



Available at:
www.eli.org

A New Environmentalism:
The Need for a Total Strategy for
Environmental Protection

Scott Fulton and David Rejeski



What Has Changed?

- Government composite
 - State progression
 - 35 year+ programs anchored in federal baselines
 - The rise of big cities
- Private sector orientation
- Technology
 - Control
 - Assessment and monitoring
 - Communication
- Knowledge base

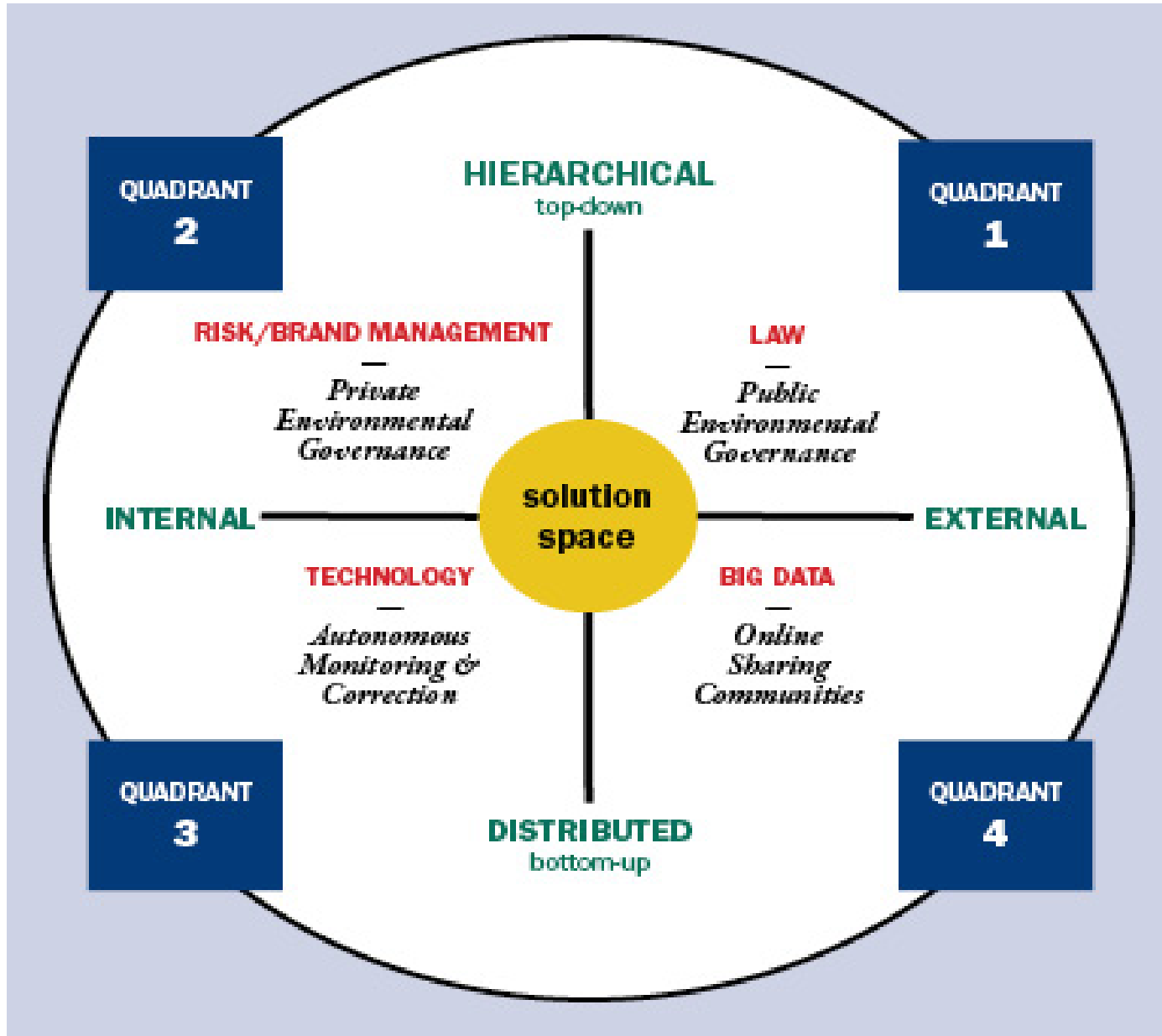


What's Evolving?

