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Running title: *Spillover from In-role to Extra-role*

**When and How In-Role Pro-Environmental Behavior Spills Over to Extra-Role Behavior: Two Experimental Studies in the Retail and Education Industries**

**Keywords:** Goal commitment, Performance feedback, Pro-environmental behavior, Spillover effect

# **How and When In-Role Pro-Environmental Behavior Spills Over to Extra-Role Behavior? Two Experimental Studies in the Retail and Education Industries**

## **Abstract**

By integrating theories of goal proximity and crowding-out, this research investigates how and when employees' performance of in-role pro-environmental behaviors will spill over to future engagement in extra-role pro-environmental behaviors. Using two experiments with employees from the retail ( $N = 338$ ) and education ( $N = 448$ ) industries, we found a conditional positive spillover effect, mediated by pro-environmental goal commitment. More specifically, when employees with low intrinsic pro-environmental motivation received feedback that they had progressed in their in-role pro-environmental performance, their extra-role pro-environmental behavior intentions increased due to an increased commitment to the pro-environmental goal. However, when employees had high intrinsic pro-environmental motivation, this spillover effect was negative (Study 1) or non-significant (Study 2). To summarize, the positive spillover effect only occurs when employees are not highly intrinsically motivated. Our findings uncover a missing piece in organizational environmental management literature and carry important implications for employee-oriented initiatives.

**Keywords:** Goal commitment, Performance feedback, Pro-environmental behavior, Spillover effect

## Introduction

The value of employee pro-environmental behaviors in enabling organizations to achieve their environmental goals is now recognized in both research and practice (e.g., Boiral et al. 2015; Baldassari et al., 2023; Gond & Moser, 2021; Islam et al., 2021). Many organizations now use a variety of green human resource management practices (Ahmed et al., 2022; Pellegrini et al., 2018; Yong et al, 2020), including distributing green responsibilities to employees (Pham et al., 2023) and giving them green performance feedback (Davis et al., 2020). Thus, employees are engaging in pro-environmental behaviors both as part of their job, that is in-role, and in more proactive and voluntary ways, that is, extra-role (Dumont et al., 2017; Jackson et al., 2012; Uddin et al., 2021). Although a few studies have identified determinants of both in-role and extra-role employee pro-environmental behaviors (Dumont et al., 2017; Islam et al., 2020; Khalid et al., 2022), there has been no consideration of how knowing the performance of the one will affect engagement in the other. This is a problematic omission because we know from pro-environmental spillover literature that both positive and negative spillovers can occur (for reviews, see Nilsson et al., 2017; Thøgersen & Crompton, 2009; Truelove et al., 2014) meaning that increasing engagement in one form of pro-environmental behavior will not always result in an increase in the other. Given that organizations are implementing ever more policies, procedures and initiatives to increase in-role pro-environmental behaviors, it is vital to understand the knock-on effect that working on in-role pro-environmental behaviors has on engagement in extra-role pro-environmental behaviors.

The aim of this research was to investigate how and when receiving feedback on in-role pro-environmental performance influenced employees' extra-role pro-environmental behavior. As we shall discuss in detail below, neither organizational environmental nor spillover theorizing provides much guidance in explaining this particular spillover phenomenon. On the

one hand, the proximity perspective of goal theories (e.g., goal gradient theory; Brown, 1948; Hull, 1932; Lewin, 1938; Losco & Epstein, 1977; Miller, 1944), suggests a positive spillover effect; employees' become more motivated to engage in goal-relevant tasks (that is, extra-role pro-environmental behaviors) as they perceive progress towards achieving the pro-environmental goal (Ballard et al., 2022; Cryder et al., 2013; Gutt et al., 2020). On the other hand, research into forced pro-environmental behaviors (akin to in-role pro-environmental behaviors) suggests a possible crowding-out effect on individuals' commitment to the pro-environmental goal (Isbanner et al., 2021; Ling & Xu, 2021a) and research into workplace pro-environmental behavior interventions has suggested that those who have high intrinsic motivation for the environment do not always respond positively to green initiatives (e.g., Blazejewski et al., 2018; Davis et al., 2020). Therefore, to help determine recommendations for organizations, we develop hypotheses integrating these different perspectives leading to a model whereby there is an indirect positive spillover effect of in-role pro-environmental behavior on extra-role pro-environmental behavior, via goal commitment, for those low in intrinsic motivation, but an indirect negative spillover effect for those high in intrinsic motivation.

By exploring the spillover effect of feedback of progress on in-role pro-environmental tasks to extra-role pro-environmental behaviors, the current study strives to contribute to organizational pro-environmental research in three ways. First, we introduce the spillover effect across in-role and extra-role behaviors into the organizational context and therefore extend spillover research in the workplace. Second, we add to pro-environmental goal research by incorporating intrinsic motivation to the complex spillover relationship. In doing so, we disentangle the inconsistent predictions of spillover from in-role pro-environmental behavior to extra-role pro-environmental behavior. Finally, by disclosing the spillover effect of employee pro-environmental behaviors from in-role to extra-role, we extend the research on

antecedents of employee extra-role pro-environmental behavior and provide practical recommendations for business.

## **Theory Development**

### *Spillover from In-Role to Extra-Role pro-environmental behavior*

Research on spillover in environmental management originates from government and environmental organizations examining the effectiveness of “foot-in-the-door” techniques to raise residents’ pro-environmental behaviors (Freedman & Fraser, 1966); persuading residents to take small steps to protect the environment which then arouses future ambitious actions (Thøgersen & Crompton, 2009; Truelove et al., 2014). Later research defined spillover as the phenomenon that occurs when individuals’ past behaviors influence the probability of subsequent behavior and identified three types: spillover across behavior, spillover across time, and spillover across context (Nilsson et al., 2017). Many interventions have been tested with personal and home-based behaviors spanning the three types of spillover (e.g., Elf et al., 2019; Maki et al., 2019; Shreedhar & Galizzi, 2021). However, the limited research examining pro-environmental spillover research in the workplace has generally focused on spillover across context, namely of employee pro-environmental behaviors transferring from home to work or vice versa (Lacroix et al., 2022; Paillé et al., 2019b; Wells et al., 2016) - overlooking the influence of engaging in one pro-environmental behavior on other pro-environmental behaviors in the workplace, especially the interrelationship between in-role and extra-role pro-environmental behaviors.

Existing spillover literature has generally explained the phenomenon through moral licensing, learning or motivation (see Maki et al., 2019; Nash et al., 2017). Of these, we believe that the first two do not apply to behavior spillover in the workplace: 1) It is questionable whether engaging in in-role pro-environmental behaviors – doing one’s job – would be perceived as engaging in moral behavior by employees; and 2) Becoming competent in or re-

structuring an in-role task (such as identifying environmentally-friendly suppliers) is not likely to affect one's competence in or view of an extra-role task (such as bringing a reusable coffee cup or avoiding food waste; Bretter et al., 2022) because these often operate in different spheres of working life and comprise different tasks and requirements. Thus, although these existing spillover theories are useful for non-workplace settings, they are limited in explaining spillover amongst employees from in-role to extra-role behavior. We therefore build on the motivation spillover mechanism that appears relevant to this setting to develop a new theoretical model that explains how performance in in-role pro-environmental behavior influences an employee's engagement in extra-role pro-environmental behavior.

