

Sustainable Development



<http://www.seattlepi.com/dayart/20070125/ Cartoon20070125.gif>

Definitions:

Sustainability - has many definitions, but basically refers to a holistic approach with aims such as preserving natural and non-renewable resources (soil, air, plants, animals and water) and intergenerational equity (leaving the land for future generations at least as good as we found it). Sustainable agricultural systems are considered to be ecologically sound, economically viable, socially just and humane.

Sustainable Development - or ecologically sustainable development (ESD) has many definitions. One definition has it as 'using, conserving, and enhancing the community's resources so that the ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased'. ESD closely incorporates environmental factors into economic growth.

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/slab/consconf/glossary.htm>

*"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*¹

It contains within it two key concepts:

- *the concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and*
- *the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs."*

1. World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). *Our common future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987 p. 43. (See note below re Our Common Future/ Brundtland Report)

Sustainable development: "Improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems" (*Caring for the Earth*, IUCN/WWF/UNEP, 1991)

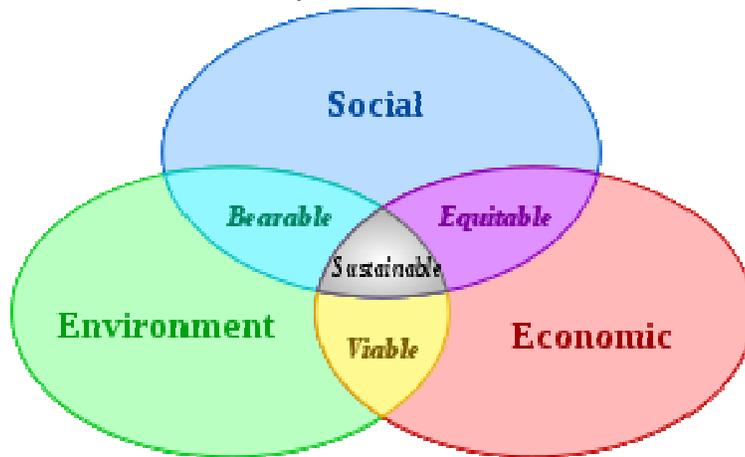
<http://www.interenvironment.org/wd1intro/glossary.htm>

Ecologically sustainable development

Using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained and the total quality of life - now and in the future - can be increased

<http://www.environment.gov.au/soe/2001/publications/theme-reports/heritage/glossary.html>

Scheme of sustainable development: at the confluence of three constituent parts



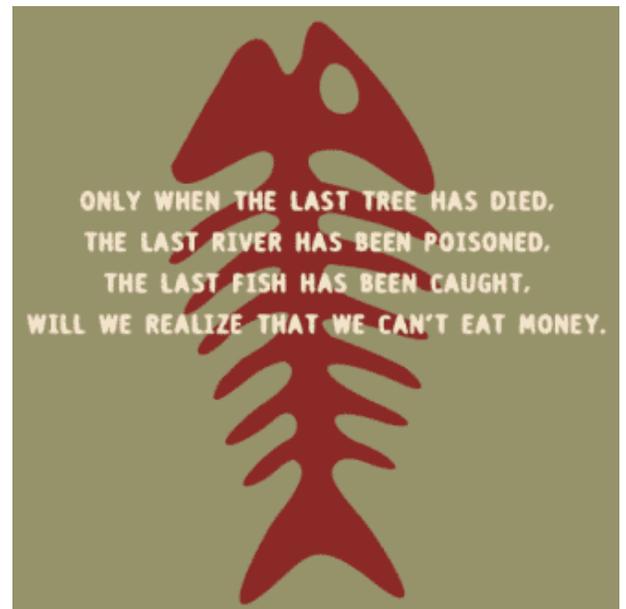
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_development

All definitions of sustainable development require that we see the world as a system—a system that connects space; and a system that connects time.

