

# Ethics of Environmental Nudging : A Systematic Literature Review using PRISMA-Ethics

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**Research Question:** What are prominent ethical themes occurring in discussions specific to ethics of environmental/green/energy/climate nudges?

## Environmental Nudges

Nudges are intentional modifications in the decision-making environment that influence choices of people without significantly altering their monetary incentives or coercing them.

**A nudges B when A makes it more likely that B will engage in an environmentally sustainable action w. A nudges B by triggering B's shallow cognitive processes. In doing so, A's influence preserves B's choice-set and is substantially non-controlling and easily resistible by B.**

## Methodology

For systematic reviews in ethics, a method known as PRISMA-Ethics (PRISMA is an acronym for Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) has been proposed to make the literature searches comprehensive and transparent.

We adopted PRISMA-Ethics guidelines to search and synthesise literature on ethics of green nudges. This literature review is based on a search conducted across five databases: **Web of Science, Scopus, Philpapers, JSTOR, and ScienceDirect.**

## Using Environmental Nudges to minimise carbon footprint

Nudges can be used for: Minimising energy consumption, incentivising correct waste sorting in households, promoting vegetarian and/or vegan food choices over meat-based ones, promoting use of public transport, and using recyclable coffee mugs (Goldstein, Gounaridis, Newell , 2020; Little Book on Green Nudges 2020).

## Search Query Construction

Queries were constructed using three strings with terms combined using OR operator.

String A: **“nudge”, “nudges”, and “nudging”**

String B: **“ethic\*”, “moral\*”, “norm\*”, “libert\*”**

String C: **“climat\*”, “anthropocen\*”, “green”, “environment\*”**

A,B, and C were combined using the AND operator.

## Main ethical themes surrounding Environmental Nudges

Distinct Ethical Themes from other type of Nudges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Third-party harm and pervasive externalities</li><li>• State, Market, and Consumer relationship in context of environmental goods.</li><li>• Sustainable development goals achievable through environmental nudges.</li><li>• Transformation into eco-citizens using environmental nudges.</li></ul>
Common Ethical Themes with other type of Nudges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Autonomy</li><li>• Paternalism</li><li>• Manipulation and Transparency</li><li>• Heterogeneous effects</li><li>• Privacy concerns</li></ul>

## Search Results