#### *Goal Commitment Approach to Workplace Spillover*

Following spillover scholars (e.g., Capstick et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2021; Wolstenholme et al., 2020), we began by considering in-role and extra-role pro-environmental behavior as two sets of behaviors related to a superordinate pro-environmental goal. A goal refers to the representation of the desired end state that serves as a reference point for evaluating behavior (Austin & Vancouver, 1996) and in this paper, we are focused on the higher-order goal of helping the environment at work. In this way, the proximity perspective (e.g., goal gradient theory; Brown, 1948; Hull, 1932; Lewin, 1938; Losco & Epstein, 1977; Miller, 1944) – examining how ‘means’, or behaviors such as in-role and extra-role pro-environmental behavior, can achieve the superordinate goal – becomes relevant. From this perspective, as employees' performance in in-role pro-environmental behavior increases, the physical or temporal distance toward reaching the workplace pro-environmental goal is reduced, thus further motivating superordinate goal pursuit (Gutt et al., 2020; Koo & Fishbach, 2012). One's eagerness to achieve the goal (Roberts & Fishbach, 2020) and reap the perceived contribution of their goal-pursuit behaviors (Cryder et al., 2013; Heath et al., 1999) increases (Carver & Scheier, 1998; Cheema & Bagchi, 2011). Thus, we expect that feedback demonstrating

progression in in-role pro-environmental behavior will make employees more motivated to increase their efforts to bring goals to completion. Such motivation, or determination to reach a goal, is the definition of goal commitment (Locke et al., 1981; Locke & Latham, 1990; Hollenbeck & Klein, 1987; Klein et al., 2012).

Employees with higher goal commitment care more about the goal, are more dedicated to the goal, and more likely to have a responsibility for the goal (Klein et al., 2014). As a result, employees are more willing to devote effort to achieve the goal (Fishbach et al., 2009; Koo & Fishbach, 2012), even when the efforts are not recognized or compensated by the organization. That is, greater commitment to helping the environment at work is likely to lead to more extra-role pro-environmental behavior. Research has shown the positive effect between individuals' goal commitment and effort across related behaviors such as creativity (e.g., Deichmann & Stam, 2015), organizational citizenship (e.g., Bakhsh et al., 2011; Ng & Feldman, 2011) and performance effort (e.g., Fabiny & Lovaš, 2018; Klein et al., 1999), and constructs related to commitment in the environmental literature also support this premise (e.g., Paillé & Morelos, 2017; Ren et al., 2022; Robertson & Barling, 2013; Zheng et al., 2021). Therefore, we suggest that, in general, there will be positive spillover from in-role to extra-role pro-environmental behavior through an increase in pro-environmental goal commitment.

Nonetheless, because in-role pro-environmental behavior is “forced” upon employees, there are some indications that we need to consider this relationship in greater detail. Some spillover scholars have suggested that behaviors driven by extrinsic motivation do not spill over to related behaviors because of the crowding out of intrinsic motivation (e.g., Austin et al., 2011; Blazejewski et al., 2018; Ling & Xu, 2021a; Poortinga et al., 2013; Thomas et al., 2016; Truelove et al., 2014). However, to our knowledge, this premise has not been developed and tested a priori. Thus, we now consider how the positive spillover expected from the goal proximity perspective would be affected by intrinsic motivation.

### *Moderation Effect of Intrinsic Motivation*

Intrinsic motivation is defined as the innate tendency to engage in an activity because the activity per se is interesting and pleasurable and provides people with positive emotional experiences; extrinsic motivation is generated from external factors such as job obligations or rewards (Deci, 1999; Gagné & Deci, 2005; Ryan & Deci, 2000). More specifically, individuals with high intrinsic motivation for the environment normally derive pleasure and satisfaction from performing pro-environmental behaviors (Kruglanski et al., 2018; Fishbach & Woolley, 2022; Pelletier et al., 1998), while individuals with low intrinsic motivation are more likely to be attracted by the reward (or punishment) from achieving (or not) pro-environmental goals (Menges et al., 2017). Research has often shown that these two types of motivation are not additive, but that instead there is a crowding-out effect (Frey, 1994, 1997).

The crowding-out effect was initially noticed in behavioral economics based on the negative effects of incentivizing particular behaviors that are normally engaged in altruistically (e.g., Frey, 1997; Frey & Oberholzer-Gee, 1997). The same notion underpins self-determination theory which suggests that constraints on one's behavior, even if they may be motivating in and of themselves, reduce one's willingness to engage in the behavior (Deci et al., 2017; Ryan & Deci, 2000). In the environmental literature, existing research has shown that incentives and punishment for pro-environmental behavior crowd-out people's pre-existing intrinsic motivation for pro-environmental behaviors resulting in decreased overall motivation (Blazejewski, et al., 2018; Davis, et al., 2020; Ling & Xu, 2021b). Thus, the motivating potential of an extrinsic motivator will depend upon the level of pre-existing intrinsic motivation. When an individual has high pre-existing intrinsic motivation, extrinsic motivation will result in crowding-out and an overall negative effect, but when the individual has low intrinsic motivation then the effect of the extrinsic motivation will be positive (see Rode et al., 2015).

In the case of employee pro-environmental behavioral spillover, in-role pro-environmental behavior is compulsory and expected by the organization, creating external regulation for employees' behaviors (Fawehinmi et al., 2022; Ones & Dilchert, 2012; Uddin et al., 2021) as evidenced in research (Tian et al., 2020). As employees' performance of in-role pro-environmental behavior increases, they are more exposed to these extrinsic motivators of their behavior (Ren et al., 2018). Therefore, engaging in in-role pro-environmental behavior will generate dissonance for intrinsically motivated employees, as their autonomous environmental motivation is in conflict with their compliant action (see Frey, 1993; McGrath, 2017; Kenworthy et al., 2011; Festinger 1957). When an intrinsically motivated person undergoes a behavior that is extrinsically motivated, they no longer feel good about themselves (Kits et al., 2014; Weibel et al., 2014), they are frustrated with the lack of trust evidenced by being forced to do the behavior (Graafland & Bovenberg, 2020; Gneezy et al., 2011), and are disgusted with the act that turned their altruistic will into a transaction (Beretti et al., 2013). Consequently, those high in intrinsic environmental motivation are more susceptible to the crowding-out effect and more likely to withdraw their commitment to the workplace environmental goal following feedback regarding in-role pro-environmental performance. As a result, feedback regarding high progress on in-role pro-environmental behavior will lead to intrinsically motivated employees engaging in fewer extra-role pro-environmental behaviors than those same employees receiving feedback on low in-role progress. In other words, we predict that negative spillover, via goal commitment, will occur for those who are intrinsically motivated to help the environment.

Of course, for those who have low intrinsic motivation for pro-environmental goals, there will be no dissonance and, thus, no crowding-out effect. As a result, they will retain the extrinsically motivating effect of goal progress on pro-environmental goal commitment, leading to positive spillover. Overall, therefore, we argue that there will be a positive effect of

progress in in-role pro-environmental behavior on goal commitment leading to increased engagement in extra-role pro-environmental behavior for those who are not intrinsically motivated; but a negative effect on goal commitment, and subsequent extra-role pro-environmental behavior, for those who are intrinsically motivated to help the environment. Our theoretical model is shown in Figure 1.

*Hypothesis 1: There will be a conditional indirect relationship between feedback of progress in in-role pro-environmental behavior and engagement in extra-role pro-environmental behavior via environmental goal commitment, such that*

*(a) positive feedback of progress in in-role pro-environmental behavior will lead to greater environmental goal commitment and subsequent increase in extra-role pro-environmental behavior for employees with low environmental intrinsic motivation; but*

*(b) positive feedback of progress in in-role pro-environmental behavior will lead to lower environmental goal commitment and subsequent decrease in extra-role pro-environmental behavior for employees with high environmental intrinsic motivation.*

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Insert Figure 1 about here  
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We conducted two experimental studies to test our hypothesis. Study 1 introduced an events-based experiment to test the hypothesis with a retail work sample using the participants' own levels of intrinsic motivation. Study 2 was designed to replicate and extend this by adopting a vignette-based experiment with an educational work sample. In this second study intrinsic motivation was manipulated; moreover, we included goal attainment expectancy to check that our underpinning theorizing was supported. Our research was reviewed and approved by a university research ethics committee and ethical approval was granted under protocol number [REDACTED]-378].

