



Appendix K

Quotoable Materials on Sustainability

The Wingspread Principles: A Community Vision for Sustainability

This appendix contains materials from several sources and is intended to stimulate thinking about what sustainability may mean for different communities, provide ideas about actions that can be taken to enhance sustainability, and be helpful in preparing for meetings and presentations.

*The following is abstracted from the Wingspread Principles that were developed by attendees of the 1998 Wingspread conference, *Communities in Harm's Way: A Leadership Dialogue on Designing Disaster-Resistant Settlements*, to help communities and government agencies enhance sustainability in disaster-prone communities.*

To ensure the safety of people and the livability of communities, resources for disaster planning, mitigation, and recovery should provide for education and encourage the use of innovative approaches that result in positive changes. Resources should be invested consistent with the following principles:

Sustainability Disaster mitigation and recovery resources should be invested to improve the quality of life in the areas of public health and safety, environmental stewardship, and social and economic security.

Planning & Incentives Plans designed to reduce the impact of disasters and to encourage recovery should provide incentives to individuals, the private sector, and government to pursue sustainable development and redevelopment.

Partnerships Individual citizens, the private sector, and local, state, and federal governments should act as partners with shared goals and values to further the capacity of our communities to be self-sufficient.

Locally Driven Process Decisions should be driven by a consensus-based, inclusive process that stakeholders use and trust. The process should identify local sustainability priorities, leading to the investment of pre-and-post disaster resources that will meet those needs, emphasizing the need for local responsibility and self-sufficiency.

Post-Disaster Long Term Recovery Plan

- **Designate a recovery team** (distinct from the response team) that provides a two-way communications process with the community.
- **Educate the community** and its leaders about sustainable redevelopment and best practices with the assistance of outside expertise, video and electronic resources, and green resource directories.
- **Evaluate opportunities** to build a better, more disaster-resistant, sustainable community than existed before.
- **Develop a common vision** for a sustainable recovery development plan, charge the local planning and design professionals with implementing it, and develop a methodology for **on-going communications**.
- **Adopt a model code**, post-disaster, that will allow funding programs to upgrade reconstruction.

Policy Action Framework

I. Education

- Policy experts, advocates, government officials, and local elected leaders should help connect sustainable development constituencies with those who work on disaster mitigation and prevention, to better connect both sets of issues and to share information, resources, tools, and ideas.
- Sustainable redevelopment and mitigation experts should work to better educate the public, homeowners, and consumers about the benefits of disaster mitigation and prevention in lessening the impact of natural disasters. Information could include specific household prevention tips as well as broad information on the negative consequences of not planning for natural disasters (insurance costs, damage to homes and businesses, as well as to the local economy.)
- User-friendly pamphlets, reports, Web sites, and training materials should be developed to promote prevention, planning, and awareness of policies and practices that will make sustainable redevelopment available to more communities.
- Foundations, businesses, and all levels of government should support peer-to-peer learning about sustainable redevelopment. They should also work to develop champions for sustainable redevelopment among a broad array of constituencies. These champions should help lead their constituencies to further educate, inform, and serve as a resource on these issues.
- Following disasters, sustainable redevelopment experts should work within FEMA's Disaster Recovery Centers and at public meetings to inform interested citizens and community groups about the benefits of sustainable redevelopment.
- Create a state/federal/local outreach effort to educate local leaders in disaster-prone communities about sustainable redevelopment, and the cost-effective, cutting-edge technologies they can use to improve their communities during recovery.

- Conduct an on-going campaign in disaster-prone areas to educate citizens about the concept of sustainable redevelopment and how it can help them recover from current disasters and mitigate future disasters.
- Do a life-cycle cost analysis to evaluate investment of sustainable alternatives within disaster-prone communities.
- Immediately following a disaster, establish a sustainable redevelopment outreach effort to state and local officials to identify redevelopment priorities and alternatives.