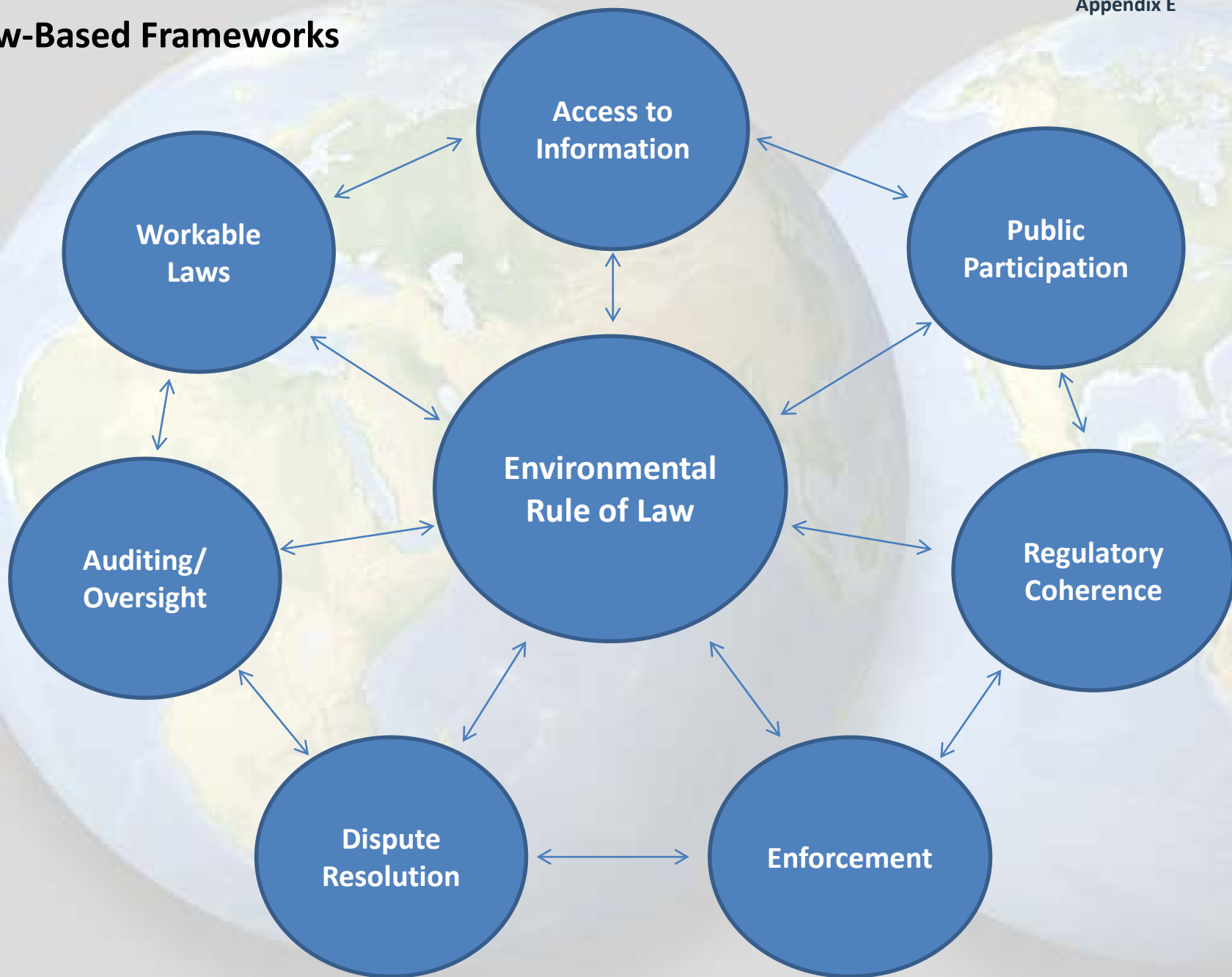
Moving towards environmental protection enterprise with increasingly distributed roles and accountability

- Big data driven
- Social media-reinforced
- With redefined, realigned and redistributed roles within government

