

Sustainability Defined

In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission), agreed on a definition of sustainable development that is now generally recognized as the standard "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." - **Brundtland Report**

"Think of it as extending the Golden Rule through time. Do unto future generations as you would have them do unto you." - **Robert Gilman**

"A sustainable society is one that lives within the self-perpetuating limits of its environment. That society is not a "no growth" society - it is, rather a society that recognizes the limits of growth and looks for alternative ways of growing."
- **James Coomer**

"Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations." - **Theodore Roosevelt**

"Then I say the earth belongs to each generation during its course, fully and in its own right. The second generation receives it clear of the debts and encumbrances, the third of the second, and so on. For if the first could charge it with a debt, then the earth would belong to the dead and not to the living generation. Then, no generation can contract debts greater than may be paid during the course of its own existence."
- **Thomas Jefferson**

"Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell." - **Edward Abbey**

"Sustainable means to be able to continue. We say a society is sustainable if it can continue for a long time. A sustainable society does not borrow resources unfairly from other parts of the planet or from future generations. A sustainable society recognizes that people, the economy and the environment are all connected... Sustainability, defined as the long term economic, ecological and social health and vitality of our community, is the fundamental purpose of city government." - **City of Seattle**

"Sustainable development involves the simultaneous pursuit of economic prosperity, environmental quality and social equity. Companies aiming for sustainability need to perform not against a single financial bottom line but against the triple bottom line."
- **World Business Council on Sustainable Development**

"What about the seventh generation? Where are you taking them? What will they have?... We say that the faces of coming generations are looking up from the earth. So when you put your feet down, you put them down very carefully - because there are generations coming one after the other. If you think in these terms, then you'll walk a lot more carefully, be more respectful of this earth."
- **Oren Lyons, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Chief**