



Sustainable development – general view and some thoughts

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“Sustaining our Future” team

What is sustainable development?

What do AEGEE'ans say?

Key word	%
future	45,7
development	38,6
environment	30,7
resources	26,4
growth, progress	17,1
society, people	17,1
satisfying needs	15
quality of life	14,3
continuous	14,3
take into account	12,9
effective use	12,1
economy, bussiness	12,1
planet, Earth	11,4
present	10,7
balance, harmony	7,9
technology	4,3
products, production	4,3

Definitions

"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", 1987)

"Improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems."

(IUCN, UNEP, WWF: Caring for the Earth. A Strategy for Sustainable Living, 1991)

"Sustainable development occurs when all human beings can have fulfilling lives, without degrading our planet".

(Global Footprint Network 2007)

A little bit of history

1987 - The report of the Brundtland Commission (the “World Commission on Environment and Development” of the United Nations)

1992 – United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro - Agenda 21

2000 – Millenium Summit, New York – 8 MDGs

2002 – UN Sustainable Development Summit – Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

2006 – renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy

SD focuses in EU

- Climate change and clean energy
- Sustainable transport
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Conservation and management of natural resources
- Public health
- Social inclusion, demography and migration
- Global poverty and sustainable development challenges

Cross-cutting policies

- Education and training
- Research and development
- Financing and economic instruments
- Communication, mobilising actors and multiplying success

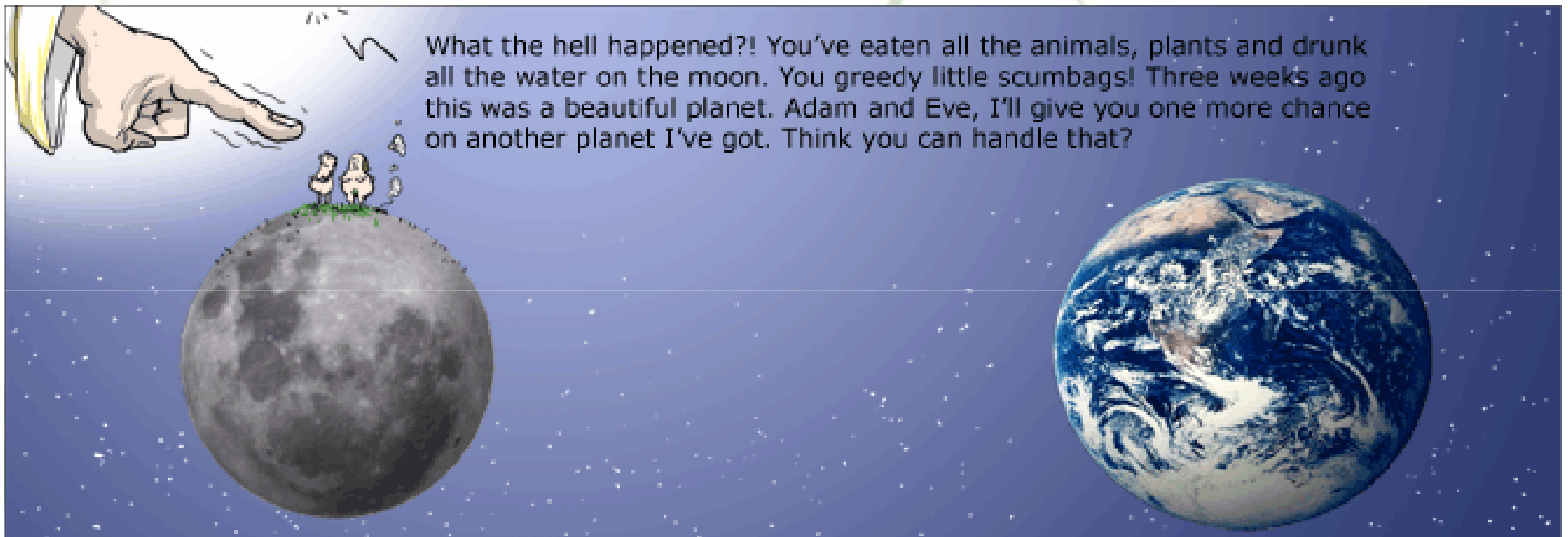
Definitions

“It aims at the continuous improvement of the quality of life and well-being on Earth for present and future generations.

