

**Sustainable Innovation 2025**  
***Sustainable Innovation in Products, Services and Business Models***  
***Past, Present and***  
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**Ab Stevels, The Netherlands**

Albert Leendert Nicolaas ("Ab"). Stevels was born in Eindhoven (The Netherlands) on Aug. 31, 1944. After Grammar School he studied Chemical Engineering at the Technical University of Eindhoven and took a Ph. D. degree (cum laude) in Physics and Chemistry at Groningen University. As of Sept. 1969, Ab has worked for Royal Philips Electronics in a manyfold of capacities in research on materials, production technology of glass, as a business manager in electro optics and as a project manager for joint ventures and licensing in Asia. On Jan 1, 1993 he became a senior advisor in Environment at the Environmental Competence Center of Philips Consumer Electronics. In December 1995 Ab was appointed as a part-time professor in Environmental Design at Delft University of Technology. In the fall of he was visiting professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department of Stanford University, in the fall of 2001 he was teaching at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the TU Berlin, in 2002 he was visiting the School of Industrial Systems Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta) .In 2003 he was a visiting professor at the Industrial Ecology Program at NTN University in Trondheim, Norway and in 2005 at Tsinghua University in Beijing. This was followed by shorter stays at Hong Kong Polytechnic in 2006 ,TU Ostrava (Czech Republic) in 2007 , Pohang (Korea) and Guangzhou (China) in 2009 and Adelaide (Australia (2010)

Ab Stevels has done trailblazing work in making EcoDesign into day-to-day business really happen and has researched in detail the setting up of take-back and recycling systems for electronics For these purposes tools and management procedures have been developed which have proven their strength through their practical success. Ab is the author of some 200 journal articles and conference contributions. Many of these have been consolidated in a book with the title: 'Adventures in the field of EcoDesign of Electronic Products, available (for free) through [www.aeki.se](http://www.aeki.se) Training courses on applied EcoDesign have been held at various universities (Delft, Stanford, TU Berlin, TU Vienna, TU Ostrava, the University of Arts and Design in Farnham (UK) , Mexico City, Hong Kong Poly, NTNU), Tsinghua University, and at various Philips departments and divisions around the globe and at other companies. These Include EcoDesign, Recycling and

## Recycling systems and Sustainability and Business.

For his work in EcoDesign he got an honorary degree from the University of Arts and Design. For his contributions in the field of recycling of electronics he got the "Cowbell Award" from the International Electronics Recycling Conference Organization. Currently his activities include to be a reviewer for scientific journals in the field. As an 'outside supervisor', Ab assists in coaching Ph.D. candidates. Also, the writing posts on LinkedIn with the purpose to transpose earlier experiences in the field of (Applied) Ecodesign into the complete value chain has the purpose to transfer knowledge to the present generations of researchers. His scientific interest is now directed towards all aspects of the 'Circular Economy' concept. In particular this activity has the focus is on the relation between maximum conservation of resources and energy consumption.