## Study 1

### *Participants, Design and Procedure*

We recruited working adults from the retail industry in the UK through the ethically-approved online survey platform Prolific. A total of 403 participants were randomly assigned to either the negative and positive feedback on in-role pro-environmental behavior progress condition. They received a small payment equivalent to £11.50 (US\$13.50) per hour from Prolific for their time. We included an attention check (see below) which was not completed appropriately by 15 participants, and 12 participants had missing data for key variables, thus the remaining data set comprised 376 participants. We utilized G\*Power (number of test predictors = 4, total number of predictors = 8, power = 0.80,  $\alpha = 0.05$ , and effect size = 0.1; Ahmad et al., 2023; Faul et al., 2007; Faul et al., 2009) to perform a medium effect-size power analysis for a linear multiple regression. This analysis resulted in an estimated sample of 85, verifying that our final sample size is sufficient. Of the 376 participants, 73.40% were aged between 18-35, 69.41% were females, and 41.07% had a bachelor's degree or above.

### *Procedure and Manipulation*

The experiment consisted of three main sections: assessment of true in-role pro-environmental performance, performance feedback intervention, and measurement of the variables. Participants were asked to report their performance of 15 in-role pro-environmental behaviors in the past two weeks from 0 (never) to 4 (always): As we specifically recruited retail employees, this included items such as “I minimized the volume of packaging I used if I must put package on products” and “I immediately closed freezer doors after arranging food”. If any of the tasks were not expected by the participants' company, job, or leader, in the workplace, they were asked to choose “not applicable”. We calculated the participants' actual score of in-role pro-environmental behavior out of 10 using the formula  $\sum_{i=1}^{15} v_i \times a_i / 6$ , where  $i$  represents the number of the task,  $v$  represents the value of the specific task,  $a$  represents

whether the in-role pro-environmental task was applicable to the participants, and 6 was used to transfer the scale of in-role pro-environmental behavior from 0-60 (15 statements with a possible high score of four) to 0-10.

Following Fishbach et al. (2006) and Conway and Peetz (2012), we then manipulated the feedback on employees' in-role pro-environmental behavior progress by providing participants with their actual scores of pro-environmental behaviors in the past week and told them that the average score in our past survey was 2 (vs. 8) in the positive (vs. negative) feedback group<sup>1</sup>. As we were using participants' true in-role pro-environmental behavior scores, we had to exclude those in the positive feedback condition who scored lower than our standard (i.e., 2; 30 participants) and those in the negative feedback condition who scored higher than our standard (i.e., 8; 8 participants). This left our final sample of 338 participants, with 183 in the negative feedback condition and 155 in the positive feedback condition.

Following the manipulation, participants were asked to rate their perceptions of goal commitment to the pro-environmental goal, intentions to engage in extra-role pro-environmental behaviors in the next two weeks, intrinsic motivation for pro-environmental behaviors, as well as reporting on a manipulation check and control variables. Finally, we debriefed our manipulation for feedback on goal progress and re-affirmed their consent for inclusion.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on Fishbach et al. (2006), positive (vs. negative) feedback can be manipulated by guiding participants to make comparisons with low (vs. high) standards. In our study, we presented participants with the low (vs. high) standards by telling them that the average score of pro-environmental behaviors in our past survey was 2 (vs. 8). In addition, according to Conway and Peetz (2012), asking people to recall concrete actions in the recent past can activate their concrete construal level and lead them to construe the recent performance as progress toward the goal. In our study, we asked participants about their true performance in the past week of several pro-environmental behaviors often included in jobs within retail industry, and thus creating a frame for their positive (vs. negative) performance in pro-environmental behaviors as perception of high (vs. low) progress toward the pro-environmental goal.

## *Measures*

**Attention check.** To ensure that participants carefully read our experimental materials, we asked participants to rate whether their in-role pro-environmental behavior score was higher or lower than the average we have found in previous research following the intervention.

**Pro-environmental goal commitment.** We measured pro-environmental goal commitment using the four-item scale of Klein et al. (2014). This scale was also used by other studies, such as Klein et al. (2020) and Lount et al. (2017) to measure their commitment to the career and competition goals (Cronbach  $\alpha$ s were 0.95 and 0.96 respectively). In our Study, participants were asked to rate their attitude towards the goal of helping the environment from 1-not at all to 5-completely. An example was “How committed are you to this goal?” The Cronbach  $\alpha$  in this study was 0.93.

**Extra-role pro-environmental behaviors intention.** To measure participants’ intention for performing extra-role pro-environmental behaviors in the future, we used a four-item formative scale adapted from Kim et al. (2017) to fit with retail employees. The original scale was constituted with six items and was widely used to measure employees workplace voluntary pro-environmental behaviors (e.g., Kim et al., 2019,  $\alpha = 0.86$ ; Li et al., 2023,  $\alpha = 0.91$ ; Zhang et al., 2021,  $\alpha = 0.83$ ). Participants were asked to rate to what extent they intend to do the behaviors such as “Recycle reusable things in my workplace” in the next two weeks (1- Strongly Disagree; 5- Strongly Agree;  $\alpha = 0.60$ ).

**Manipulation check.** We used Wanberg, Zhu, and Van Hooft,’ s (2010) six-item goal progress scale, which is also used by studies including Song et al. (2023;  $\alpha = 0.88$ ) and Koopman et al. (2016;  $\alpha = 0.83$ ), to check if we successfully manipulated participants’ feedback on in-role pro-environmental behaviors progress. Specifically, we asked participants to rate their agreement with the statements about the goal of protecting the environment (1- Strongly Disagree; 5- Strongly Agree; e.g., “I made good progress on this goal in the past week”). The

Cronbach  $\alpha$  in this study was 0.88.

**Intrinsic motivation for pro-environmental behaviors.** Intrinsic motivation for pro-environmental behaviors was measured using the three-item intrinsic work motivation scale of Gagné et al. (2015). An example was “I put or will put effort in doing things for the environment because I have fun doing things for the environment” (1- Strongly Disagree; 5- Strongly Agree). This scale was widely used to measure intrinsic motivation, including studies such as Hewett and Leroy (2019;  $\alpha = 0.92$ ) and Taris et al. (2020;  $\alpha = 0.85$  (Time 1) and 086 (Time 2)). The Cronbach  $\alpha$  in this study was 0.85.

**Control variables.** To exclude the potential impact of workplace factors on our key variables, we measured participants’ perceived organizational environmental support by the four-item measure of Paillé and Valéau (2021;  $\alpha = 0.87$ ), green human resource management by the six-item scale of Dumont et al. (2017;  $\alpha = 0.93$ ), and in-role pro-environmental score to isolate spillover from broader pro-environmental values (Ansari et al., 2021; Cantor et al., 2012; Graves & Sarkis, 2018). In addition, we controlled for participants’ gender which has been shown to be related to pro-environmental behavior (Paillé & Valéau, 2021). Since participants’ age and educational background were not significantly related to other variables in the model in this sample, we did not control for them (Bernerth & Aguinis, 2016).

### *Results and Discussion*

Descriptive statistics, correlations and scale reliabilities are presented in Table 1. Participants’ perception of progress in in-role pro-environmental behaviors in the positive feedback group (the mean value (M hereafter) = 3.45, the standard deviation (SD hereafter) = 0.62) was significantly higher than in the negative feedback group (M = 3.06, SD = 0.73;  $F = 27.37$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = 0.08$ ). Hence, we successfully manipulated feedback on in-role pro-environmental behavior progress.

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Insert Table 1 about here

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To test the hypotheses, we conducted bootstrapping analysis (resampled 1000 times) following the recommendation of Preacher et al. (2007) in Mplus 7.4. Results are listed in Table 2. Consistent with our hypothesis, there was a negative and significant interactive effect of feedback and intrinsic motivation on pro-environmental goal commitment ( $\beta = -0.23$ ,  $p = 0.008$ ). In addition, pro-environmental goal commitment was positively and significantly related to employee extra-role pro-environmental behavior intention ( $\beta = 0.27$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). Moreover, we tested the indirect effect of feedback on extra-role pro-environmental behavior intention as moderated by intrinsic motivation and found that this moderated mediation effect was significant (index of moderated mediation =  $-0.06$ , with a 95% confidence interval (CI hereafter) of  $[-0.12, -0.01]$ ).

