Sustainable Development

The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

Aims

- To understand how individuals & governments can help conserve resources.

- Be able to understand the importance of balancing the needs of people and their effect on the environment.

Unsustainable technology
- Uses resources that cannot be replaced
- Produces wastes that cannot be broken down
- Steals from the future to feed the present

Sustainable technology
- Uses resources that are replaced regularly
- Produces wastes that break down harmlessly
- Protects the future

What Is It?

- Sustainable development = improving the quality of life without compromising future generations
- Increasing population & technology has resulted in raw materials (esp. non-renewable):

    - rapidly being used up

    − producing more waste

    − more pollution (unless waste handled correctly).

Conserving Resources

- Reuse or recycle where possible.
- Use energy efficient devices.
- Use public transport where possible (or walk!)

What problems could this cause?

What about this?

Protecting Resources

- We must try to conserve the resources we do have:

  - don't use too much

  - replace resources if possible

  - use land carefully to try not to destroy habitats and reduce biodiversity

Who's Responsible?

- We need to plan at a local, regional and global levels to ensure developments are sustainable.

Examples

- Use energy efficient light bulbs & insulate your house

- Recycling schemes

- Fishing quotas

- Protect endangered species

- Build on brown field sites

Limited Resources

If everyone had the same standard of living as people in North America or Europe, we would need the resources of three planet earths.

What are our basic needs?

What are our basic needs?
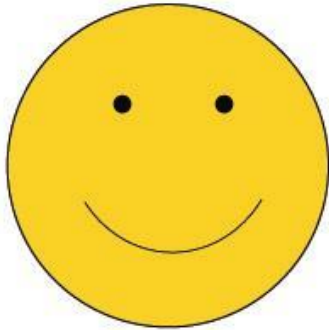
Food

Water

Shelter

Power

Waste Treatment

Medical Care

Three Dimensions

Sustainable development is the balancing of social, economic and environmental dimensions.

Social

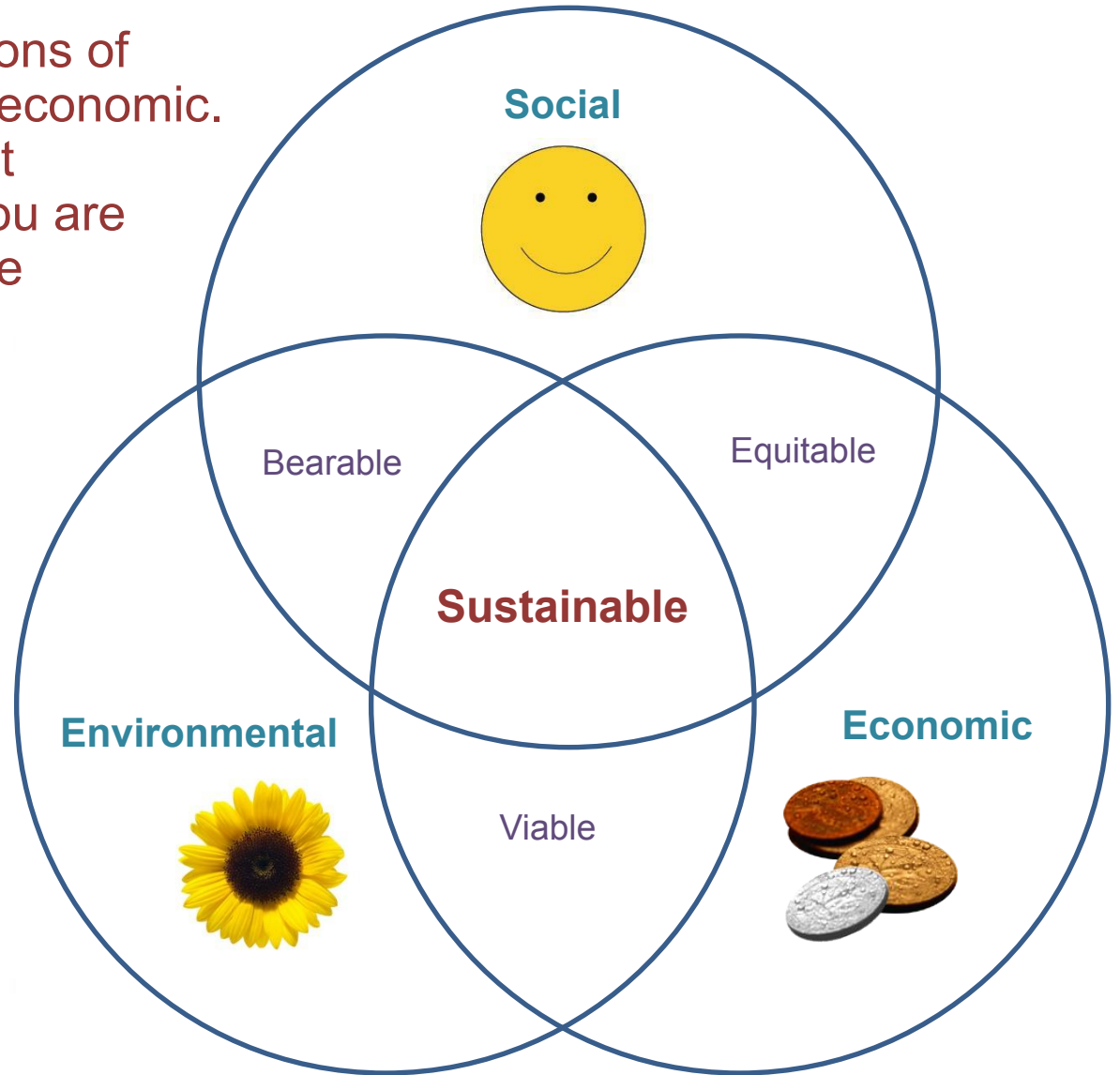**People**

Environmental

Planet

Economic

Profits

Being Sustainable

Most issues are combinations of social, environmental and economic. If you create a solution that considers all three, then you are being sustainable and have achieved a win-win-win.

Social

Bearable

Equitable

Sustainable

Environmental

Viable

Economic

What is the Environmental Impact of Feeding the World?

Food Waste Introduction: Food waste is food that is thrown away because it is either undesirable or inedible.

Choose two of the food sustainability and environmental issues introduced in the video

Video Discussion Questions

1. Why might feeding the global population be different now than it was 50 years ago?
2. How is food production related to environmental change and habitat loss?
3. What is the different between the amount of land needed to feed the average American, versus the diet of people living in other countries?
4. Why does meat production require more land than producing vegetables, fruits, or grains?
5. Global welfare is rising, which is good news! What does this mean for agriculture and the environment?
6. How would you define a "food desert"?
7. Who is likely to develop the solutions to global food issues? Why do you think so?