

What is Sustainable Community Development?

What do we mean by the word "sustainable"?

What is a "community"?

What is community development?

1

Are communities naturally "sustainable"?

Why or why not?

2

What are the three "legs" of sustainable community development?

Environment
Economics
Social Conditions

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

Sustainable communities embody the principles of sustainable development. They:

*balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental components of their community .

*meet the needs of existing and future generations.

*respect the needs of other communities in the wider region or internationally also to make their communities sustainable.



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sem. III, 2012-14, Rachana Sansod's Institute of Urban & Regional Planning, Mumbai

From an historical perspective what are some of the changes in society that have challenged Sustainable Community Development?

- capitalism
- Industrial revolution
- Population growth
- Urban development
- The automobile and energy use

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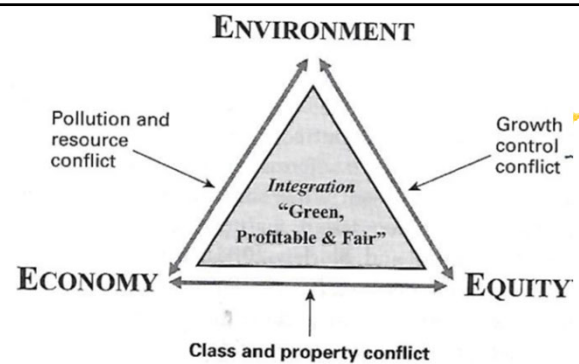


Figure 2.1
Conflicting goals for achieving sustainable communities (ada 1996)

The initial focus in the 1960s was not Sustainable Community Development (SCD) but rather trying to repair/improve the environment.

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How has the environment of the earth been negatively impacted over the past 100 years?

Some of the ways include:

- Upper atmosphere (Greenhouse effect)
- Air pollution
- Water pollution
- Chemical pollutants
- Endangered habitat
- Natural resource base

Examples

- One of the Great Lakes had no life
- Chesapeake Bay crabs unhealthy

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When did the environmental movement begin?

And

Who is Rachel Carson?



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Industrialization and urbanization continued to grow through the 1900s until, in the 1960s, there was the beginning of a national movement to protect the environment.



June 1962: Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was published. Acclaimed as the catalyst of the **environmental movement**, *Silent Spring* condemned the overuse of pesticides (DDT).

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This was the beginning of the **environmental movement** and what Mazmanian and Kraft refer to as the first of three **epochs or eras** ending with the current focus on SCD.

So, what is the difference between the Environmental Movement and Sustainable Community Development?

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Among those who were in favor of an Environmental Movement, there was not unanimous agreement about the movement and its goals.

What would you guess were some controversial issues among those favoring an environmental movement?

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1. The balance between the environment and the economy.

How much should the businesses of a community "give up" for the sake of the environment and people and to what extent should the environment and people be expected to "suffer" to allow for a thriving economy.

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2. Changes made in one community could affect neighboring communities negatively.

Some communities didn't care as long as their own community had a clean environment.

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What did the society/government do to protect the environment?

(hint: what is typically done when there is a problem that the society/government needs to address?)

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1. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created in 1970 to address environmental issues primarily through rules and regulations.

2. At this time, "command and control" regulations were passed.

That is, laws (commands) were put in place to prevent (to control) businesses and others from damaging the environment.

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While federal regulations have been effective, they have also created problems.

Who might be affected by lots of regulations and what problems would you guess they create?

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1. High cost to business and governmental agencies

2. Tends to focus on punishment of businesses rather than being encouraging



3. Rules/regulations have tended to be added in a sporadic, unorganized way, i.e., whenever Congress can agree, resulting in them being cumbersome, unorganized and sometimes complex. These include statutes that are legally enforceable (regulations) as well as directives that may not be legally binding (rules)

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4. Regulations affect innovation both negatively (e.g., cost of following regulations reduces \$ for innovation) and positively (e.g. look for less toxic pesticides due to regulations on existing pesticides)
5. In the push to pass laws to protect the environment, there has been a neglect to consider more comprehensive issues and solutions that consider business, environment, and social concerns.

