

## Our Definition

A practice, process, or entity is sustainable if its initiatives, actions or impacts work to meet the social, environmental, and economic needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is best achieved using an inclusive and transparent process based on scientific principles that ensures:

1. resource use that maximizes renewal, encourages re-use, and minimizes waste while protecting and restoring the health of natural systems including the protection of all organisms and biodiversity, reducing pollution, and mitigating global climate change.
2. equitable economic opportunity that empowers people to meet their own needs.
3. **essential social goals** or foundations for humanity to prosper including basic human rights are met.

Best practices for meeting these objectives include using an inclusive, transparent, and equitable process that employs systems thinking and scientific principles, encourages individual and collective action, and assessment using measurable indicators. (working in establishing accountability)

## Definition 1

Something is sustainable if its initiatives, actions or impacts serve to meet the social and economic needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs through:

1. reducing resource use, encouraging re-use, finding renewable alternatives and minimizing waste and pollution while protecting and restoring the health of

natural systems and biodiversity, reducing pollution, and addressing global climate change

2. equitable economic development that empowers people to meet their own needs rather than exploiting them
3. an elevated and dignified standard of human well-being for all people including universal access to basic human needs such as healthcare, water, food, housing, economic dignity, fair wages and safe working conditions.

Best practices for meeting these objectives include an inclusive, transparent process; that employs systems thinking; encourages individual action and innovation; and assessment using measurable indicators.

**Or**

## **Definition 2**

Something is sustainable if its initiatives, actions or impacts serve to meet the social and economic needs of the present and the future without exceeding planetary boundaries. This is best achieved using an inclusive and transparent process based on scientific principles that ensures:

1. resource use that maximizes renewal, encourages re-use, and minimizes waste while protecting and restoring the health of natural systems, all organisms and biodiversity; and reducing pollution and mitigating global climate change;
2. ethical economic development that promotes equitable opportunity and empowers rather than exploits people and the environment, and does not undermine peoples' capacity to meet their own needs; and

3. an elevated standard of human well-being for all people including but not limited to improved health and increased equitable access to basic human rights.

Best practice for meeting these objectives include using an inclusive process with transparent governance; and assessment through the development of measurable indicators that show improvement in each of the above criteria.

**Or**

### **Definition 3**

A practice, process, or entity is sustainable if its initiatives, actions or impacts serve to meet the needs of present generations without compromising the needs of future generations through:

1. the extraction, creation and use of resources in ways that maximize renewal, reduce or eliminate pollution and waste, and mitigate and/or support adaptation to global climate change while protecting and restoring the health of natural systems and biodiversity;
2. equitable economic development including profit that that empowers people to meet their own needs without undermining the ability of others to do so for themselves particularly by eliminating exploitation;

3. an elevated and dignified standard of human well-being that ensures basic human rights and social justice for all people;

Best practices for meeting these objectives include using an inclusive, transparent process that employs systems thinking and scientific principles, encourages individual and collective action, and assessment using measurable indicators.