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 Insert Table 2 about Here  
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We next used the Johnson–Neyman technique to identify regions of moderator values at which the indirect effect is significantly different from zero (Gardner et al., 2017; Preacher et al., 2006). The 95% confidence bands derived Johnson–Neyman technique were presented in Figure 2. In Figure 2, the X-axis represents values of intrinsic motivation, expressed in units of the standard deviation. For example, when the x-axis is set to 0 (vs.  $-2$ ), it represents the mean (vs. mean minus double the standard deviation) of intrinsic motivation. The Y-axis represents the effect size of feedback on employee extra-role pro-environmental behavior via pro-environmental goal commitment. The solid line represents the trend of the indirect effect with intrinsic motivation, and the dashed line represents the 95% confidence bands. According to Figure 2, the indirect effect was positive and significant when intrinsic motivation was lower than 2.10 ( $M - 1.22 \times SD$ ), thus providing support for Hypothesis 1a. The indirect effect was negative and significant when intrinsic motivation was higher than 3.99 ( $M + 1.10 \times SD$ ),

providing support for Hypothesis 1b.

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Insert Figure 2 about Here  
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We had checked that the controls were empirically and theoretically related to the mediating or dependent variable before their inclusion (Bernerth & Aguinis, 2016). However in accordance with the current best-practice, we conducted robustness tests without the control variables (see supplementary materials). These provided further support for the positive indirect spillover effect for employees who had low intrinsic motivation, and, although the negative indirect spillover effect for those with high intrinsic motivation was no longer significant, the simple slope was in the right direction (results of the Johnson–Neyman technique showed that the indirect effect was negative when intrinsic motivation was higher than 3.73).

## **Study 2**

Study 1 showed support for a positive indirect effect of feedback on in-role pro-environmental behaviors progress on extra-role pro-environmental behaviors via pro-environmental goal commitment when employees have low level of intrinsic motivation for pro-environmental behavior (i.e., Hypothesis 1a) and a negative indirect effect when employees have a high level of intrinsic motivation (i.e., Hypothesis 1b). To replicate, generalize and extend these results, we conducted Study 2 with a 3 (feedback on in-role pro-environmental behavior progress: negative vs. moderate vs. positive)  $\times$  2 (intrinsic motivation: low vs. high) between-subjects design in the education industry. In addition, we included the previously unmeasured theorized mechanism of expectancy.

### *Participants, Manipulation Design and Procedure*

A total of 450 participants from school workers in the UK were recruited through the Prolific platform. Only participants who had previously reported that their job involved

teaching were invited to participate and they were paid, on average, the equivalent of £10.62 (\$12.50) per hour. They were randomly assigned to the six groups. We excluded cases who failed the attention checks ( $N = 2$ ), leaving a sample of 448 participants. Similar to Study 1, we cross-verified whether we have obtained sufficient sample size through a medium effect-size power analysis for an ANCOVA utilizing G\*Power (number of groups = 4, number of covariates = 2,  $df = 2$ , power = 0.80,  $\alpha = 0.05$ , and effect size = 0.25; Faul et al., 2007). This analysis resulted in an estimated sample size of 158, suggesting that our sample size is sufficient. Of the 448 participants, 34.82% were aged between 18-35, 73.44% were females, and 89.51 % had a bachelor's degree or above.

All participants were asked to imagine themselves as a biology teacher working at a fictional school and read a scenario that introduced the pro-environmental goal (i.e., help the school to meet the standard of the National Green Schools Certification) and the in-role tasks (i.e., incorporate environmental education in the curriculum and increase students' environmental literacy).

Next, we manipulated participants' feedback on in-role pro-environmental behavior progress using both text and graphical images to increase comprehension (see Figure 3). Specifically, in the negative (vs. moderate vs. positive) feedback group, participants were told that they have made little (vs. some vs. a lot of) progress in helping meet the two requirements for the National Green Schools Certification, and that they were far from (vs. more than halfway to vs. close to) finishing their task. The graphs indicated the object of each task (i.e., incorporate environmental education across 10% of the curriculum and have at least 80% of students in a class pass an environmental literacy examination) and their specific progress in that task (i.e., 2% vs. 7% vs. 9% respectively, of classes integrated environmental education and 20% vs. 60% vs. 75% respectively, of students passed the environmental literacy examination).

Following Grant and Berry (2011), we manipulated participants' intrinsic motivation by altering the feedback from others in a similar experience and the way in which participants received the in-role pro-environmental task. In the high (vs. low) intrinsic motivation condition, participants were advised that a friend told them that "it was (vs. was not that) interesting to incorporate environmental education in the class", and "she and her students really (vs. did not) enjoyed" it and "got a lot of (vs. little) pleasure" from environmental education. In addition, the participant was told that they had proactively applied to (vs. been forced to) take on the task.

Finally, participants were asked to rate their perceptions of pro-environmental goal commitment, positive affect, goal attainment expectancy, extra-role pro-environmental behavioral intention in the next two weeks, manipulation checks, and their demographic information.

### *Measures*

**Attention checks.** We included four attention check questions concerning a) Participants' role in the vignette, b) The requirement that the school needed to meet to get certification, c) The reason participants took on the pro-environmental task, and d) The progress of participants in the pro-environmental task. As discussed before, two participants failed all the attention check questions and thus, they were excluded from the analysis. In addition, 118 participants failed at least one of the attention check questions. To be conservative, we kept these participants in our analyses, however we checked the robustness of our results by excluding them and only including those who passed all the attention check questions – these additional statistics are provided in the supplementary materials but, in sum, demonstrated the same findings.

**Pro-environmental goal commitment, extra-role pro-environmental behavior intention, and manipulation check for feedback.** We used the same scales as Study 1 to

measure these variables and Cronbach  $\alpha$ s demonstrated reliability (0.94, 0.82, and 0.96; respectively).

**Expectancy of goal attainment.** Following Tubbs et al. (1993), we asked participants to indicate the possibility that they will attain the goal from 0 to 100%.

**Manipulation check.** Consistent with Grant and Berry (2011), we measured participants' intrinsic motivation by the seven-item task interest scale (e.g., "I enjoyed doing this task very much";  $\alpha = 0.95$ ) and the seven-item freedom of choice scale (e.g., "I did this activity because I wanted to";  $\alpha = 0.96$ ) from Ryan et al. (1991).

**Control variables.** Given that our intrinsic motivation manipulation might influence affect, we measured participants' positive affect using the ten-item scale of Watson et al. (1988). Examples of positive affect include "Attentive", "Interested", and "Enthusiastic" ( $\alpha = 0.94$ ). In addition, we controlled for participants' age given existing research highlights a relationship with pro-environmental behavior (Wiernik et al., 2013). Participants' gender and educational background were not controlled since they were not significantly related with other variables in the model (see Berneth & Aguinis, 2016). As in Study 1, we conducted robustness tests without the control variables (see supplementary materials).

## *Results and Discussion*

Descriptive statistics, correlations and scale reliabilities are presented in Table 3.

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Insert Table 3 about here  
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Analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed that participants' perception of task interest and choice differed significantly between low intrinsic motivation ( $M_{\text{task interest}} = 2.67$ ,  $SD = 0.95$ ;  $M_{\text{choice}} = 1.80$ ,  $SD = 0.81$ ) and high motivation groups ( $M_{\text{task interest}} = 3.96$ ,  $SD = 0.69$ ;  $M_{\text{choice}} = 4.17$ ,  $SD = 0.72$ ;  $F_{\text{task interest}} = 267.47$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = 0.37$ ;  $F_{\text{choice}} = 1057.08$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = 0.70$ ). Thus, we successfully manipulated participants' intrinsic motivation for the pro-

environmental behavior. There was also a significant main effect of feedback group on perceived in-role pro-environmental behavior progress ( $F = 621.62, p < 0.001, \eta_p^2 = 0.79$ ). Post-hoc tests showed that participants in the negative feedback group ( $M = 2.46, SD = 0.66$ ) perceived significantly lower goal progress than those in the moderate feedback ( $M = 4.29, SD = 0.53; 95\% CI = [1.68, 1.98]$ ) and positive conditions ( $M = 4.55, SD = 0.46; 95\% CI = [1.93, 2.24]$ ). In addition, perceived goal progress in moderate and positive feedback groups were significantly different to each other ( $\Delta M = 0.26, 95\% CI = [0.10, 0.41]$ ). We therefore successfully manipulated feedback in in-role pro-environmental behavior progress.