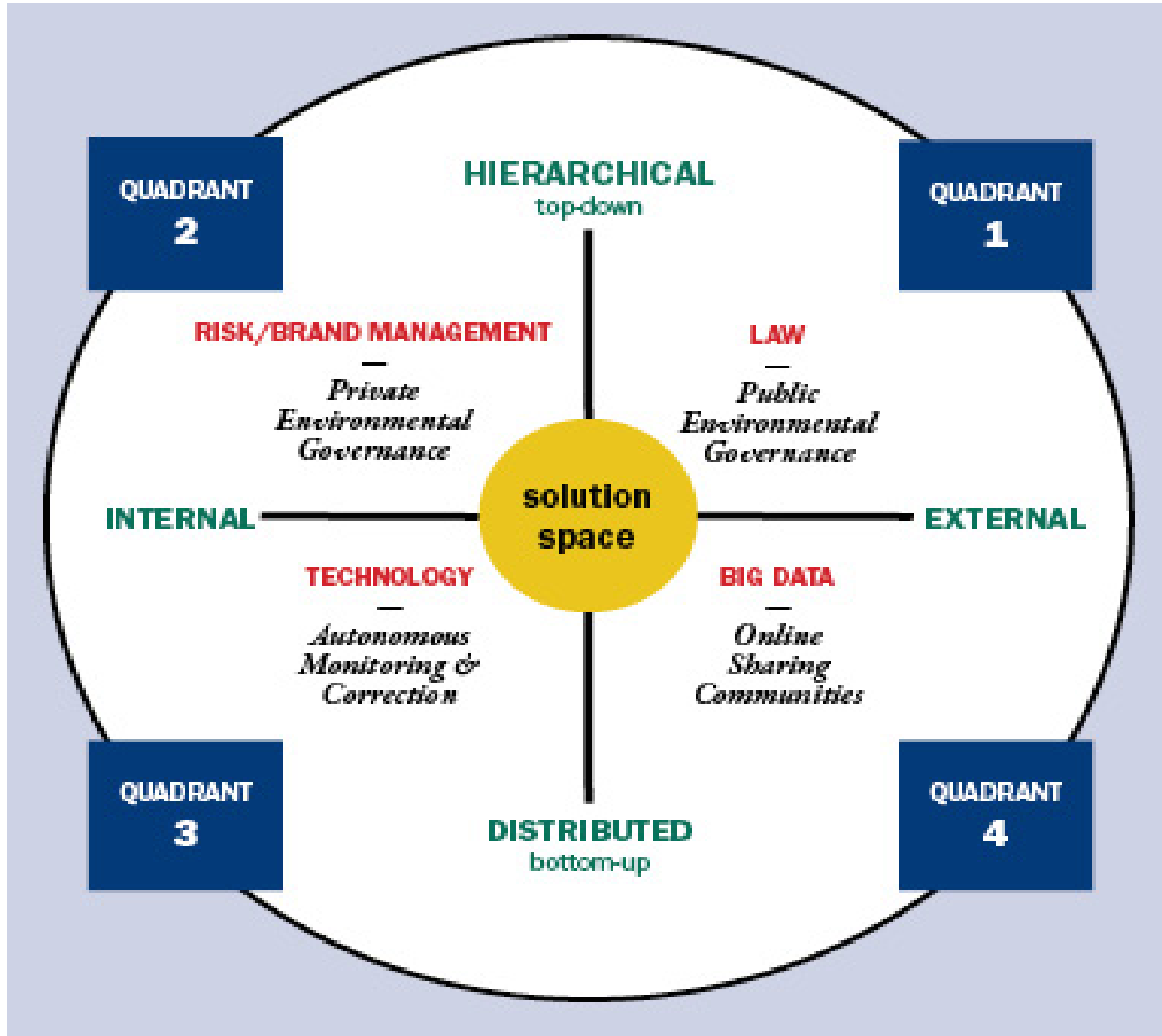
Ecosystem of Drivers and Governance Mechanisms



Law-Based Frameworks



Ecosystem of Drivers and Governance Mechanisms





Quadrant 2: Emergence of Private Environmental Governance



- Compliance culture
- Evolved, enculturated values
- Shareholder initiatives and demands
- Customer and supply chain manager requirements
- Investor, lender, insurer demands
- International regulation