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Federal agencies are often unable to address problems in a more comprehensive way due to their "silo" type of organization (e.g. Environmental Protection Agency only considers environmental issues)

But to solve the problem requires a more comprehensive approach, such as reducing water pollution by actions from regional water agencies as well as the EPA



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But to solve the problem requires a more comprehensive approach, such as collaboration between EPA and the Department of Transportation



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Global Warming
By Al Gore
(show about 21 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVfgkFaswn4>

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Epoch 2: A move toward conciliation between the three legs of the stool (environment, economy, equity)

Characteristics of the new era:

1. Continued to create regulations (e.g., added toxic materials, hazardous waste) but more slowly
2. Looked for ways to obtain "buy-in" from those who might or did pollute (i.e., gain their willingness to look for ways to avoid polluting)

What could be done to gain buy-in?

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1. Educate people on the importance of protecting the environment
2. Provide incentives/rewards for protecting the environment
 - 2a. "Advertising" those organizations and businesses that made an effort to protect the environment
 - 2b. Establish "certificates" of success
 - 2c. Provide financial rewards for those intentionally protecting the environment
 - 2d. Provide less oversight to those organizations doing a good job protecting the environment

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Epoch 2 arose not just because of a backlash but also because the environmental problem was greater than the Federal and State governments could handle.

Why would you guess the government was unable to handle the problem with regulations alone?

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- Too costly to inspect all the many industries and organizations
- Not enough staff to oversee/monitor all the many organizations/industries
- Organizations and industry could find ways to cheat the system unless they wanted to protect the environment

While Epoch 2 encouraged conciliation, there was still a lack of collaboration.

Why might collaboration between cities and regions be important (consider the 3 E's)?
Examples?

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Reactions to the organized discussion on climate change?

Climate Change: A Discussion
Featuring: Phil Andrews, Managing Director of International Innovation Centers
Phil Andrews has more than 30 years of business, teaching and consulting experience. He has worked for some of the largest, most innovative companies in the world including IBM, GE, Ford Motor Co., Chase & Co. and Electronic Data Systems (EDS).
Chair: Jeffrey Reich, Citizens Climate Lobby, Denton County Chapter
Discussant: Professor Stan Ingram, Editor, Sustainable Communities Review

Jan. 24
5:30 p.m.
UNT EESAT Building
Room 180

RSVP to Stan.Ingram@unt.edu
Pizza and snacks provided

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Epoch 3 is the focus on sustainable community development.

Characteristics of Epoch 3:

1. A more comprehensive view that considers not only how to protect the environment but doing so without regulating industries out of business, i.e., recognizing the importance of balancing the environment, economic, and social dimensions of a community, referred to as "sustainable community development."

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Sustainable community development emphasizes the importance of "collaboration." What are some of the groups/organizations/professions that are involved in this collaboration?

- Transportation planners/regional agencies
- Land-use and city planners
- Municipal officials
- Neighborhood activists
- Downtown business leaders
- Environmental groups

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What are some of the conflicts between environmentalists and supporters of social equity?

- environmentalist want more open spaces while social equity is more concerned about affordable housing and avoiding "gentrification."
(What is gentrification?)
- Environmentalist willing to shut down polluting industries; social equity is more concerned about creating jobs

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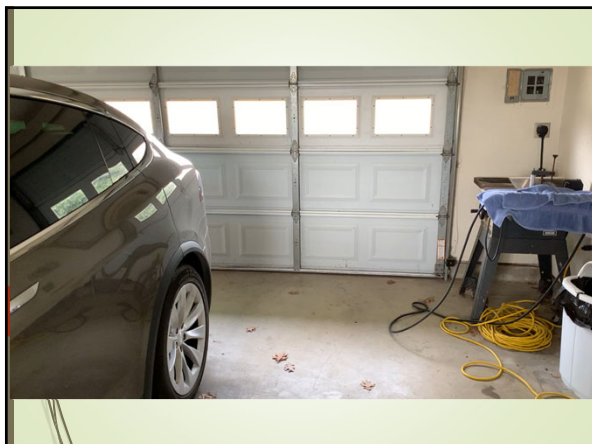
(characteristics of Epoch 3 continued):

2. A push to get the general public to think more about the environment and how they can personally protect it.



What are we talking about here?

