

SUSTAINABILITY & MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Pollution Prevention Roundtable, June 15th 2006, Halifax

Thoughts and Examples from Nova Scotia



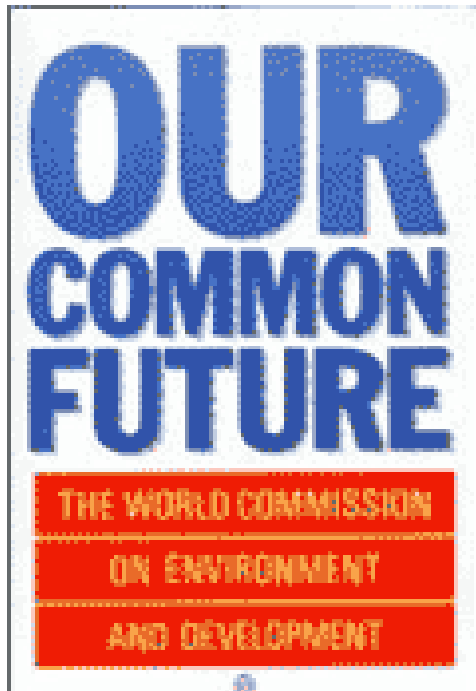
Marty Janowitz, Jacques Whitford

Stephen King, Halifax Regional Municipality

Bill Zimmerman, Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

Introduction to Sustainability

Defining Sustainability



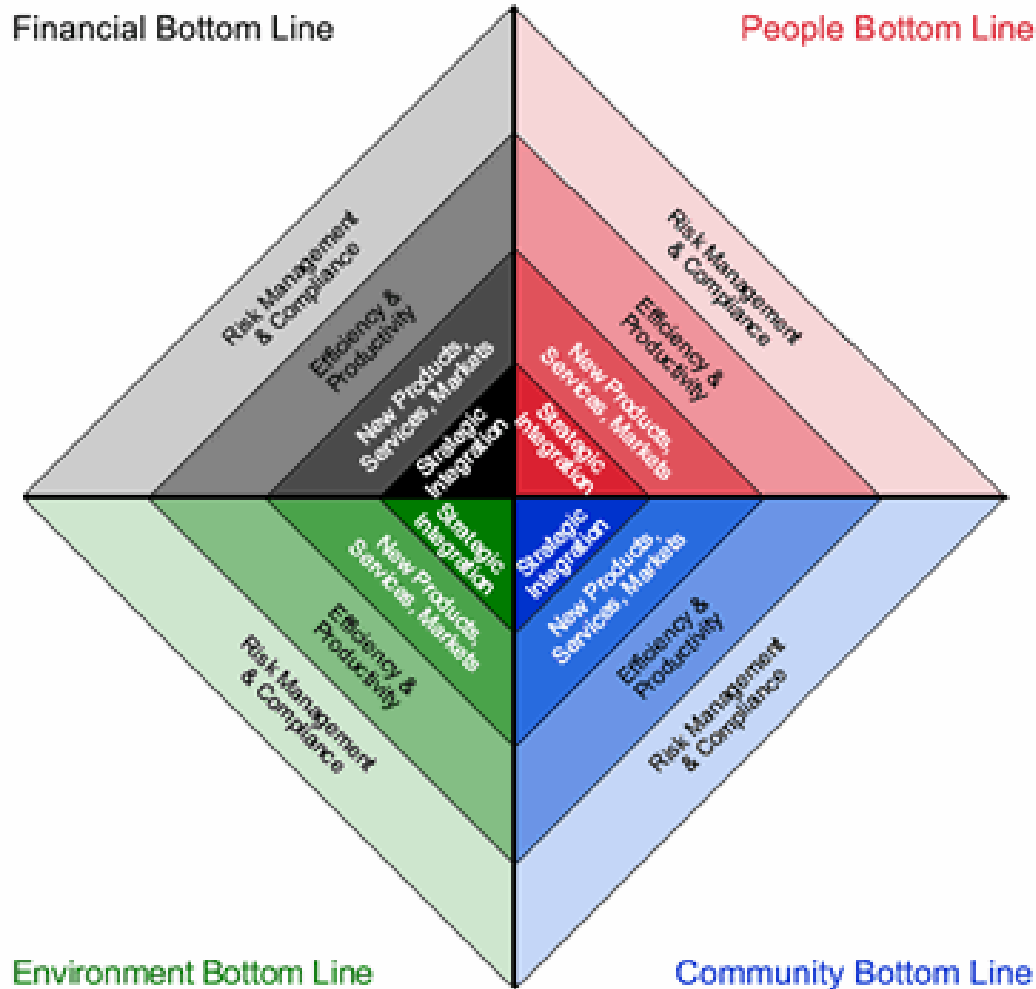
- Origin in the Brundtland Report
- Addressed tension between development and environment
- Inter & intra-generational equity
 - Tension between rights of current & future generations
 - Tension between rich & poor

