

Sustainability at Home: Creating a Small Scale Food System



Instructor: Virginia Norris, MSP



Class Schedule





Day 1: February 16, 2022

-  Sustainability
-  Planting Strawberries





Day 2; February 23, 2022

-  Food Systems
-  Planting Tomatoes




Day 3: March 2, 2022

-  Building a Small Scale Food Network
-  Planting Peppers





Day 4: March 9, 2022

-  Home Gardening
-  Planting Cucumbers





Day 5: March 16, 2022

-  Positive Impacts on the Community
-  Planting Squash



Day 6: March 23, 2022

-  TBD
-  Learning to transplant



Sustainability

Creating Opportunities while Preserving the Future

A green arrow points to the right, and several thin, dark green curved lines sweep upwards and to the right from the bottom left corner.

What do you think sustainability means?



Sustainability is...

- The ability to focus on the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs
 - Not a new concept
- Iroquois
 - "In every deliberation, we must consider the impact on the seventh generation... even if it requires having skin as thick as the bark of a pine."
- From the EPA:
 - "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. To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations."



NEPA

- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- “to create and maintain 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.”
- Benefits
 - Requires more thought to project development
 - Requires elected officials and others to consider the local environmental impact
 - Protects communities from habitat loss, pollution, and long-lasting impacts of “cheaper development”
- Requires upfront cost and consideration

3 Principles of Sustainability


In 1987, the Brundtland report first used the term “sustainable development” as an alternative to the economic system implemented in most countries around the world and which, unlike that system, **seeks to meet current needs without compromising the future of future generations.**

Five years later, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 defined this idea in more detail and established **a detailed plan of action, Project XXI**, which set three areas on which global, national and local authorities had to work in order to establish that sustainable development.





Economy

- Economic feasibility: a productive system must meet the needs of that society without jeopardizing the natural resources and wellbeing of future generations.
 - Therefore, its application will be closely related to the needs of the population and environmental limits.
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Environment



- **Environmental protection:** in order to exploit natural resources without exhausting them and contributing to their recovery for subsequent uses, a special environmental protection is required which, as occurred in previous cases, must also take into account the needs of the population **and the economic resources of the society in which they are applied.**




Society


- Social equity: covering aspects such as education, health, personal safety and leisure.
 - The aim is to maintain social cohesion and it relates to respecting the environment and the economic resources of the place.
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Principles are Interconnected and Must Be Applied in Connection

- **Supportable:** the ratio between the actions aimed at respecting the environment and implementing social measures must be balanced.
 - **Feasible:** the respect for the environment and economic development must be possible, pragmatic and away from unrealistic and unachievable objectives, in order to continue gradually achieving objectives.
 - **Fair:** the ratio between economic development and social benefits must satisfy both parties, who must receive in accordance with their requirements and provide in accordance with their possibilities.
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UN Global Sustainability Concerns

- UN Sustainable Development Goals
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Why is Sustainability Important?



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“

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

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-MARGARET MEAD

DISCUSSION AND PLANTING TIME