To test our hypotheses, similar to Study 1, we conducted bootstrapping analysis (resampled 1000 times). In particular, we followed the recommendation of Hayes and Preacher (2014) for statistical analysis with a multicategorical independent variable and used the indicator coding approach to create two dummies for the feedback: moderate feedback (0-no, 1-yes) and positive feedback (0-no, 1-yes). Results are listed in Table 4 and Table 5.

As shown in Table 4, the interactive effect of positive feedback and intrinsic motivation on pro-environmental goal commitment was negative and significant ( $\beta = -0.44, p = 0.003$ ). Similarly, the interactive effects of moderate feedback and intrinsic motivation on pro-environmental goal commitment was also negative and significant ( $\beta = -0.32, p = 0.03$ ). In addition, pro-environmental goal commitment was positively and significantly related to employee extra-role pro-environmental behavior intention ( $\beta = 0.20, p < 0.001$ ). The results are generally consistent with Hypothesis 1.

According to Table 5, the bootstrapping results further show that the moderation effect of intrinsic motivation on the indirect effects of moderate and positive feedback on extra-role pro-environmental behavior intention via pro-environmental goal commitment were significant (indexes of moderated mediation =  $-0.09$  and  $-0.07$  respectively, with 95% CIs of  $[-0.17, -0.03]$  and  $[-0.15, -0.01]$  respectively). Specifically, in the low intrinsic motivation group,

compared with employees with negative feedback, the indirect effects of positive and moderate feedback were positive and significant (indirect effect = 0.10 and 0.09 respectively, with 95% CIs of [0.05, 0.17] and [0.04, 0.16]), supporting Hypothesis 1a. However, in the high intrinsic motivation group, the indirect effects of positive and moderate feedback were non-significant (indirect effect = 0.01 and 0.02 respectively, with 95% CIs of [- 0.03, 0.05] and [- 0.01, 0.06]), as compared with participants with negative feedback in in-role pro-environmental behavior. Thus, Hypothesis 1b was not supported.

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 Insert Table 4 and Table 5 about here  
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### *Supplementary Analyses*

Our theorizing relied on an implicit assumption that progress feedback led to a perception of goal attainment expectancy. Thus, to check this premise we tested whether intrinsic motivation moderated the effect of feedback on in-role pro-environmental behavior progress on extra-role pro-environmental behavior via employees' goal attainment expectancy perception and subsequent pro-environmental goal commitment (see Figure 4). Consistent with our theorizing, results showed a negative and significant interaction effect of goal attainment expectancy and intrinsic motivation on pro-environmental goal commitment ( $\beta = - 0.01$ ,  $p = 0.02$ ), negative and significant conditional effects of positive (vs. negative) and moderate (vs. negative) progress condition on extra-role pro-environmental behavior via goal attainment expectancy and subsequent pro-environmental goal commitment ( $\beta = - 0.09$  and  $- 0.08$  respectively, with 95% CIs of [- 0.20, - 0.01] and [- 0.18, -0.01] respectively). Thus, the underpinning premise is supported.

### **General Discussion**

The aim of this research was to explore the conditions under which the feedback that employees receive from engaging in organizationally-endorsed, in-role pro-environmental

tasks affected their engagement in voluntary extra-role pro-environmental behaviors. Given that businesses are increasing their support and requirements for employees to behave in a pro-environmentally friendly way (i.e., in-role pro-environmental behavior), this is an increasingly important question to answer. With two experimental studies among full-time employees in the retail and education industries, we found that spillover differed, depending upon the employees' intrinsic motivation for the environment. The expected positive spillover effect was found for those low in intrinsic motivation: Greater progress in in-role pro-environmental behavior led to greater commitment to the pro-environmental goal and subsequent positive spillover to extra-role pro-environmental behavior.

The story was a bit more complicated for employees who were high in intrinsic motivation. We found the negative spillover effect we expected in Study 1, however, in Study 2, the spillover effect was non-significant. This means that, in Study 1, highly intrinsically motivated participants showed a strong crowding-out effect that overwhelmed the motivating role of progress in in-role pro-environmental behaviors, as expected. On the other hand, in Study 2 the crowding-out effect for intrinsically motivated participants was less strong such that it only neutralized the motivating role of progress in in-role pro-environmental behaviors and no spillover occurred. This difference in findings may be due to the different operationalization of intrinsic motivation across the two studies - in Study 1 we measured participants' actual intrinsic motivation, while in Study 2 we attempted to manipulate their intrinsic motivation, which may not have been fully internalized, leading to the weaker findings. Despite their differences, both studies suggest that a high degree of intrinsic motivation impairs the motivating effect of positive feedback regarding in-role pro-environmental behavior on pro-environmental goal commitment, supporting the crowding-out theorizing. Thus, we can conclude from our two rigorous studies that the positive spillover from in-role pro-environmental behavior to extra-role pro-environmental behavior via pro-environmental goal

commitment weakens as employees' intrinsic motivation increases.

### *Theoretical Implications and Directions for Future Research*

This research broadens our understanding of pro-environmental behavior in three ways. First, we build on and extend research into environmental spillover effects in the workplace. The current knowledge regarding spillover in the private setting is extensive with examinations of positive spillover, negative spillover, and no spillover across different context, temporal, and behavioral types (e.g., Catlin & Wang, 2003; Puntiroli et al., 2022; Rashid & Mohammad, 2011, 2012; Thøgersen & Ölander, 2003; Truelove et al., 2014; Urban et al., 2019; Van der Werff et al., 2014). Yet pro-environmental behavior in the workplace is substantively different to pro-environmental behavior outside work and these differences in scope and context mean that we cannot simply apply findings from the private sphere to the workplace (see Ones & Dilchert, 2012). The limited attention given to pro-environmental spillover at work has tended to focus on the contextual spillover, demonstrating relationships between pro-environmental behavior across the home and work settings (e.g., Lacroix et al., 2022; Littleford et al., 2014; Paillé et al., 2019b; Wells et al., 2016). Our model enriches this stream of research by highlighting an additional form of spillover across two typical forms of workplace behavior: in-role behavior and extra-role behavior. In doing so, we open a new area of research for organizational and environmental scholars. Given the importance and prevalence of both in-role and extra-role pro-environmental behaviors, we feel it is vital that more researchers follow our footsteps and understand the interactive effects that may be occurring across these two behaviors.

Our findings further underscore why we need to examine these interrelationships across the two types of behaviors: We found that the positive spillover relationship from in-role pro-environmental behavior to extra-role pro-environmental behavior occurred for some people but not others. Thus, in combining knowledge from goals, motivation and spillover perspectives, we have been able to broaden our understanding of why employees' progress in assigned pro-

environmental tasks can promote or undermine their extra-role behavior. First, we found that employees' commitment to the pro-environmental goal plays a critical mediating role. Most behavioral spillover research in private settings has either not specified the mediating mechanism (e.g., Höchli et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2021; Puntiroli et al., 2022) or has focused on learning (e.g., Lauren et al., 2016; Thøgersen & Noblet, 2012; Ye et al., 2022) or self-perception (e.g., Lauren et al., 2019; Poortinga et al., 2013; Truelove et al., 2021) mechanisms. Yet these are much less relevant in a work setting where in-role and extra-role pro-environmental behaviors are likely to be based on different knowledge and skills, and employees often take on different identities (e.g., occupational identity, Phelan & Kinsella, 2009; professional identity, Mitchell & Boyle, 2015; and family identity, Houkes et al., 2008). Instead, we were guided by the goals literature and identified a more general motivational construct as the mechanism. Goal commitment has been examined as a moderator in previous spillover research (Liu et al., 2021) but by positioning it as the mediator we are able to pinpoint the critical step between spillover and no spillover. Now that we have identified commitment as the mechanism, we encourage other organizational scholars to identify additional variables and interventions that might strengthen (or weaken) this relationship.

