| B. _____ Within 15 miles from home | 150 |
| C. _____ Within 30 miles from home | 75 |
| D. _____ More than 30 miles from home | 50 |

*The assumption here is that it is a convenience to work close to home (ie. less driving time).

3. OPEN SPACE AND LAND RESOURCES

- | | |
|---|------|
| A. _____ Neighborhood parks | \$50 |
| B. _____ Regional parks | 50 |
| C. _____ Wilderness preservation | 50 |
| D. _____ Open space between urban areas | 80 |

4. TRANSPORTATION**

- A. _____ Two private autos 50
- B. _____ One private auto 150
- C. _____ Fixed rail rapid transit 200
- D. _____ Neighborhood shuttle bus 75
- E. _____ Comprehensive public transit 275

5. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- A. _____ Healthy and attractive 300
- B. _____ Less attractive with physical discomfort 120
- C. _____ Hazardous to your health 40

6. ACCESS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES (Shopping, health care, schools)

- A. _____ Within walking distance from home 175
- B. _____ Within five miles from home 90
- C. _____ Within ten miles from home 75
- D. _____ Within fifteen miles from home 30

NOTE: If you have selected high density apartment housing under HOUSING (#1), you may deduct \$80 from 6A, or \$40 from 6B.

7. RECREATION AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

- A. _____ Through mass media only 15
- B. _____ Walking distance 200
- C. _____ Within 15 miles 160
- D. _____ Within 40 miles 75

Now that you have made your selections, please transfer your figures to the spaces below. Remember, you cannot spend more than \$1700

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT SPENT</u>
1. HOUSING	_____
2. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	_____
3. OPEN SPACE LAND RESOURCES	_____
4. TRANSPORTATION	_____
5. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	_____
6. ACCESS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES	_____
7. RECREATION AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS	_____
TOTAL	_____

**If you have selected a comprehensive system under transportation (#4E), you may deduct \$150 from 5A, or choice 5B becomes free.