

Table of contents

Figure index	9
Table index.....	11
Introduction.....	15
An Excursus: Environmental Problems	17
1. Why conduct studies on individual environmental behavior?	23
2. Environment and society: socio-economic, legal and political actors	29
2.1 Economy, society and the socio-economic actor	29
2.2 Environment, law and the legal actor	31
2.3 Environmentalism, politics and the political actor	34
3. Sociological theories on environmental attitudes and behavior.....	37
3.1 General theories of individual environmentalism	37
3.1.1 The constructivist perspective	37
3.1.2 The rational-choice perspective.....	39
3.2 Macro and micro explanations of environmentalism.....	45
3.2.1 Macro theories of environmentalism.....	45
3.2.1.1 The post-materialism hypothesis.....	45
3.2.1.2 The prosperity and affluence hypothesis	46
3.2.1.3 Globalization hypothesis	48
3.2.2 Micro theories of environmentalism	50

3.2.2.1	Globalization hypothesis at micro level: virtual environmentalism.....	50
3.2.2.2	Age and gender effects	50
3.2.2.3	Social positions	51
3.2.2.4	General values	55
3.3	Environmentalism.....	56
3.3.1	Environmental perception, evaluation and willingness to pay	57
3.3.2	Environmental action	57
3.4	The hypothesized model.....	60
4.	Data, data quality and measures.....	63
4.1	Methods	64
4.2	Data quality and operationalization.....	68
4.2.1	Missing values	69
4.2.2	The independent variables.....	74
4.2.3	The dependent variables	77
4.2.4	Response pattern biases.....	89
5.	A global environmental profile	91
6.	Country profiles.....	107
6.1	The Czech Republic.....	110
6.2	Germany	127
6.3	New Zealand	152
6.4	Norway.....	166
6.5	Spain.....	182
6.6	USA	196
7.	Summary of the findings.....	213
7.1	The macro level.....	213

7.2 The micro level.....	214
7.2.1 Birth cohorts and gender.....	216
7.2.2 General values.....	218
7.2.3 Social positions	221
7.2.4 The overall contribution of birth cohorts, gender, general values, and social positions to the explanation of environmentalism.....	223
7.3 Limitations of the present study	228
8. Concluding remarks.....	231
Literature.....	237
Appendix.....	255