

## Introduction to Ethics

- All Environmental Topics: -> Raise Ethical Issues
  - Ozone Chemistry:
    - Was Development of CFCs *Originally* Ethical?
    - Is Release of CFCs *Currently* Ethical?
  - Real World
    - We All Deal with Ethical Decisions Related to Environmental Chemistry - Daily!
- Ethics
  - Is Following Environmental Law Enough?
  - What Duties/Obligations Do You Have as a Human?
  - Does Understanding the Chemistry Behind an Issue Help?

## Introduction to Ethics

- An Example:

Your dorm refrigerator fails mid-semester. You never use it, so it sits until after finals. You are in a hurry to leave late Friday and Howie's is closed. A friend says you can get rid of it by leaving it at Washington-Marlatt Park "there's never anybody out there", he says, "so you won't get caught. And they pick up the garbage weekly so it won't sit there long."

- Is this Ethical Conduct?
- How Do You Go About Deciding?
- How Do You JUSTIFY Your Decision?

## Ethical Theories

- How Do You Justify Your Answer?
- Common Morality
  - As Humans, We Know Right from Wrong
- Utilitarianism
  - Base Decision on Consequences of Action
- Deontological Approaches
  - Following Laws/Codes of Conduct
  - Duties/Rights/Justice

## Common Morality

- **Morality:**
  - “Particular Moral Principles or Rules of Conduct”
  - Who’s Rules?
  - How Do You Know What these Are?
- **Possible Common Moral Rules**
  - Do Not Lie
  - Do Not Cheat
  - Do Not Steal
- **Refrigerator Issue:**
  - Do Not Litter
  - Others?

## Utilitarianism

- Make Decision on Consequences Alone!
  - Actions are Right if they Produce More Good than Harm
  - Motivations Don't Matter
  - Have to Evaluate:
    - Number of Possible Consequences
    - Severity/Benefits of Consequences
  - Outcome - Universal - Should Apply to Everyone
- Example: Cheating
  - If I Get Caught, I'll Get a Bad Grade
    - (Doesn't Matter if Cheating is Right or Wrong)
- Refrigerator Issue:
  - Littering Carries a Fine
    - (Doesn't Matter that it's illegal)
  - Illegal Dumping of Hazardous Waste (Oil, CFCs ....) - Fines

# Deontological Methods

- Duties/Rights/Justice
  - Based on Codes, Laws, Etc.
  - How Do You Know What Laws Apply?
  - Duties:
    - Follow Regardless of Consequences
    - Refrigerator Example: Respect for Environment, others?
  - Rights:
    - Who's Rights?
    - What Might Apply Here?
      - Human Rights, Animal Rights
  - Justice:
    - Should Everyone Be Allowed to Act in the Same Way?
    - What if the Roles Were Reversed?
    - Refrigerator Example: What if You Were the Park Employee Who Had to Make a Special Trip to Dispose of it?

## Steps to Ethical Decision Making

- 1) What are the Facts?
- 2) What are the Associated Ethical Issues?
- 3) Who are the Affected Parties?
- 4) What are the Possible Consequences?
- 5) What Laws Might Apply? Duties? Rights?
- 6) Evaluate 1-5, Come to a Decision

## Ethical Decision Making

- 1) What are the Facts?
  - Refrigerator contains CFCs/HCFCs
- 2) What are the Ethical Issues?
  - Is littering wrong?
  - What if someone picks it up later?
- 3) Who are the Affected Parties?
  - Who is going to pick it up?
- 4) What are the Possible Consequences?
  - Someone MIGHT see you dump it!
- 5) What laws might apply?
  - Littering is illegal
- 6) Summarize the Decision