



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

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ABSTRACT

“Humans have the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being, and a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations”. Some of the ideas it emphasized considered humans as both creatures and molders of their environment, giving them physical sustenance and affording them the opportunity for intellectual, moral, social and spiritual growth. Humans useresources for survival and geography provides these resources are widely used for various purposes in a different way to satisfy human needs. As resources are largely limited and finite, humans as agent of change must employ techniques that allows efficient and lasting use of resources for community sustainability. Resources enhance community life. Every individual is a potential community asset, and everyone has assets that can be used for community building. When sustainability areas are addressed in tandem with each other, they have a powerful, positive effect on the quality of life and future of a community. By overlapping work in these areas, efficiencies emerge and better results are achieved.

Keywords: resources, sustainability, development, environment, community

INTRODUCTION

Resources cannot be consumed in their original form, but rather through resourcedevelopment they must be processed into more usable commodities and usable things. With increasing population, the demand for resources is increasing. There are marked differences in resource distribution

and associated economic inequality between regions or countries, with developed countries using more natural resources than developing countries. A sustainable community manages its human, natural, and financial resources to meet current needs while ensuring that adequate resources are equitably available for future



generations. The path to sustainability is different for every community – but the common elements are a healthy environment, a strong economy and the well-being of the people living in the community.

Sustainable development is a pattern of resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment. Sustainable development means that we should exploit our resources carefully to meet our present requirement without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The practice of the three R's – reduce, reuse and recycle must be followed in order to save and extend the availability of resources.

Resource

A resource is a source or supply from which benefit is produced. It can be broadly classified on bases upon their availability they are renewable and non-renewableresources. They can also be classified as actual and potential on the basis of level of

development and use, on the basis of origin they can be classified as biotic and abiotic, renewable versus non-renewable and in the base of their distribution as ubiquitous and localized. An item becomes a resource with time and developing.

Typically resources are materials, energy, services, staff, knowledge, or other assets that are transformed to produce benefit and in the process may be consumed or made unavailable. Benefits of resource utilization may include increased wealth or wants, proper functioning of a system, or enhanced well-being. From a human perspective a natural resource is anything obtained from the environment to satisfy human needs and wants. From a broader biological or ecological perspective a resource satisfies the needs of a living organism (biological resource).

The concept of resources has been applied in diverse realms, with respect to economics, biology and ecology, computer science, management, and human



resources, and is linked to the concepts of competition, sustainability, conservation, and stewardship. In application within human society commercial or non-commercial factors require resource allocation through resource management.

Resources have three main characteristics: utility, limited availability, and potential for depletion or consumption.

Problems relate to the usage of resources:

- Environmental degradation
- Over-consumption
- Resource curse
- Resource depletion
- Tragedy of the commons
- Myth of super abundance

Benefits can result from the wise usage of resources:

- Economic growth
- Ethical consumerism
- Prosperity
- Quality of life
- Sustainability
- Wealth

Dependent upon the speed and quantity of consumption, overconsumption can lead to

depletion or total and everlasting destruction of a resource. Important examples are agricultural areas, fish and other animals, forests, healthy water and soil, cultivated and natural landscapes. Such conditionally renewable resources are sometimes classified as a third kind of resource, or as a subtype of renewable resources. Conditionally renewable resources are presently subject to excess human consumption and the only sustainable long term use of such resources is within the so-called zero-ecological footprint where in human use less than the Earth's ecological capacity to regenerate

Protecting natural resources

Prevention of natural environment is essential for maintaining community sustainability. There are various approaches and techniques used successfully in different communities to protect and restore their natural resources.

- **Water:** Adequate water supplies of high quality are necessary both for community use and local



ecosystems. Communities and jurisdictions must work together to assure an adequate water supply to meet future needs.

- **Energy:** Communities require energy. Non-renewable sources for power generation, home and workplace, and transportation cause pollution and its harmful impacts. Energy conservation and the use of renewable fuels provide cost-effective and more sustainable alternatives. This section contains resources available to make energy use more efficient.
- **Air and Climate:** Both the natural ecosystem and human health can be adversely impacted by declining air quality and climatic change. Communities can preserve air quality by limiting or eliminating the discharge of harmful chemicals into the air and by minimizing the sources of air pollution. This section contains resources and approaches that address air quality and climate change.
- **Biodiversity:** Biodiversity is particularly important for

creating sustainability because of the specialized roles each species plays in maintaining ecological balance. Communities can promote healthy wildlife by supporting integrative approaches for managing, protecting, and enhancing wildlife populations and habitats appropriate to their area. Some examples are given here.

- **Land, Forests, and Ecosystems:** while providing a protective covering for soil, water, and the atmosphere, forests are also renewable sources of an endless must variety of products. In a healthy ecosystems, policies and programs must balance economic and conservation needs. This section highlights cases where communities have developed land use practices and businesses that both conserve ecosystems and enhance local economies.

The word “sustainability” has become a global buzzword as a potential solution for the many international, regional, and local problems facing society today. As developing nations struggle with



issues of overpopulation, disease, and political conflict, developed countries also have to deal with problems such as infrastructure deterioration, pollution, and unlimited urban expansion with limited resources. The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development coined a definition of sustainable development, which is probably the most well-known in all of the sustainability literature: “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (WECD, 1987).