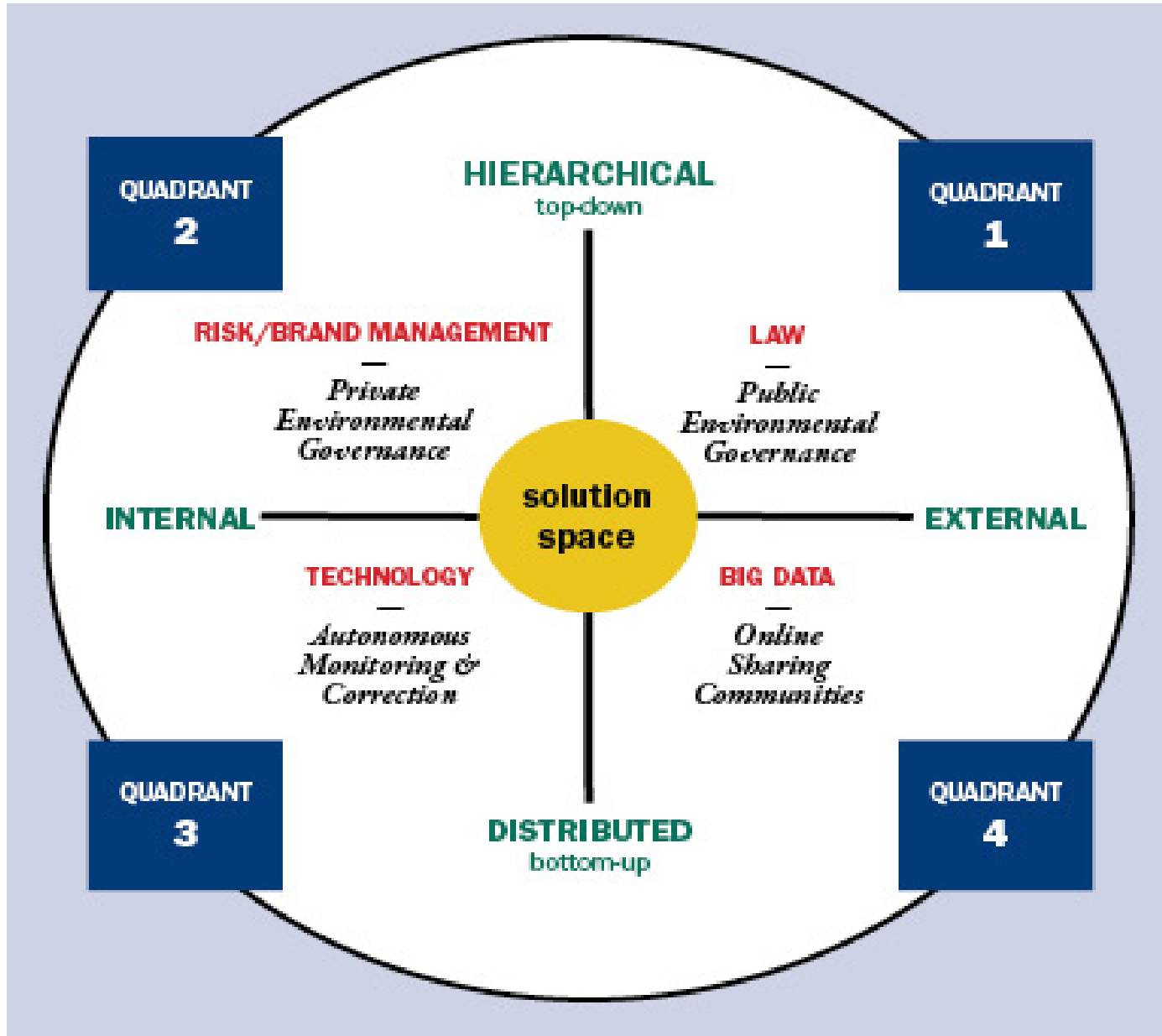
Quadrant 2: Emergence of Private Environmental Governance



What most companies are increasingly about:

- Reputation and financial risk management
- Brand enhancement and protection
- “Regulating”
 - Internal operations
 - Supply chains

