

Tutorial 1

Tutorial Exercise: Will we know it when we see it?

"I know it when I see it" US Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart's 1964 opinion describing how to tell what is and what is not pornography!

Throughout this semester we will evaluate approaches to environmental management within a framework of creating a sustainable society. However, there is still great debate over what a sustainable society looks like and what steps are necessary to create it.

This activity is preparation for the week 3 lecture and reading.

Small Group Tasks:

1. **What are the common themes found in the Sustainability definitions on the back of this page?** How do some of these definitions differ? Are there any words you are unfamiliar with?
2. **If UTM were to try to create a 'sustainable campus', what would that look like?** In coming up with an answer think about how people would get to campus, where they would live, what buildings or other structures might look like, what would food come from, what would happen to waste? Any economic or social implications?
3. **What is the most important step you think UTM needs to take to become a 'sustainable campus'?** What is the biggest challenge UTM faces?

Be prepared to share your responses with the class.

Definitions from Sustainable Measures: <http://www.sustainablemeasures.com/Sustainability/>

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

World Commission on Environment and Development. Our Common Future. Frequently referred to as the Brundtland Report after Gro Harlem Brundtland, Chairman of the Commission

"...improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting eco-systems."

IUCN/UNEP/WWF. Caring for the Earth: A Strategy for Sustainable Living. (Gland, Switzerland: 1991). (IUCN - The World Conservation Union, UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme, WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature).

"the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people", in which "economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components".

The 1995 World Summit on Social Development

"three overarching objectives of sustainable development" are (1) eradicating poverty, (2) protecting natural resources, and (3) changing unsustainable production and consumption patterns.

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development

““In the sustainable society, nature is not subject to systematically increasing (1) concentrations of substances extracted from the Earth's crust (2) concentrations of substances produced by society (3) degradation by physical means and (4) people are not subject to conditions that systematically undermine their capacity to meet their needs”

“The Natural Step Framework” in Johnston et al. 2007

"Sustainable development is positive change which does not undermine the environmental or social systems on which we depend. It requires a coordinated approach to planning and policy making that involves public participation. Its success depends on widespread understanding of the critical relationship between people and their environment and the will to make necessary changes."

Hamilton Wentworth Regional Council, ON