Development that meets the needs of the present **without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”**

Brundtland Commission (1987)

Pillars of Sustainability

Levels of Engagement with Sustainability



Environment
Economy
Society
Environmental
Culture

CHANGES NEEDED
Taking an
Responsibility
right, the theory,
model
Balanced
Decision Making

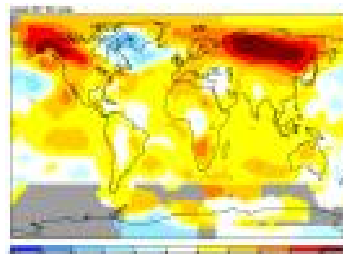
Sustainable Municipalities Are...

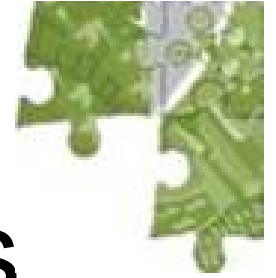
- Economically vibrant
- Ensure the health & well-being of both citizens and the environment
- Fiscally sound



Economic Motivators Align with Other Drivers

- Lower Costs
- Smaller Environmental Price Tags
- Higher Competitiveness
- Meeting the Multiple Bottom-Line
- Funding Availability
- Resource scarcity, growth,
environmental, health concerns





Sustainability Plan Elements

- Long Term Vision/Mandate
- Integrated Systems Approach- Approaching the Community as an Interconnected Whole
- Priorities, Objectives, Principles and Indicators
- Policies, Strategies, Action Plans and Timelines
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Improvement
- Public Participation
- Partnerships
- Innovation