Ecosystem of Drivers and Governance Mechanisms





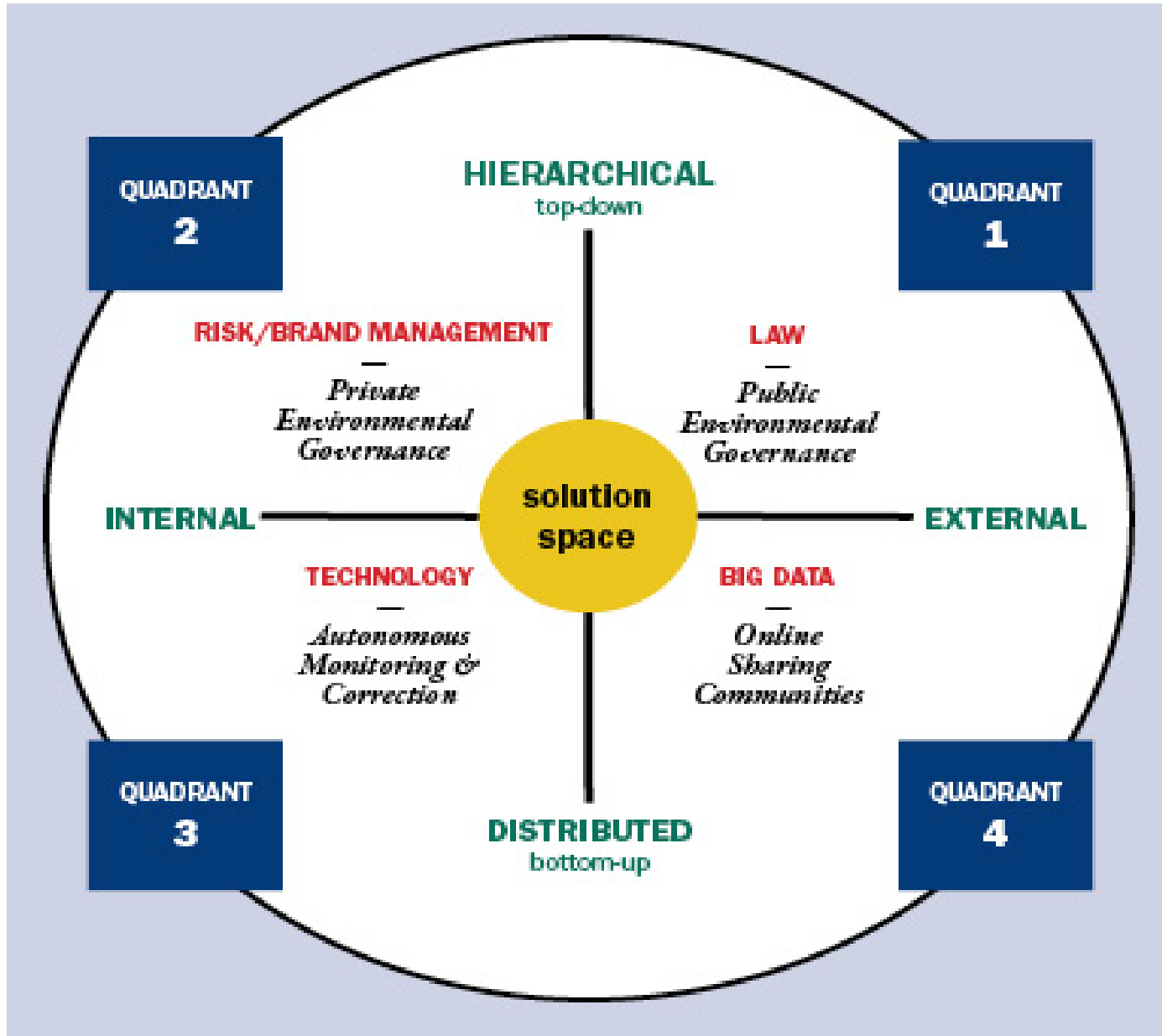
Quadrant 3: Autonomous Systems



Technology-enabled monitoring and adjustment/correction systems

- Enhanced sensor networks
- Algorithmic decisionmaking
- AI/machine learning

Ecosystem of Drivers and Governance Mechanisms



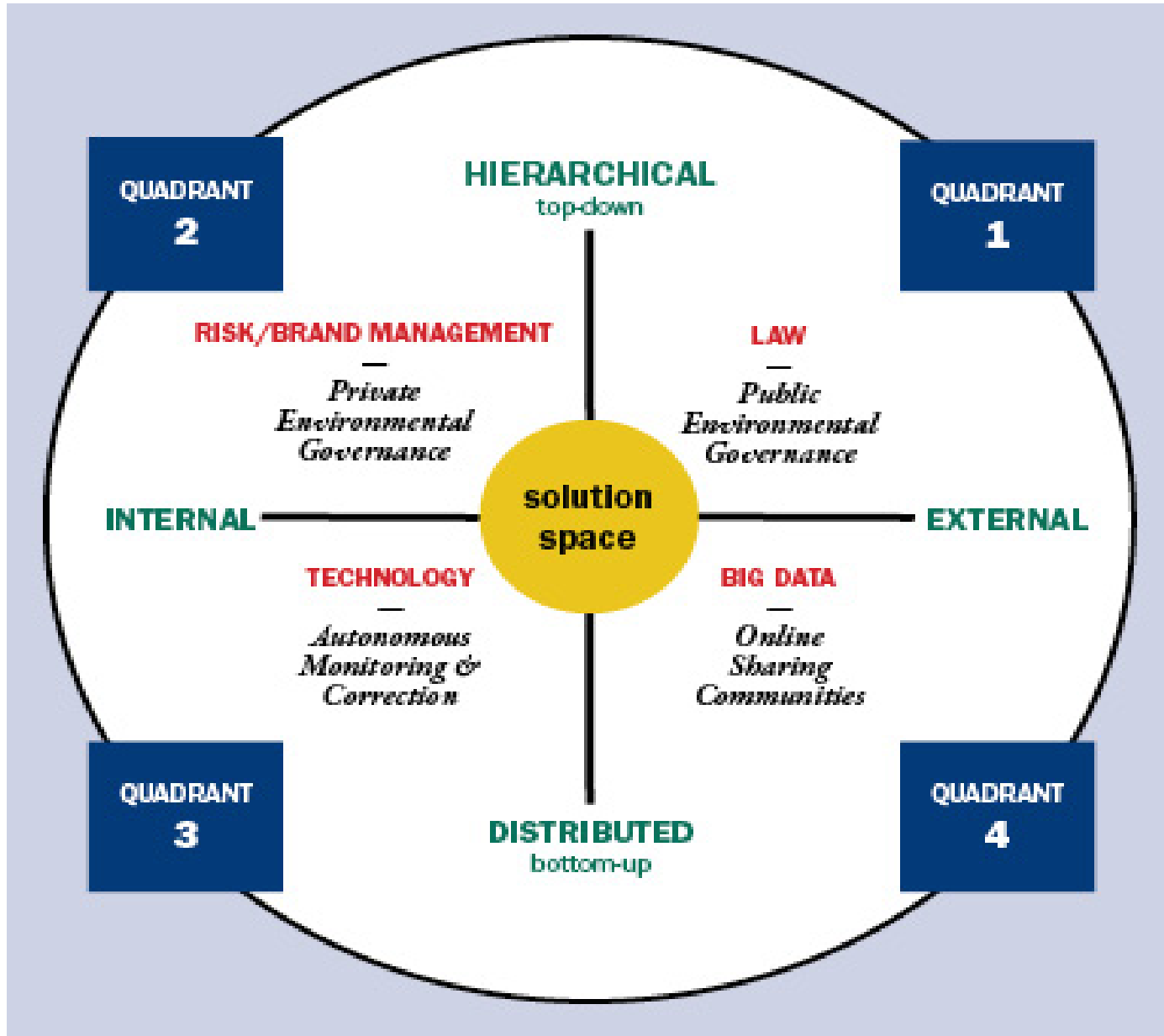


QUADRANT 4: DATA DRIVEN ON-LINE COMMUNITIES



- **Proliferation of low-cost sensor technology putting science in the hands of citizens**
- **Access to exploding amounts of environmental data from citizen monitoring, space and drone monitoring, etc.**
- **Growing capacity to integrate data streams to tell stories about source, fate and transport**
- **Growing capacity to share those stories through on-line communities in ways that shape behavior**
- **All of which is allowing citizens increasingly to engage**
 - **As lay scientists**
 - **As consumers with teeth**
 - **As “police” and “judge” in the court of public opinion**

Ecosystem of Drivers and Governance Mechanisms





MEANING FOR PURPOSES OF RE-IMAGINING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



- **Environmental law needs to “stay in shape”**
- **Law needs grow in some new directions -- to accommodate other quadrants. Some examples:**
 - **Allow for and catalyze private sector parallelism**
 - **Market-based systems can work, in some cases without government stimulus**
 - **Ensure integrity in algorithm development – Need a “code for code”**
 - **Address privacy/access issues as well as abuse potential in big data/online community space**