According to MSN Encarta (WWW), the word “sustainable” means “able to be maintained”. However, from the number of published books and articles in professional journals, there seem to be many contrasting views and opinions as to exactly what “sustainability” is, if and how it can be achieved or in some cases, whether it is an elusive dream of attaining the so-called ‘heaven on earth’.

Pros and Cons:

Resources

- Bringing materials use in line with functional use
- Limiting wastage of materials and energy in production and consumption chains
- Making better use of resources in the economy (recycling and cascading)
- Developing new products and services
- Using alternative raw materials and resources

Scarcity of resources

Goods and services are scarce because the factors of production used to produce them are scarce. In case you have forgotten, scarcity is described as limited quantities of resources to meet unlimited wants. Consider a pair of denim blue jeans. The denim is made of cotton, grown on the land. The land and water used to grow the cotton is limited and could have been used to grow a variety of different crops. The workers who cut and sewed the denim in the factory are limited labour resources who could have



been producing other goods or services in the economy. The machines and the factory used to produce the jeans are limited capital resources that could have been used to produce other goods. This scarcity of resources means that producing some goods and services leaves other goods and services unproduced.

Resource efficiency

It is the maximising of the supply of money, materials, staff, and other assets that can be drawn on by a person or organization in order to function effectively, with minimum wasted(natural) it means using the Earth's limited resources in a sustainable manner while minimising environmental impacts.

The STAR Community Rating System was based around the following characteristics of a sustainable community.

THINKS AND ACTS SYSTEMICALLY

Sustainable communities take a systems perspective and recognize that people, nature, and the

economy are all affected by their actions.

INSTILLS RESILIENCY

Sustainable communities possess a strong capacity to respond to and bounce back from adversity.

FOSTERS INNOVATION

Sustainable communities capture opportunities and respond to challenges.

REDEFINES PROGRESS

Sustainable communities measure progress by improvements in the health and wellbeing of their people, environment, and economy.

LIVES WITHIN MEANS

Sustainable communities steward natural resources so that future generations have as many opportunities available to them as we do today. They also recognize that resources exist for the benefit of life forms other than humans.

CULTIVATES COLLABORATION

Sustainable communities engage all facets of society in working together for the benefit of the whole.



ENSURES EQUITY

Sustainable communities allocate resources and opportunities fairly so that all people who do the full range of jobs that a community needs can thrive in it.

EMBRACES DIVERSITY

Sustainable communities feature a tapestry of peoples, cultures, and economies underpinned by a richly functioning natural environment.

INSPIRES LEADERSHIP

Sustainable communities provide leadership through action and result

A sustainable community's success depends upon its members' commitment and involvement through:

- Active, organized, and informed citizenship.
- Inspiring, effective, and responsive leadership.
- Responsible, caring, and healthy community institutions, services, and businesses.

It seeks:

- A better quality of life
- A better quality of life for the whole community without

compromising the wellbeing of other communities.

- Healthy ecosystems.
- Effective governance supported by meaningful and broad-based citizen participation.
- Economic security.

A Healthy Climate and Environment

- Protection and enhancement of local and regional ecosystems and biological diversity.
- Conservation of water, land, energy, and non-renewable resources.
- Utilization of prevention strategies and appropriate technology to minimize pollution.
- Use of renewable resources no faster than their rate of renewal.
- Infrastructure that improves access to services and markets without damaging the environment.

Social Wellbeing

- Satisfaction of basic human needs for clean air and water and locally sourced nutritious, uncontaminated food.



- Affordable provision of quality health prevention, care, and treatment services for all community members.
- Safe and healthy housing accessible to all.
- Equitable access to quality education services, formal and informal.
- The basic human rights of all community members are respected and defended against injustices including exploitation and psychological and physical harm.
- Protection, enhancement, and appreciation of community manifestations of cultural diversity, treasures, customs, and traditions.

Economic Security

- Community members equitably benefit from of a strong and healthy community-centred economy.
- Diverse and financially viable economic base.
- Reinvestment of resources in the local economy.
- Maximization of local ownership of businesses.
- Meaningful employment opportunities for all citizens.
- Responsive and accessible job training and education programs that enable the workforce adjust to future needs.
- Businesses that enhance community sustainability.

CONCLUSION

To achieve and optimize natural resource and energy efficiency, several sustainable and economical production schemes have been proposed over the course of last many years, circular economy, cradle-to-cradle regenerative design, as well as biomimetic principles, just to name few. Common to all of them is built in sustainability. Community sustainability work focuses upon developing a long-term strategy and implementation plan that will help a community in achieving sustainability goals that they, themselves identify for improving community economic opportunities and social vitality in environmentally sound ways.



Sustainable communities engage in continuous discovery, rediscovery, and invention as they learn more about the impacts of their actions. Managing the development, consumption and use of natural resources in a sustainable manner is essential to assured continued supply for current and future generations. Sustainable development of our natural resources, product diversification and expanded market access support a healthy economy for the benefit of global community.

It's an approach that solves local problems while being innovative about progress. A sustainable community is one that is economically, environmentally, and socially healthy and resilient. It meets challenges through integrated solutions rather than through fragmented approaches that meet one of those goals at the expense of the others. And it takes a long-term perspective – one that's focused on both the present and future.

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