

CONCEPT
EXPLAINER



WHAT IS

Eco- ableism

swipe



Eco-ableism refers to

the ways environmental policies, campaigns, products, services, and social expectations can unintentionally disadvantage, exclude, or stigmatise disabled people and those with long-term health conditions.



It can occur when

environmental initiatives assume that everyone has the same physical, financial, sensory, cognitive, or health-related capacity to adopt environmentally preferred behaviours. Examples might include assumptions that everyone can walk, cycle, use public transport, carry reusable items, reduce energy use, or access sustainable alternatives without additional cost or difficulty.



Eco-ableism is often

unintentional and can arise when environmental action is designed without sufficient consideration of disability, accessibility, and health inequalities. This can create avoidable barriers to participation and access, and may reinforce feelings of exclusion or blame.



Climate change is a

major public health challenge, but efforts to address it should not inadvertently widen health inequalities. Recognising and addressing eco-ableism can help ensure environmental action is both sustainable and equitable, supporting a just transition that works for everyone.



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Thanks for reading

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