

# Definitions of sustainability

"Living sustainably is about living within the means of our natural systems (environment) and ensuring that our lifestyle doesn't harm other people (society and culture)." - *LandLearn NSW*

"Sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations." *EPA USA*



"Sustainable development seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability to meet those of the future" - *World Commission on Environment and Development (page 40: 1987)*

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains 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 organisation on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs." - *World Commission on Environment and Development (page 43: 1987)*

"Ecological sustainable development is 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." - *National Strategy for Ecological Sustainable Development (Australia)*

"...the right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations." - *1992 Rio Earth Summit*

"...meeting the needs of current and future generations through simultaneous environmental, social and economic improvement." - *State Sustainability Strategy (Western Australia)*

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"The principle of ensuring that our actions today do not limit the range of, social, environmental and economic options open to future generations." - *Maroochy Shire Council, Queensland*

"Sustainability is a means of configuring civilization and human activity so that society and its members are able to meet their needs and express their greatest potential in the present, while preserving biodiversity and natural ecosystems, and planning and acting for the ability to maintain these ideals indefinitely." - *World IQ*

"Sustainability means using, developing and protecting resources at a rate and in a manner that enables people to meet their current needs and also provides that future generations can meet their own needs, ... simultaneously meeting environmental, economic and community needs." - *State of Oregon*

"Sustainability means living within the resources of the planet without damaging the environment now or within the future. It also means having an economic system that provides a genuine quality of life, rather than depending on increased consumption." - *West London Friends of the Earth*

"...economic and social changes that promote human prosperity and quality of life without causing ecological or social damage." - *City of Seattle*

"Living on the earth's income rather than eroding its capital. It means keeping the consumption of renewable natural resources within the limits of their replenishment. It means handing down to successive generations not only man-made wealth, but also natural wealth, such as clean and adequate water supplies, good arable land, a wealth of wildlife, and ample forests" - *The United Kingdom's Sustainable Development Strategy*

"But in its fullest sense, sustainability involves a balance of economic, environmental, and social concerns considered over the long term." - *Columbia University Biosphere 2*

"Sustainable development is the lightest footprint possible on the biosphere and, most importantly, a consciousness that can sustain it." - *Ken Wilber (Author, philosopher, founder of The Integral Institute)*

"Development without destruction" - *Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit*

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