...a dynamic economy with full employment and a high level of education, health protection, social and territorial cohesion and environmental protection in a peaceful and secure world, respecting cultural diversity.”

(EU Sustainable Development Strategy, 2006)

A closed system

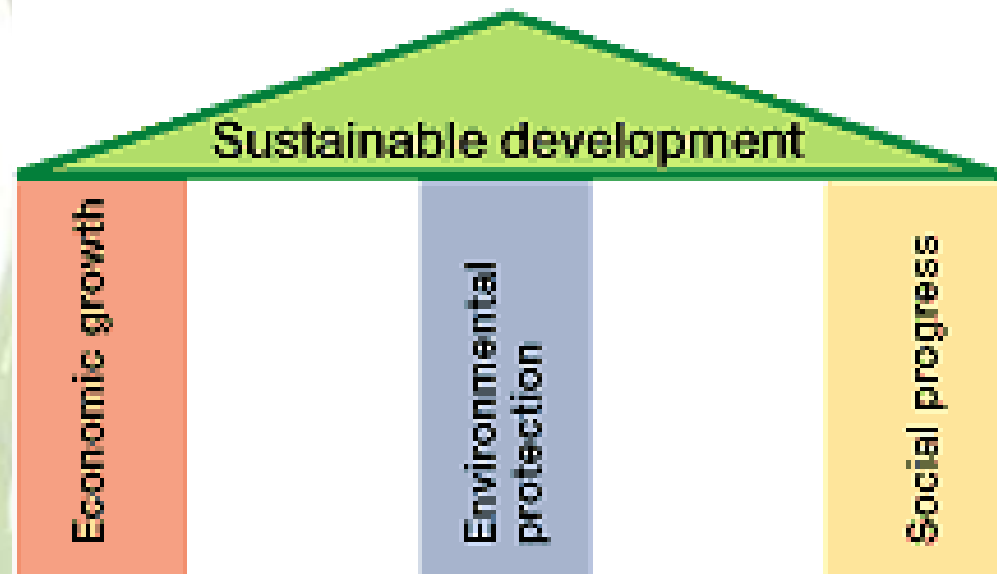


(www.wulffmorgenthaler.com, 2008)

The 3 spheres/pillars



**The three pillars
of sustainable development**



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The background of the slide is a blurred image of green grass, with the blades appearing soft and out of focus. The color is a vibrant green, and the overall effect is a natural, organic feel.

What do you think?