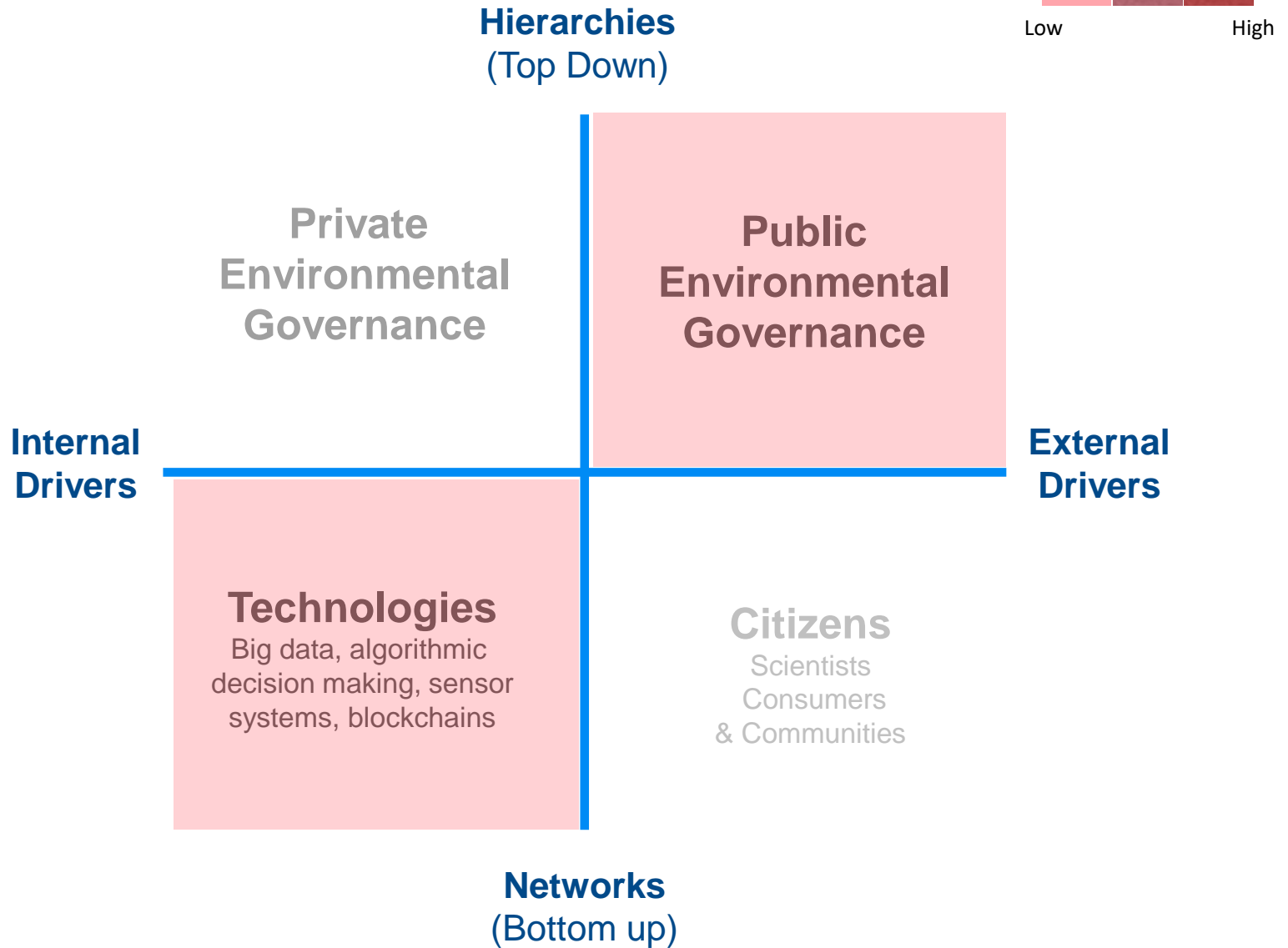


MEANING FOR PURPOSES OF RE-IMAGINING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