II. Planning

- Sustainable redevelopment experts should clarify to the public, the roles that local, state, and federal agencies play in helping communities plan for natural disasters. This advance educational effort should help diminish frustration following a disaster by making the public more knowledgeable about where they can find help.
- Local communities should create lists of local providers of services, information, and technical training on a broad range of sustainable technologies and practices. These individuals can then be quickly mobilized and hired following a disaster.
- Local elected leaders, planners, and community development officials should integrate disaster planning into community planning and sustainable development/community initiatives.
- States, counties, and local governments should create local-state recovery teams to work together on disaster-planning, thereby creating partnerships that can be drawn upon in the event of a disaster.
- Develop plans and priorities for sustainable redevelopment prior to the occurrence of a disaster, so it is available, and has broad-based consensus, at the time of the next event. This should include a community-based vision for where the community wants to be in the future.
- Reconsider existing land use, building codes, and financial policies that stimulate disaster-prone development.

III. Incentives/Financing

- For communities to qualify for priority funding following disasters, incentives, financing, and funding should be closely tied to performance standards for prevention.
- Private sector and economic development agencies should lead the way in promoting disaster planning and sustainable mitigation efforts, given the potential catastrophic effects of disasters to local community economies.

IV. Building Local Capacity

- State and federal governments should build local disaster-planning capacity by better coordinating existing technical assistance, training, and other programs or activities in the areas of environmental protection, economic development, community planning, etc.
- There is no one-size-fits-all solution; decision-making should move to the most local level of government appropriate to the situation (regional, local, etc.)

- Local governments should institute management training with an emphasis on institutional quality management that would help build skills for handling emergency situations.
- Prepare and disseminate a sustainable development/redevelopment guide and resource book to provide general guidance and points of contact for more information (FEMA's booklet, *Planning for a Sustainable Future: The Link Between Hazard Mitigation and Livability* (FEMA 364), and portions of this guide, as appropriate, should be distributed in the disaster area after an event occurs).
- Sustainable redevelopment experts at all levels of government should provide technical assistance, as well as information on case studies of communities that have previously benefited from applying sustainable redevelopment principles before or after disasters.
- Communities should create local teams of government agencies and development groups to participate in planning efforts and that can also be quickly mobilized if disaster strikes.
- At local and regional levels, train and equip local planning officials in sustainable redevelopment prior to disasters so they can champion the strategy in disaster recovery.
- At all levels, instruct outside experts to work closely with, and not against, local planning officials. Find ways to encourage local planners' ownership in sustainable options.
- When outside experts are required in disaster recovery, deploy them early in the process, before local planners have invested time, money and reputation in unsustainable plans.

Vision Statements

Minnesota Sustainable Developments Initiative

- We Minnesotans make commitments and choices to preserve the options future generations will need to secure the quality of life we now enjoy.
- We see sustainable development as a positive, fundamental change in the way we define social progress, do business, and protect the environment.
- We view the health of our natural environment, the strength of our community, and our economic security as interdependent.
- We maintain our quality of life through sustainable use of energy and natural resources, recognizing that population growth, resource consumption, and lifestyle choices determine the options we leave for future generations.
- Our communities are places where all citizens enjoy rich opportunities in education, employment, involvement in community, and appreciation of the environment.
- Our economy is healthy, diversified, globally competitive, and in harmony with Minnesota's ecosystems; it provides all citizens with ample opportunity for a fulfilling life.

- Our national environment is biologically and ecologically diverse and able to provide the resource benefits, products, and services needed for the indefinite future.
- We continually work to change our political and economic systems so that they consistently reward economically efficient, socially beneficial, and environmentally sustainable behavior.

Sustainable America: Recommendations for Strengthening Communities

Community-Driven Strategic Planning: Create a community-driven strategic planning process that brings people together to identify key issues, develop a vision, set goals and benchmarks, and determine actions to improve their community.

Collaborative Planning: Encourage communities in a region to work together to deal with issues that transcend jurisdictional and other boundaries.