Sustainability Frameworks

- The Natural Step

www.naturalstep.ca



- The Triple Bottom Line

www.vision2020.hamilton.ca/tbl

www.calgary.ca/tbl

- The Melbourne Principles

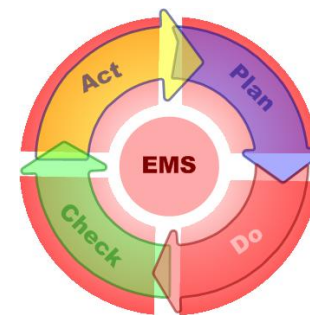
www.dse.vic.gov.au

- Environmental Management Systems

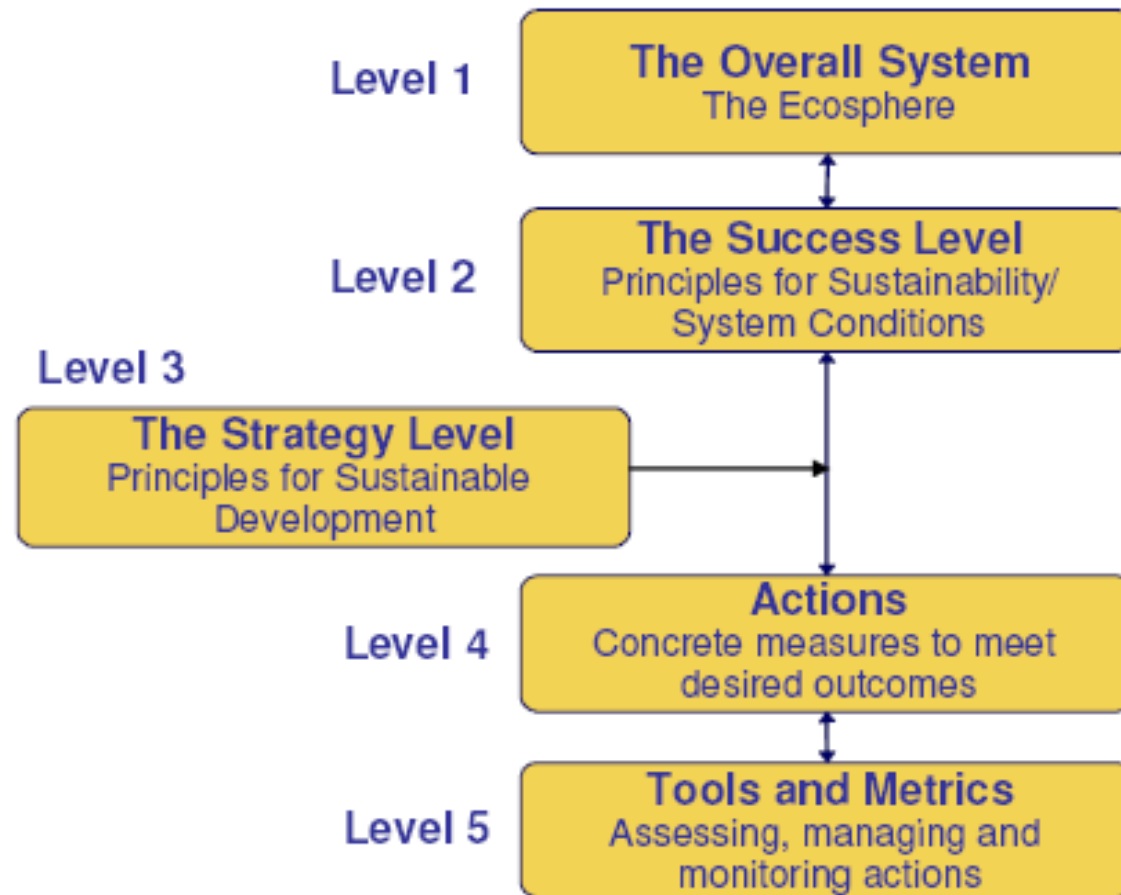
www.ec.gc.ca/emsinfo/

- Cradle to Cradle

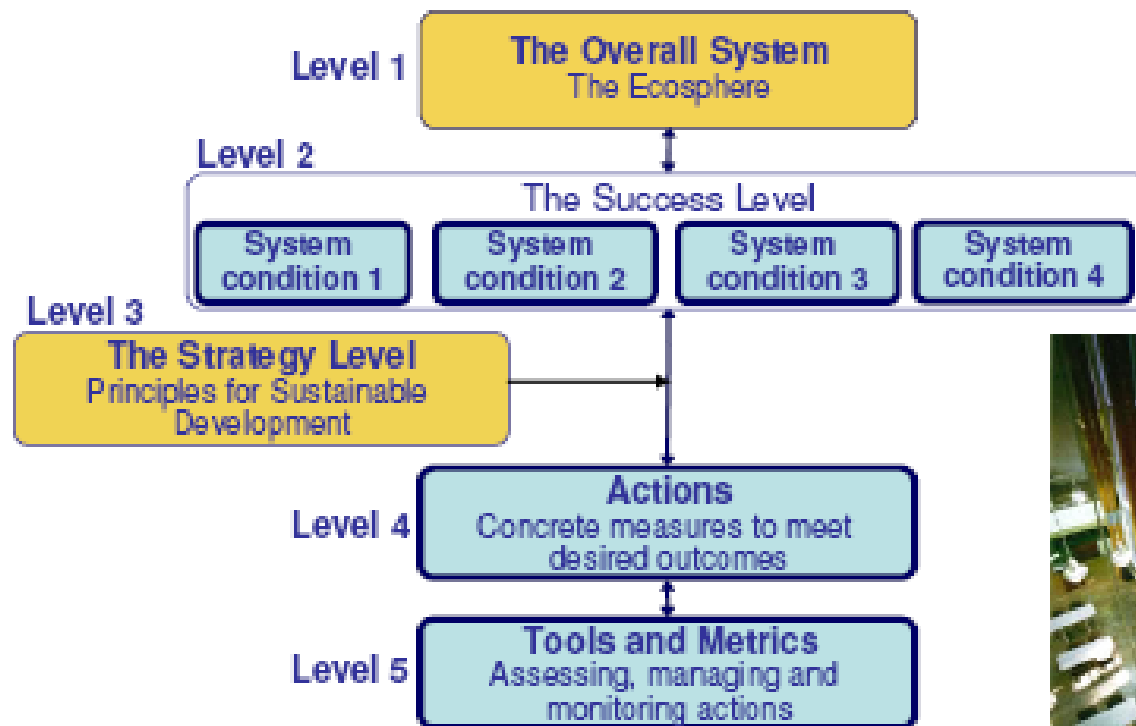
www.mbcc.com



Sustainability Framework



Sustainability Framework



Challenges

- Disconnect between:
 - theory and practice
 - documents/policies and real culture change
 - Doing things ‘less bad’ and genuine change
- Administrative & funding constraints
- Resistance to change
- Unrealistic expectations
- Short term bottom line focus
- Competing stakeholder interests
- Measuring sustainable development

Benefits

- Efficient and integrated planning
- Accesses economic/financial incentives
- Sustains biodiversity and natural environment
- Supports risk management
- Community vitality and wellbeing
- Popular

The Case of Halifax Regional Municipality

Answering the Questions

- Engaged the Natural Step Canada to help us with a high level snapshot of HRM
 - Sustainability Analysis (12 corporate wide recommendations)
- Determine successes, gaps and opportunities
- Definition of sustainability
- Short and long term benefits

