

*The Council**of Ventura County*

Sustainability Council Homepage

The Sustainability Council of Ventura County, California welcomes you. We are a volunteer, non-profit, public service and community education organization dedicated to promoting the ideas and practices of sustainable development within Ventura County and the world at large.

Sustainability is the quality found in those communities, settlements, and social behaviors which satisfy the needs of the present generation without sacrificing the needs of generations to come.

The insights of biological ecology have been particularly important in the development of sustainability thinking, but the concepts of the social sciences, the planning profession, and the physical sciences have also made large contributions. Centuries of inquiry into social, communal, and environmental ethics have also left their mark on this comprehensive view of human interactions within the world. Sustainability, as applied to human communities, is natural prudence and common sense as enhanced by the discoveries of modern science.

We at the Sustainability Council have come to emphasize the three interrelated factors of **economic soundness, environmental integrity, and social equity** in our practical approach to the broad concept of sustainability, and our undertakings have been guided by this trilogy.

Picture of Mountains



Ecologists have realized during the past century that the organism which destroys its environment destroys itself, and the organism which enhances its environment enhances itself. A balance must be struck between the immediate needs of the organism for resources and satisfactions and the long-term needs of the organism for these requirements. Those which fail to find a balance overload the capacities of their environment, exhaust its resources, overpopulate their region, overstress themselves, collapse and disappear. Those which find a proper balance between numbers, demands, and resources enjoy a successful adjustment to the realities of their world and a healthy, fruitful, and **sustainable** existence over the course of generations. Get rich quick, get poor fast. Get rich well, stay well longer.

What is true for other organisms is vastly more so for human beings, with our capacities for knowledge, learning, and conscious choice of behavior. **Planet Earth was built to last, and so too can be human communities.** Sustainability begins at home.

Picture of Harmonious Community



The Sustainability Council aims to assist this beginning, and has already made some contributions. We are engaged in further projects at present, and look forward to more in the future. But as a volunteer organization, deliberately drawn from the various occupational sectors of the local community, we depend on your interest, involvement, and support. The following links will take you to complete descriptions of our activities, structure, and membership. Please browse through, and if you find something that sparks your interest, sense of optimism, or sense of concern, **we invite you to join in and take part.**

Sustainability Council Activities

Sustainability Council Organization and Membership

Current Sustainability Council Projects

This link will tell you more about the specific philosophy of our organization:

Economy, Ecology, Equity: the Three Factors of Sustainability

These links will tell you more about the concept and applications of sustainability:

[Much More about the Idea of Sustainability](#)

[Other Sites about Sustainability Projects Worldwide](#)

[Other Sites about Topics Related to Sustainability](#)

These links enable you to reach us:

[Send Mail to the Sustainability Council](#)

[Send Mail to the Webmaster](#)

Thanks for visiting.

[Back to Top](#)

Updated 1/10/00