

Sustainable Community Development

Sustainability is a dynamic condition, which requires a fundamental understanding of the interrelationship and interdependencies between social, economic and ecological systems. Sustainability is a developing way of looking at our world and our communities and the planning and decision making that takes place there. It is an undertaking in which we assure an ethical response to the needs of our multidimensional world.



The goal of sustainability in community development is to achieve both short and long term health and wellness for our communities. To attain this we must address the organization of our social, economic and ecological systems of support in our communities. By starting at the local level to build health communities we can promote sustainable development.

How do we go about balancing the needs of social well-being, economic health and environmental quality? The challenge we face is to adopt a set of principles that are meaningfully vital and which involved a community approach to identifying practical and integrative approaches. Thriving in the future will depend on a community's ability to balance these three elements in a significant and ethical manner. It will also require a wise use of resources to meet current needs while at the same time acknowledging the need to make resources available in the future.

Improving health and a better quality of life can only be achieved through a concerted action of building our communities capacity to limit waste, maximize conservation and promote efficiency. Key to community development is the need to jointly develop local resources that revitalize and sustain the local community's health. As well, we must work at initiating co-operative activities and partnerships as well as ensure meaningful planning and decision-making by community groups.