Building Design and Rehabilitation: Design and rehabilitate buildings to use energy and natural resources efficiently, enhance public health and the environment, preserve historic and natural settings, and contribute to a sense of community identity.

Community Design: Design new communities and improve existing ones to use land efficiently, promote mixed-use and mixed-income development, retain public open space, and provide diverse transportation options.

Community Growth Management: Manage the geographical growth of existing communities and siting of new ones to decrease sprawl, conserve open space, respect nature's carrying capacity, and provide protection from natural hazards.

Creation of Strong, Diversified Local Economies: Apply economic development strategies that create diversified local economies built on unique local advantages to tap expanding markets and technological innovation.

Training and Lifelong Learning: Expand and coordinate public and private training programs to enable all people to improve their skills to match future job requirements in communities on a continuing basis.

Environmental Economic Development: Capitalize on economic development opportunities from businesses and industries that target environmental technologies, recycling, and pollution prevention to create jobs.

Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites: Revitalize brownfields, which are contaminated, abandoned, or underused land by making them more attractive for redevelopment by providing regulatory flexibility, reducing process barriers, and assessing greenfield development to reflect necessary infrastructure costs.

Source: President's Council on Sustainable Development, Sustainable America: A New Consensus, 1996.

Quotes

Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" asked Alice in Alice in Wonderland. That depends a good deal on where you want to get to, the Cheshire Cat answered.

Lewis Carroll

Then I say the earth belongs to each... to the living:...no generation can contract debts greater than may be paid during the course of its own existence.

Thomas Jefferson

Tornadoes/floods/natural disasters are natural occurrences. They are acts of nature not inherently catastrophic. They only become disasters when they conflict with people and property. The more development in a hazard area, the more disastrous the consequences.

Nature has given us fair warning. Powers that sustain life can also destroy. It is up to us to prepare. That is the challenge of living on this dynamic earth.

PBS Special

Living in a man-made landscape, we easily forget that our well-being is rooted in natural systems. Yet all human enterprise rests on the foundation of natural systems that provide a myriad of invisible life-support services. Our connections to these natural systems may be less direct and obvious than those of an eagle or an otter, but we are no less deeply implicated in life's web. No one has stated this fundamental ecological principle more simply than the early twentieth-century American environmental philosopher, John Muir. When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find that it is bound by a thousand invisible cords... to everything in the universe.

Our Stolen Universe

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

When you put your hand to the plow, you can't put it down until you get to the end of the row.

Alice Paul

We hold the view that the people make the best judgement in the long run.

John F. Kennedy

The greatest sin is to do nothing because you can only do a little.

Edmund Burke

The world we have created today as a result of our thinking thus far has problems which cannot be solved by thinking the way we thought when we created them.

Albert Einstein

Sustainability refers to a very old and simple concept - the ability to keep going over the long haul. Think of it as extending the Golden Rule through time, so that you do unto future generations as you would have them do unto you.

Robert Gilman

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Sustainable Community Characteristics

Economic Security: A more sustainable community includes a variety of businesses, industries, and institutions that are environmentally sound (in all respects); financially viable; provide training, education, and other forms of assistance to adjust to future needs; provide jobs and spend money within the community; and enable employees to have a voice in decisions that affect them. A more sustainable community also is one in which residents' money remains in the community.

Ecological Integrity: A more sustainable community is in harmony with natural systems by reducing and converting waste into nonharmful and beneficial products, and by using environmental resources for human needs without undermining their ability to function over time.

Quality of Life: A more sustainable community recognizes and supports people's evolving sense of well-being, which includes a sense of belonging, a sense of place, a sense of self-worth, a sense of safety, and a sense of connection with nature, and provides goods and services that meet people's needs both as they define them and as can be accommodated within the ecological integrity of natural systems.

Empowerment with Responsibility: A more sustainable community enables people to feel empowered and take responsibility based on a shared vision, equal opportunity, ability to access expertise and knowledge for their own needs, and a capacity to contribute to decision that affect them.

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