

Sustainable development, sustainable community and grant programs

Sustainability requires that all of us only consume natural capital (the sum total of nature's resources) at a rate at which they can be naturally (and timely) replenished.

Sustainable development is a term which describes a pattern of resource use with the aim of meeting human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met for generations to come. It ties together concern for the carrying capacity of natural systems with the social challenges facing humanity.

The field of sustainable development may be conceptually classified as environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and sociopolitical sustainability. Green development is not identical to sustainable development since Green development prioritizes environmental sustainability over economic and cultural considerations.

A sustainable city is sometimes being referred to as eco-city. It is sort of a city designed with consideration of environmental impact, inhabited by people dedicated to minimization of required inputs of energy, water and food, and waste output of heat, air pollution - CO₂, methane, and water pollution. A sustainable city is supposed to be capable of feeding itself with minimal reliance on the surrounding countryside, as well as powering itself with renewable sources of energy.

A sustainable community is supposed to be economically, environmentally, and socially healthy and resilient. For this to be achieved, at the local level these are what should be done:

- keeping the natural environment undisturbed

- establishing true-cost pricing economics that consider longer term costs and benefits from an environmental and social standpoint
- supporting community products and services for the cycling of wealth in the community
- calling for the use of mixed-use pedestrian oriented eco-communities
- encouraging foot traffic, bicycling and public transit use
- Utilizing advanced transport systems and reducing automobile dependence
- maximize the use of conservation technology and developing local renewable resources
- building educational awareness and public consensus on the topic of ecological planning

The HUD has the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning SCRP Grant Program which supports locally-led collaborative efforts for developing Sustainable Communities. Further information can be found here: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/sustainable_housing_communities/sustainable_communities_regional_planning_grants