Priorities

- Corporate Green Culture
- Green Procurement
- Green Buildings

Other

- Systems Approach
- Integration – Everything is interconnected

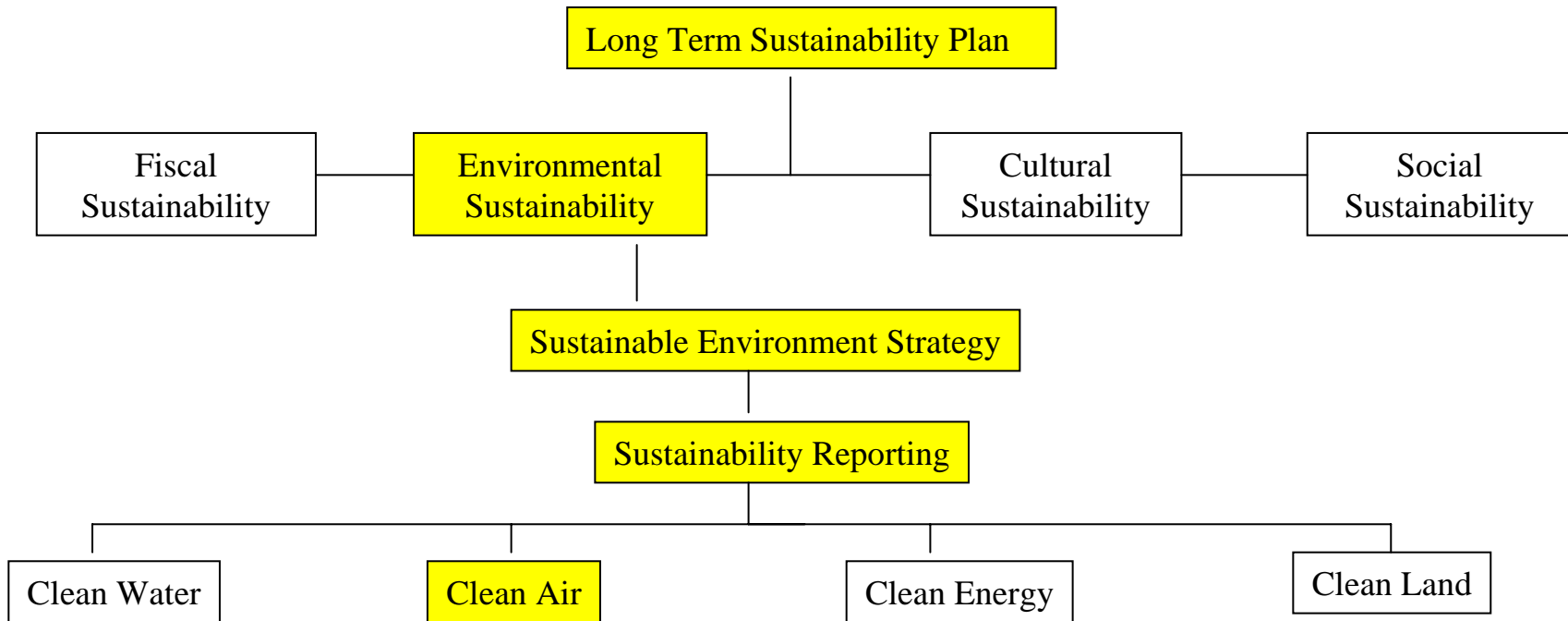


Sustainability Analysis

using

The Natural Step Framework

Big Picture – Connecting the Dots



examples of initiatives – each is performance measured

- HRWC
- P2
- HSP
- Storm & Waste Water Plans
- Etc.

- Clean Air Strategy
- Climate Change
- GHG
- AQI
- Etc.

- Community Energy
- Corporate Energy
- Etc.

- Regional Plan
- SWR
- Pesticides
- Sustainable Practices
- Etc.

Challenges

- Political and staff changes
- What's in it for me?
- Ingrained cultures – mind sets

Opportunities

- Believe in it – do it
- Get politicians and staff on board
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Bench mark with others – ICSC
- Set some targets and Performance Measures
- Build on 25 Year Regional Plan

Actions

- Integrated and Systems Approach to Sustainability – Sustainable Environment Strategy
- Sustainability (State of the Environment) Report
- Ongoing Education
 - i.e. On-line E-Training on Sustainability
- Learn from others
 - i.e. Exchange with Calgary
- Involve other partners
 - i.e. Province
 - UNSM
 - Universities
 - NGO's
 - Feds
 - Industry - business

Results – Outcomes - Examples

- Sustainable and Healthy Community
- Long term Sustainability Plan
- Target and Performance Measurement Mechanisms
- Economic Prosperity
- Informed Community



The Case of Smaller Nova Scotian Municipalities

Municipal Sustainability

A Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities' committee...

- started with GHG reduction efforts
- Produced a manual of first steps:

Save Money, Save Energy, Cut Emissions: Quick and Easy Steps for Nova Scotia Municipalities

- Carried out a survey on municipal energy conservation attitudes and initiatives

Save Money,
Save Energy,
& Cut Emissions

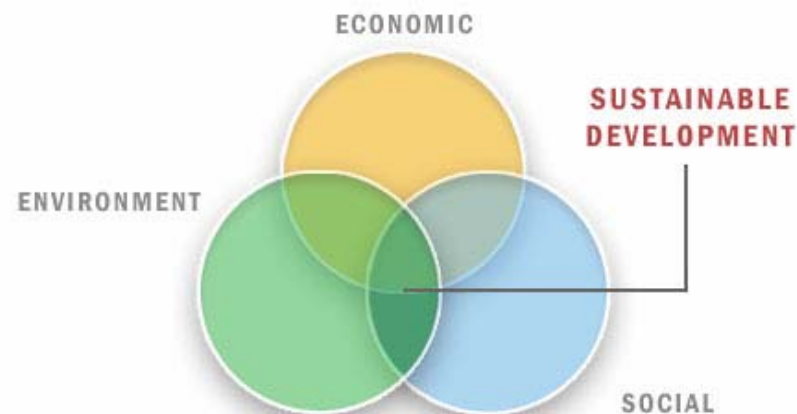


Quick and Easy
Steps for Nova Scotia
Municipalities

Range of Issues

Municipalities face sustainability issues in three major areas:

- Economic
 - Municipal finances
 - Maintaining infrastructure
 - Community businesses and employment
- Environmental
 - Air quality
 - Water quality
 - Environmental hazards
 - Climate change
 - Waste management
- Social and Cultural
 - Changing demographics
 - Loss of cultural context
 - Loss of social cohesion



Next Steps

The Committee...

- has expanded its mandate to cover all Sustainable Practices
- is proposing the position of a Sustainable Development Officer (SDO), with funding support from all levels of government
- The SDO would work with Nova Scotia municipalities to:
 - identify and develop opportunities in the energy sector
 - reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - initiate climate change adaptation strategies
 - incorporate sustainable development practices



We welcome
your questions and comments.