Interestingly, our results did not fully support our negative spillover hypotheses. It has been suggested in the spillover literature that “forced” behaviors may not result in positive spillover due to the need for intrinsic motivation (e.g., Thomas et al., 2016; Poortinga et al., 2013) and some pro-environmental initiatives have been less successful than expected, presumably due to crowding out (e.g., Davis et al., 2020). Yet, we found it noteworthy that the crowding-out effect only lead to negative spillover effect for high levels of intrinsic motivation and was not replicated in Study 2. We posited earlier that this may be due to methodological reasons – the manipulation in Study 2 may not have created a true change in intrinsic motivation and therefore the interaction was, by necessity, weaker. However, we must also consider the

possibility that, instead of a negative spillover effect, those who are intrinsically motivated are simply less motivated by the feedback about progress than those who are not. We believe that an integrative principle proposed by Diefendorff and Lord (2008) can serve as an alternative explanation of this finding – they suggest that feedback on progress is considered only when it is aligned with the individuals’ personal goal content. It is striking that Diefendorff & Lord (2008) highlighted the vulnerability of more intrinsically motivated goals to this potential mismatch (p.176). We therefore suggest that future research examines the extent to which employees pay attention to the in-role pro-environmental behavior progress feedback to determine whether this may account for the findings of those who are more intrinsically motivated.

Our final contribution is to building a greater understanding of the antecedents of employee voluntary pro-environmental behavior. It is clear from the imbalance of research into in-role and extra-role pro-environmental behavior (see Francoeur et al., 2021; Islam et al., 2023; Peng et al., 2021; Unsworth & McNeill, 2017; Unsworth et al., 2021; Usman et al., 2023) that these proactive and voluntary behaviors are a vital part of an organization’s environmental performance. By identifying the conditional positive and negative impacts of feedback indicating employees’ performance in in-role pro-environmental behavior, we add to the knowledge base of employee pro-environmental behavior literature. Indeed, although existing research on the antecedents of employee voluntary pro-environmental behavior focuses on green performance management of green human resource management (e.g., Saeed et al., 2019; Yong et al., 2020), they mainly concentrated on the degree of introducing performance management practices, such as regularly giving feedback, rather than the content of feedback. This research allows us to fill this void in the literature and to suggest directions for future research.

### *Practical Implications*

Our research provides clear guidance for practice. Overall, it is worth noting that our research provides good news to organizations. Previous research had suggested that organizational initiatives designed to increase in-role pro-environmental behavior may have led to detrimental effects. By conducting this research, we have found that this is not the case. However, it is clear from our findings that organizations may not see the spillover benefits they envisage if their workforce tends to be intrinsically motivated. Thus, our first recommendation is to remind organizations to pay attention to employee variation in pre-existing intrinsic motivation when making interventions to raise their pro-environmental involvement. This may be assessed during one-to-one conversations or, for larger organizations, through including motivation scales, such as Pelletier et al. (1998) or the one adopted in this research, into annual employee opinion surveys. It must be noted, however, that we are not suggesting that organizations use differentiated strategies between high/low intrinsically motivated employees. Instead, we suggest that care is taken to avoid extrinsic regulation when the workforce contains a significant portion of employees who have high environmental intrinsic motivation. For example, framing feedback as a recognition of performance may be detrimental (Frey, 1997), therefore, instead it should be framed as acknowledging competence in addressing environmental challenges. Organizations can also allow employees to choose whether they receive a financial reward directly or whether they donate it to an environmental charity, which has shown to be effective in decreasing the crowding out effect of extrinsic motivators (Beretti et al., 2013). In addition, we suggest that organizations avoid simultaneous interventions aimed at increasing employees' intrinsic motivation to protect the environment (e.g., environmental workshops, nature camps, and field studies; Duerden & Witt, 2010) and interventions that monitor employees' pro-environmental performance (e.g., pro-environmental performance league tables; Caritte et al., 2015) as the effectiveness of the latter

intervention may be compromised if the former is too successful.

Second, by disclosing that perceived progress in pro-environmental tasks can indirectly increase employees' extra-role pro-environmental behavior when employees have low intrinsic motivation, we suggest that when departments or organizations find themselves with a workforce largely disinterested in the environment, they can improve their overall environmental performance by highlighting each employee's progress in their pro-environmental tasks in a positive manner. Research has shown several ways to increase individuals' perception of task progress, including directing their attention to accumulated achievement rather than the remaining uncompleted tasks (Fitzsimons & Fishbach, 2010; Koo & Fishbach, 2012), making them perceive relative progress in competition (e.g., conduct downward comparison; Fishbach et al., 2006; Huang et al., 2019), and recall the recently attained achievement (Conway & Peetz, 2012). Accordingly, we suggest that similar initiatives are implemented which indicate how close an employee is to achieving the next goal.

### *Limitations*

Although our research had many strengths to its internal validity through the experimental designs, it also has some limitations that must be noted. First, our experiments were conducted in the UK and may have limited generalizability to other cultures that may view pro-environmental behavior differently. We invited working adults in the retail and education industries to enhance the external validity, but again this limits the potential generalizability across industries. We call for future research investigating the spillover effect from employee in-role pro-environmental behavior to extra-role pro-environmental behavior across diverse cultural contexts and industries. Second, to ensure standardization across conditions, we needed to use scenarios and hypothetical behaviors rather than real behavior. Now that the first step has been taken with experimental research, future research can test the model in the field and measure actual extra-role pro-environmental behavior. Finally, our research only focuses

on pro-environmental goal pursuit. In the workplace, employees are always confronted with more than one goal, for example, the performance goal, family goal, and development goal (Unsworth et al., 2013). It would be important and interesting to explore the spillover effect of in-role to extra-role pro-environmental behavior in this multi-goal context.

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, we demonstrated that, for most employees, a perception that they are progressing well on their in-role pro-environmental tasks will lead to greater engagement in extra-role pro-environmental behavior, but this positive spillover effect only occurs when the employees are not highly intrinsically motivated. In doing so, our research provides significant theoretical and practical implications and clear guidance for future research. Given that employees play a vital role in helping the organization achieve its environmental goal, understanding this self-regulation process sheds light on a new stream of research in workplace environmental management. We also extend knowledge of the spillover effect by showing that the crowding-out effect appears to be weaker in the workplace than studies conducted on pro-environmental behavior in private settings. Our research aids strategic guidance to HR professors and managers by demonstrating the effectiveness of feedback interventions particularly among employees low in intrinsic motivation. We therefore encourage future researchers to confirm and explore how and when these spillover effects between in-role and extra-role pro-environmental behaviors operate in the field, across different cultural and industry contexts, and in contexts where multiple goals are present.

