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Improving soundscapes through the Eco-Tax

C. Hehner

Institut für Technische Akustik , Technische Universität Berlin, Einsteinufer 25, 10587 Berlin, Germany
kskanda@gmx.net

In order to tackle unbearable or even barely bearable noise annoyance and work for an improvement of the quality of urban life through noise reduction and 'indigenous' soundscape improvement it has to be borne in mind that the ecological system of taxation according to Henry George does not amount to 'yet another tax' on top of the uncountable taxes already in place in most countries to interfere with the worldwide badly needed upswing of the business cycle.

The Georgist tax of natural resources and kindred factors of production is not an accretion of taxes, but over a reasonable period of years or decades the replacement of other major taxes. If the producer and the laborer are taxed all the more so in relation to their working more and being more productive a tax system that does not punish the economic subject for more work and a higher production output with ever higher taxes, but rewards them with tax breaks, is apt to boost the economy overall. And as all natural resources including air and any kind of sound space are by definition preliminaries of any economic activity and as they are hence by definition communal from the full financial responsibility of the community should derive. This presentation will discuss various economic aspects of Georgist fiscal policy conducive to the furthering of an improved environmental balance and a sound protection from excessive noise annoyance. These will come under the headers of: cost-benefit, price-earnings, illness-health, noise outsourcing-social acceptance.

The complete document was not available at the publication time. It has been replaced by the submitted abstract.