When you think of the world as a system over space, you grow to understand that air pollution from North America affects air quality in Asia, and that pesticides sprayed in Argentina could harm fish stocks off the coast of Australia.

And when you think of the world as a system over time, you start to realize that the decisions our grandparents made about how to farm the land continue to affect agricultural practice today; and the economic policies we endorse today will have an impact on urban poverty when our children are adults.

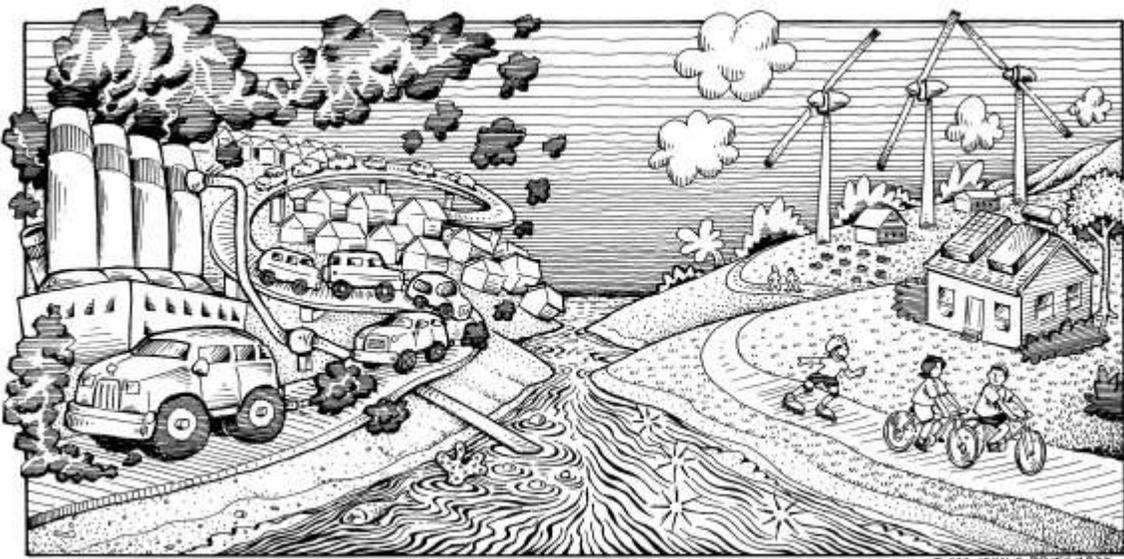
We also understand that quality of life is a system, too. It's good to be physically healthy, but what if you are poor and don't have access to education? It's good to have a secure income, but what if the air in your part of the world is unclean? And it's good to have freedom of religious expression, but what if you can't feed your family?



<http://www.bant-shirts.com/images/nonph/fish-300.gif>

The concept of sustainable development is rooted in this sort of systems thinking. It helps us understand ourselves and our world. The problems we face are complex and serious—and we can't address them in the same way we created them. But we *can* address them.

IISD International Institute for Sustainable Development. <http://www.iisd.org/sd/>



Study the picture above.
What message is the artist trying to give the viewer?
Support your answer with evidence.

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“Polar bears, the new canaries in the coal mine”

Explain this quote:

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Our common future/Brundtland Report

Sustainable development has been defined in many ways, but the most frequently quoted definition is from *Our Common Future*, also known as the Brundtland Report:

- ***Our Common Future*** is a report from the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) and was published in 1987.
- Its targets were multilateralism and interdependence of nations in the search for a sustainable development path. The report sought to recapture the spirit of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment - the Stockholm Conference - which had introduced environmental concerns to the formal political development sphere. *Our Common Future* placed environmental issues firmly on the political agenda; it aimed to discuss the environment and development as one single issue
- *Our Common Future* is also known as the Brundtland Report in recognition of former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland's role as Chair of the World Commission on Environment and Development.



http://www.seppo.net/cartoons/albums/cartoons/environment/sustainable_development/moottoritie-sateenkaari05_eng.jpg