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**Table 1**  
**Descriptive Statistics, Correlations, and Scale Reliability**

|                                                     | 1               | 2                 | 3    | 4       | 5       | 6                 | 7     | 8       | 9       | 10     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------|---------|---------|-------------------|-------|---------|---------|--------|
| 1. Age                                              | na <sup>a</sup> |                   |      |         |         |                   |       |         |         |        |
| 2. Gender                                           | -0.13*          | na                |      |         |         |                   |       |         |         |        |
| 3. Education                                        | -0.02           | 0.05              | na   |         |         |                   |       |         |         |        |
| 4. In-role pro-environmental score                  | 0.05            | -0.01             | 0.04 | na      |         |                   |       |         |         |        |
| 5. Green human resource management                  | 0.02            | -0.05             | 0.00 | 0.37*** | (0.93)  |                   |       |         |         |        |
| 6. Organizational environmental support             | 0.04            | -0.03             | 0.02 | 0.29*** | 0.56*** | (0.87)            |       |         |         |        |
| 7. Progress in in-role pro-environmental behaviors  | -0.01           | -0.002            | 0.05 | 0.23*** | 0.08    | 0.09 <sup>†</sup> | na    |         |         |        |
| 8. Intrinsic motivation                             | -0.05           | 0.16**            | 0.03 | 0.28*** | 0.30*** | 0.21***           | 0.06  | (0.85)  |         |        |
| 9. Pro-environmental goal commitment                | 0.02            | 0.10 <sup>†</sup> | 0.03 | 0.33*** | 0.13*   | 0.21***           | 0.08  | 0.50*** | (0.93)  |        |
| 10. Extra-role pro-environmental behavior intention | -0.01           | 0.11 <sup>†</sup> | 0.06 | 0.29*** | 0.08    | 0.23***           | 0.004 | 0.30*** | 0.45*** | (0.60) |
| Mean                                                | 2.09            | 1.72              | 3.71 | 4.39    | 2.43    | 2.95              | 0.46  | 3.11    | 3.43    | 4.07   |
| SD                                                  | 1.12            | 0.47              | 1.36 | 1.71    | 1.03    | 0.95              | 0.50  | 0.83    | 0.8     | 0.59   |

**Note:** N = 338 employees. Reliabilities of the scales are noted in the parentheses. <sup>a</sup>na = not applicable. <sup>†</sup> p<0.1 \* p< .05 \*\* p< .01 \*\*\* p<0.001.

**Table 2**  
**Unstandardized Path Modeling Results**

| Variable                                                             | Pro-environmental<br>Goal Commitment |          |     | Extra-role pro-<br>environmental behavior<br>Intention |          |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----|
| Intercept                                                            | 1.15                                 | ( 0.24 ) | *** | 2.59                                                   | ( 0.17 ) | *** |
| Gender                                                               | 0.06                                 | ( 0.08 ) |     | 0.09                                                   | ( 0.06 ) |     |
| In-role pro-environmental score                                      | 0.11                                 | ( 0.02 ) | *** | 0.06                                                   | ( 0.02 ) | **  |
| Green human resource management                                      | - 0.13                               | ( 0.04 ) | **  | - 0.07                                                 | ( 0.03 ) | *   |
| Organizational environmental support                                 | 0.13                                 | ( 0.05 ) | **  | 0.11                                                   | ( 0.04 ) | **  |
| Progress in in-role pro-environmental behaviors                      | 0.72                                 | ( 0.28 ) | *   | - 0.09                                                 | ( 0.06 ) |     |
| Intrinsic motivation                                                 | 0.53                                 | ( 0.06 ) | *** |                                                        |          |     |
| Progress in in-role pro-environmental behaviors*Intrinsic motivation | - 0.23                               | ( 0.09 ) | **  |                                                        |          |     |
| Pro-environmental goal commitment                                    |                                      |          |     | 0.27                                                   | ( 0.04 ) | *** |

**Note:** N = 338 employees. Table entries represent unstandardized coefficients with standard errors in parentheses. † p<0.1 \* p< .05 \*\* p< .01 \*\*\* p<0.001.

**Table 3**  
**Descriptive Statistics, Correlations, and Scale Reliability (Study 2)**

|                                                    | 1                  | 2                   | 3               | 4                   | 5                     | 6                  | 7                   | 8                   | 9      |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|
| 1. Age                                             | na <sup>a</sup>    |                     |                 |                     |                       |                    |                     |                     |        |
| 2. Gender                                          | 0.02               | na <sup>a</sup>     |                 |                     |                       |                    |                     |                     |        |
| 3. Education                                       | - 0.06             | - 0.09 <sup>†</sup> | na <sup>a</sup> |                     |                       |                    |                     |                     |        |
| 4. Positive affect                                 | 0.14 <sup>**</sup> | 0.07                | - 0.05          | (0.94)              |                       |                    |                     |                     |        |
| 5. Moderate progress in pro-environmental tasks    | 0.01               | 0.07                | 0.02            | 0.05                | na <sup>a</sup>       |                    |                     |                     |        |
| 6. High progress in pro-environmental tasks        | - 0.05             | - 0.01              | 0.02            | 0.19 <sup>***</sup> | - 0.50 <sup>***</sup> | na <sup>a</sup>    |                     |                     |        |
| 7. Intrinsic motivation                            | 0.07               | - 0.002             | 0.05            | 0.47 <sup>***</sup> | - 0.02                | 0.01               | na <sup>a</sup>     |                     |        |
| 8. Pro-environmental goal commitment               | 0.12 <sup>*</sup>  | 0.09 <sup>†</sup>   | - 0.08          | 0.71 <sup>***</sup> | 0.08 <sup>†</sup>     | 0.15 <sup>**</sup> | 0.63 <sup>***</sup> | (0.94)              |        |
| 9. Extra-role pro-environmental behavior intention | 0.07               | 0.02                | - 0.02          | 0.35 <sup>***</sup> | - 0.02                | 0.08               | 0.18 <sup>***</sup> | 0.41 <sup>***</sup> | (0.82) |
| Mean                                               | 3.05               | 1.75                | 5.41            | 3.26                | 0.28                  | 0.34               | 0.50                | 3.64                | 4.30   |
| SD                                                 | 1.04               | 0.45                | 1.14            | 0.90                | 0.45                  | 0.47               | 0.50                | 1.06                | 0.66   |

*Note:* N = 448 employees. Reliabilities of the scales are noted in the parentheses. <sup>a</sup>na = not applicable. <sup>†</sup> p<0.1 \* p< .05 \*\* p< .01 \*\*\* p<0.001.

**Table 4**  
**Unstandardized Path Modeling Results (Study 2)**

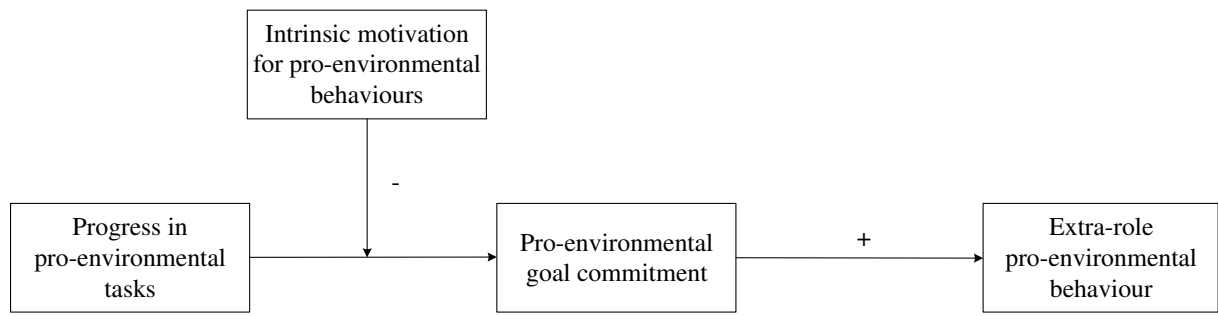
| Variable                               | Pro-environmental Goal<br>Commitment |          |     | Extra-role pro-<br>environmental behavior<br>Intention |          |     |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----|
| Intercept                              | 1.01                                 | ( 0.14 ) | *** | 3.23                                                   | ( 0.13 ) | *** |
| Age                                    | 0.00                                 | ( 0.03 ) |     | 0.03                                                   | ( 0.03 ) |     |
| Positive affect                        | 0.58                                 | ( 0.04 ) | *** | 0.08                                                   | ( 0.05 ) | †   |
| High progress                          | 0.49                                 | ( 0.11 ) | *** | - 0.04                                                 | ( 0.07 ) |     |
| Moderate progress                      | 0.44                                 | ( 0.11 ) | *** | - 0.09                                                 | ( 0.07 ) |     |
| Intrinsic motivation                   | 1.12                                 | ( 0.11 ) | *** |                                                        |          |     |
| High progress*Intrinsic motivation     | - 0.44                               | ( 0.15 ) | **  |                                                        |          |     |
| Moderate progress*Intrinsic motivation | - 0.32                               | ( 0.15 ) | *   |                                                        |          |     |
| Pro-environmental goal commitment      |                                      |          |     | 0.20                                                   | ( 0.04 ) | *** |

**Note:** N = 448 employees. Table entries represent unstandardized coefficients with standard errors in parentheses. † p<0.1 \* p< .05 \*\* p< .01 \*\*\* p<0.001.

