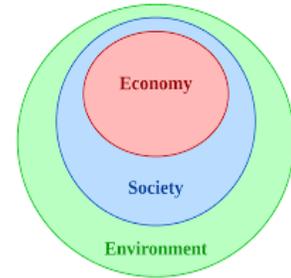


Nederland's Definition of Sustainability

--> What is Sustainability?

Sustainability is the conscious lens through which to view all issues. It is the answer to a society that is using up its finite resources by structuring conditions under which humans and nature exist in productive harmony. It incorporates a holistic approach to community planning and policy making that enables residents to meet their needs and maintain a high quality of life, without compromising the ability of future residents to do the same. Nederland's sustainability model is based on the understanding that the economy and social fabric are concentrically nested within the restraints of the larger environmental system, and are limited by the carrying capacity of the natural environment. With proper planning and forethought, sustainable practices actively support opportunities for a localized economy, an independent and self-reliant community, and small-town resiliency while demonstrating how people can voluntarily work together within the mountain community to obtain a more harmonious existence with our ecosystem.



--> Why do we need sustainability?

If adhered to, sustainability achieves a net zero strain on our finite resources. Moreover, sustainability can be profitable and achievable. A collective sustainable consciousness will maintain our planet in order to offer future generations the very same opportunities for a healthy lifestyle and existence that we are currently struggling to preserve. Sustainability has a quality of vitality, beauty, and depth that maximizes health potential and preservation of the environment with a multigenerational perspective.

--> How do we facilitate sustainability?

Sustainability is a civic philosophy whose time has come to move into civic policy. We can achieve sustainability by aligning our built environment and socio-economic activities with the constraints of natural systems that support life, now and in the future. Moving towards sustainability requires a shift in consciousness to one of regional and global awareness and may demand innovative methods of living beyond small behavior changes and product development. Sustainability requires deep and sometimes difficult reflection upon the lasting impacts of our current cultural norms and everyday decisions. The underlying message of sustainability embraces resource conservation, waste minimization, and putting resources back into the system at the same rate as using them. Therefore, achieving sustainability requires a coordinated approach for action-oriented planning and periodic review of quantifiable indicators that involves community participation. Success depends on widespread understanding of the critical relationship between people and the environment, and the decision to face our own lifestyle choices and ethics which compel change.

- Adopted by Nederland Sustainability Advisory Board, 2016