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2a. Educate people to recognize ways that the environment is being damaged but goes unrecognized (e.g., energy used to produce a product—the product when used may save energy but it may require a great deal of energy to make the product that negates its value)

2b. Helping people realize how they are contributing to the environmental problem.

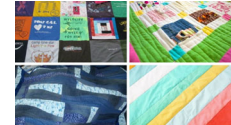
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Characteristics of Epoch 3:

3. To better understand why the public, builders, and others are not using energy-efficient technologies and what can be done to overcome the barriers that exist.

What are examples of (a) energy-efficient technologies and (b) practices that might be used by the public or general contractors who build buildings?

- Programmable thermostats
- Energy-efficient windows
- Solar panels
- Electric cars
- Home insulation
- Recycling
- Using recyclable materials
- Use of rain water



What are LEED certified buildings and how are they related to SCD strategies?

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

To encourage and reward environmentally conscious practices rather than trying to "command and control"

What factors are preventing people from using energy-efficient technologies?

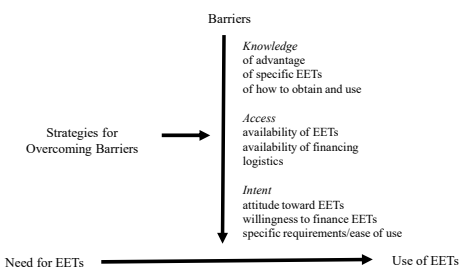


Figure 2: Conceptual Framework Displaying Barriers to the Use of Energy Efficient Technologies (EETs) Within Buildings

4. Recognizing that the EPA is not large enough to "command and control" all the organizations that pollute.

How large is the EPA? Employees? Budget?

Employees: 14,000 (in 2020 roughly same in 2018)

Annual budget: \$9 billion in 2020 (8.8 billion in 2018)

Regional Offices: 10

How much information is needed by the EPA to "command and control"?

More than they can afford to collect

5. The Backlash against command and control has often resulted in organizations doing only what is required.

6. Realization that most polluting organizations are interested in protecting the environment if given the chance, i.e., not "forced" but allowed to find their own solutions.

7. Realization that the solution to the environmental problem requires the consideration of not only the environment but also economic and social factors

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What about the political "scene" and the environment? Is there general agreement between the two political parties in the U.S.? What is your perception of the situation?

Mazmanian and Kraft perceived a "coming together" of the parties to find a middle ground with regard to the environment and SCD. However, more recent events suggest otherwise.

Dr. Yeatts perception is that within each party there are some who push for and others against further attention to the environment.

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What is "smart growth"?
What would you guess?

- A movement stressing urban development
- Focus on urban renewal; gentrification can be good (what is gentrification?)
- Revitalizing sagging local economies
- Managing urban growth
- Balancing transportation, housing, jobs, environmental quality, and social services

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What are ecological footprints?

- A measure of the "load" placed on the biosphere by a given population.
- a community's combined population and per capita consumption of resources (plus associated waste production)
- Human impacts in terms of the land and water areas appropriated for energy and resource consumption and for waste disposal

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Innovating to zero! | Bill Gates
(18:00/29:32)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaF-fq2Zn7I>

What Is the Most Sustainable City in the
World?(2020: 7:48)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsWr0Lfm_uQ

5 Most Polluted Cities on Earth
(start at 6:00; goes until 11:05—5 minutes total)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69jwIw4JeVk>

Innovating to zero! | Bill Gates
(18:00/29:32)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaF-fq2Zn7I>

Activism 2.0 - Rebirth of the Environmental Movement:

Emily Hunter (16:37 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsB2qtDaiRw&list=PLY8rHTxBOovqkLgl16pgAhCHiMxX2fIVy>