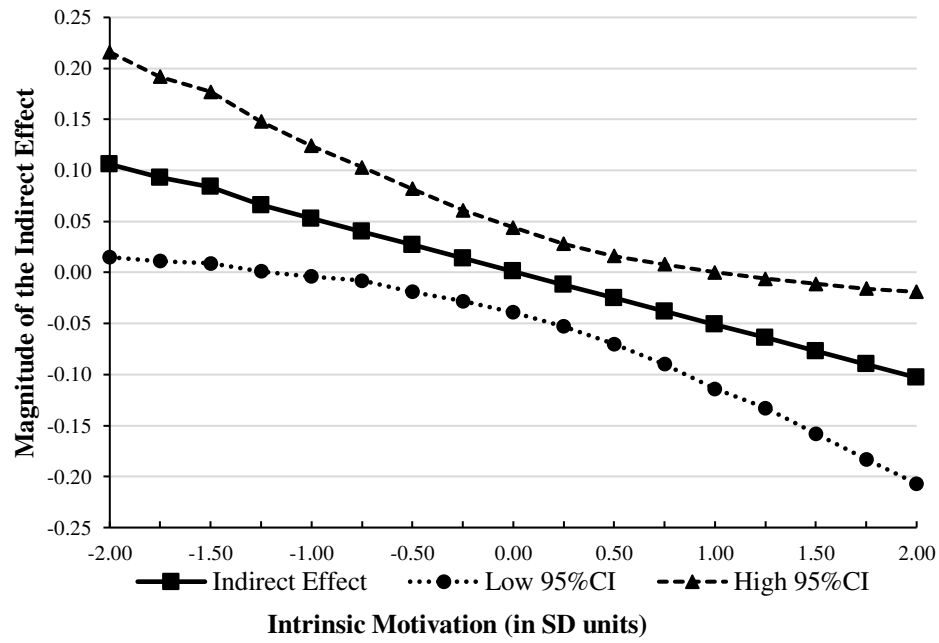
**Table 5**  
**Conditional Indirect Effect of Progress in Pro-environmental Tasks on Extra-role Pro-environmental Behavioral Intention (Study 2)**

| Intrinsic motivation                | Independent variable | Effect size | 95% Confidence Interval |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Low                                 | High progress        | 0.10        | [0.05, 0.17]            |
| High                                |                      | 0.01        | [- 0.03, 0.05]          |
| Index of moderated mediation effect |                      | - 0.09      | [- 0.17, - 0.03]        |
| Low                                 | Moderate progress    | 0.09        | [0.04, 0.16]            |
| High                                |                      | 0.02        | [- 0.01, 0.06]          |
| Index of moderated mediation effect |                      | - 0.07      | [- 0.15, - 0.01]        |

*Note:* N = 448 employees.

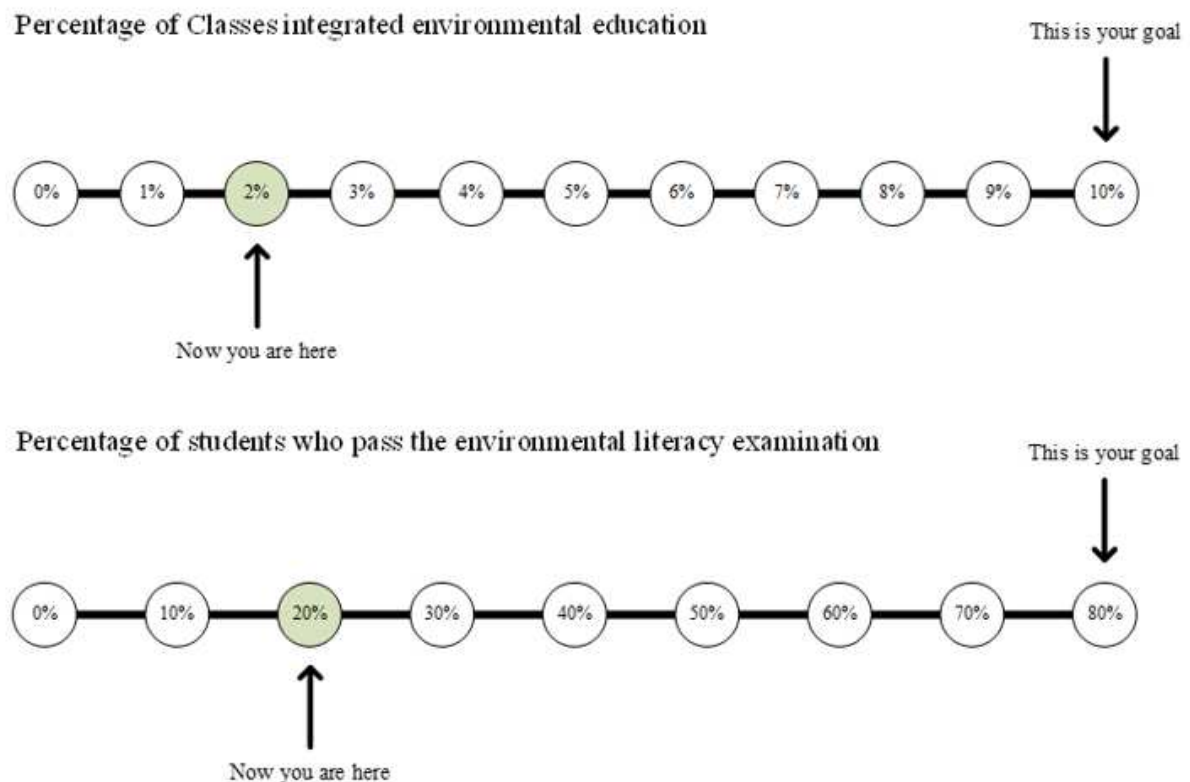


**Figure 1. Theoretical Model**

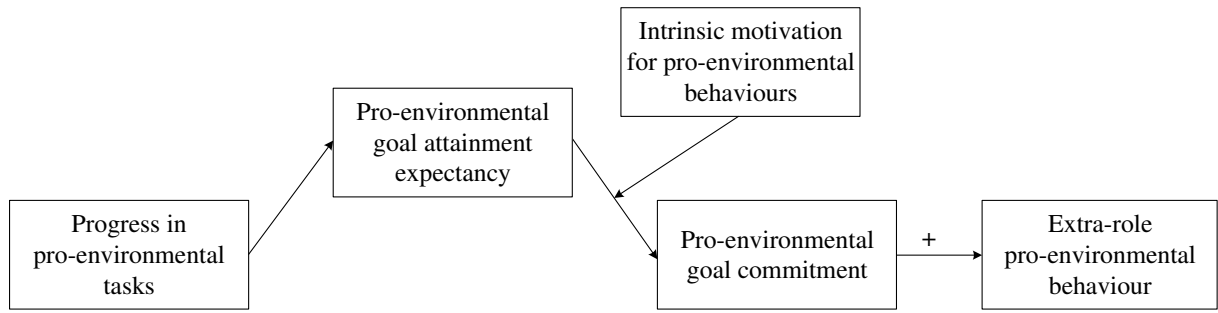


**Figure 2. Regions of Significance for the Moderated Mediation Model**

The environmental team at State High School believes that **you have made little progress** in helping meet the two requirements for the National Green Schools Certification, and **you are far from finishing your task**. First, you have integrated environmental education into 2% of your classes and need to integrate environmental education into another 8% of your class in the next 5 months. In addition, a mock test for students in your classes shows that 20% of them passed the environmental literacy examination. Thus, in the next 5 months, you still need to help another 60% of students to pass the environmental literacy examination. **Your progress is also shown in the following figure.**



**Figure 3. Feedback about Progress in Progress in Pro-environmental Tasks  
in the Low Progress Condition**



**Figure 4. Theoretical Model in the Supplemental Analysis**