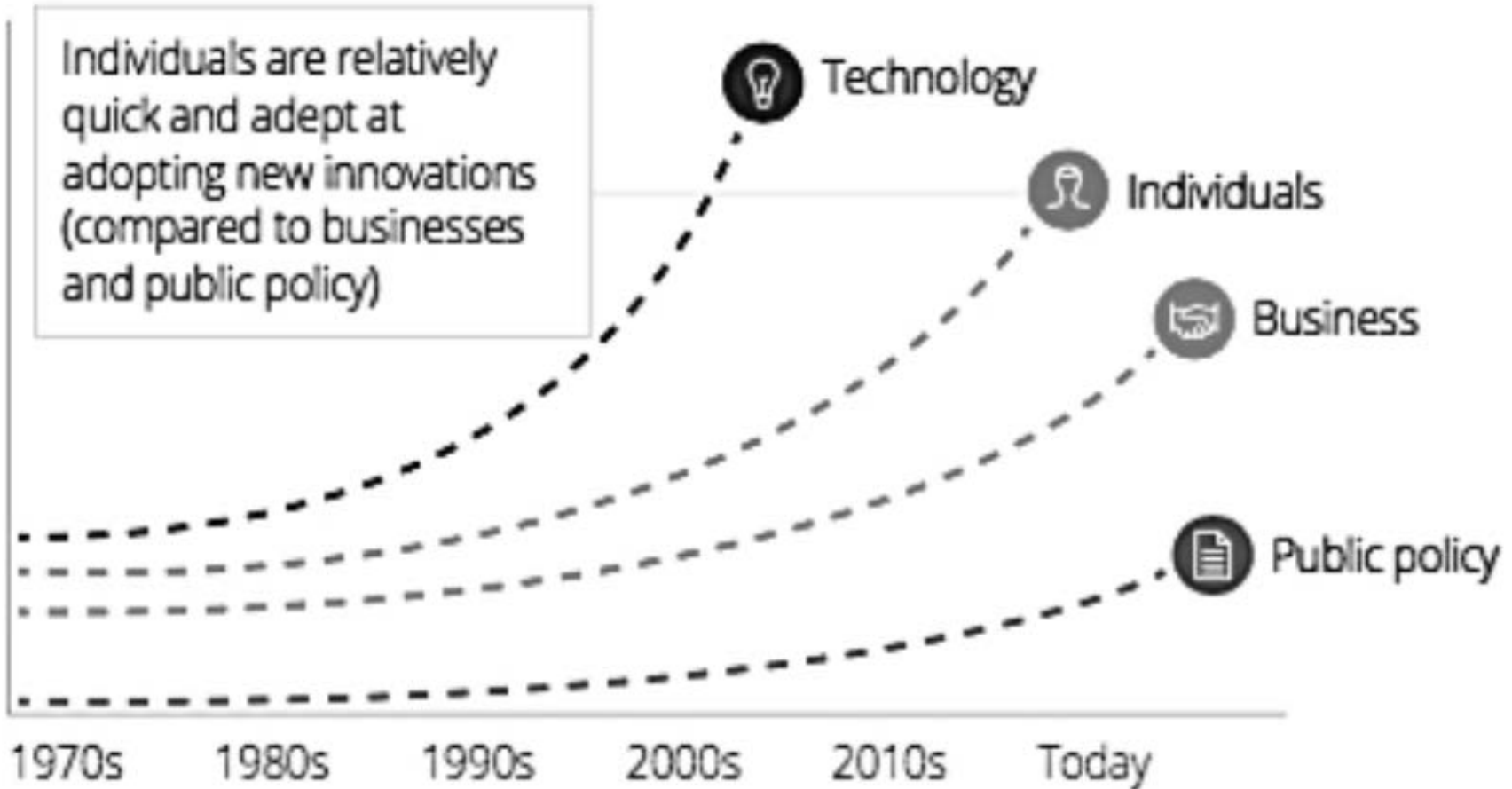
- **Lessons learned from Quadrant 1 should inform the architecture of the other quadrants**
 - Importance of *transparency*
 - Value of *stakeholder engagement* in framing normative expectations
 - Importance of *integrity* and *accountability systems*
 - Value of challenge vehicles or *dispute resolution* mechanisms
- **Architecture should be designed to:**
 - Produce better decisions by allowing for input and subjecting decisions to testing
 - Cultivate buy-in and compliance through perceived fairness

Challenges: Trust Issues





CHALLENGES: PACING PROBLEM







SOME VEHICLES FOR RE-IMAGINED LAW?



- **“Soft law” mechanisms**
 - **Voluntary standards regimes with the teeth of market accountability**
- **Systematizing and normalizing supply chain management**
 - **Best practices in contracts and purchasing restrictions**
- **State and local lawmaking**
- **Sub-statutory lawmaking**
- **Case law**
- **Settlement practice**
- **Experimentation via**
 - **Negotiated rules**
 - **Enforcement Discretion**