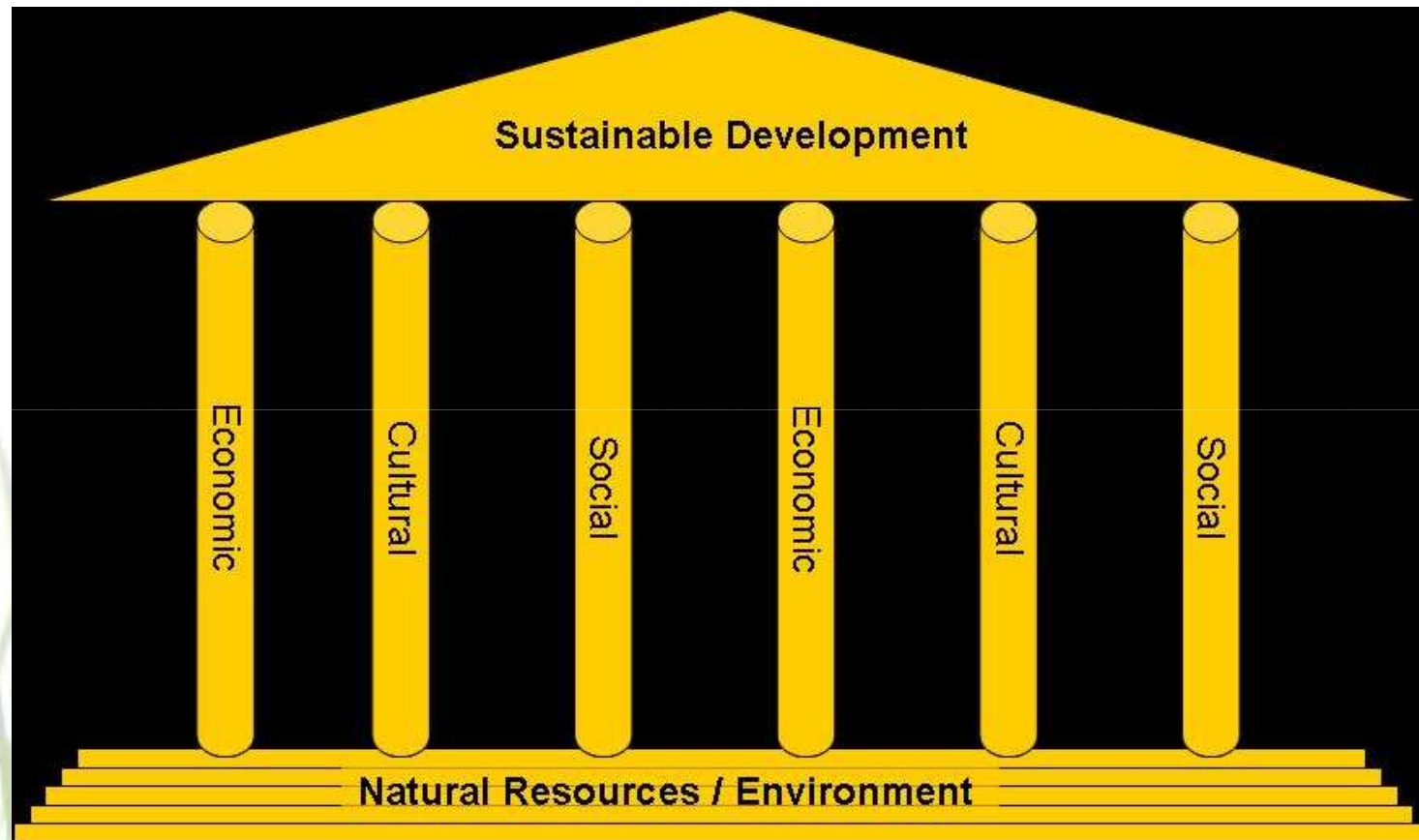
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Culture as 4th pillar/sphere

- Western value systems are being pushed to the rest of the world, creating imbalance.
- Culture shapes what we mean by development and determines how people act in the world.
- Sustainable development is only achievable if there is harmony and alignment between the objectives of cultural diversity and that of social equity, environmental responsibility and economic viability.

(Keith Nurse 2006)

Re-thinking



(IUCN, Future of Sustainability Initiative, 2008)

Social
justice

Ecological
balance

Cultural
Identity

Self-
reliance

(Keith Nurse 2006)

The background of the slide is a blurred image of green grass, with the blades appearing soft and out of focus. The color is a vibrant green, and the overall effect is a natural, fresh aesthetic.

Satisfying needs?
What are our needs?



Italy: The Manzo family of Sicily
Food expenditure for one week: 214.36 Euros or \$260.11

(Book "Hungry Planet"; TIME Photos, 2007)



Chad: The Aboubakar family of Breidjing Camp
Food expenditure for one week: 685 CFA Francs or \$1.23

(Book "Hungry Planet"; TIME Photos, 2007)

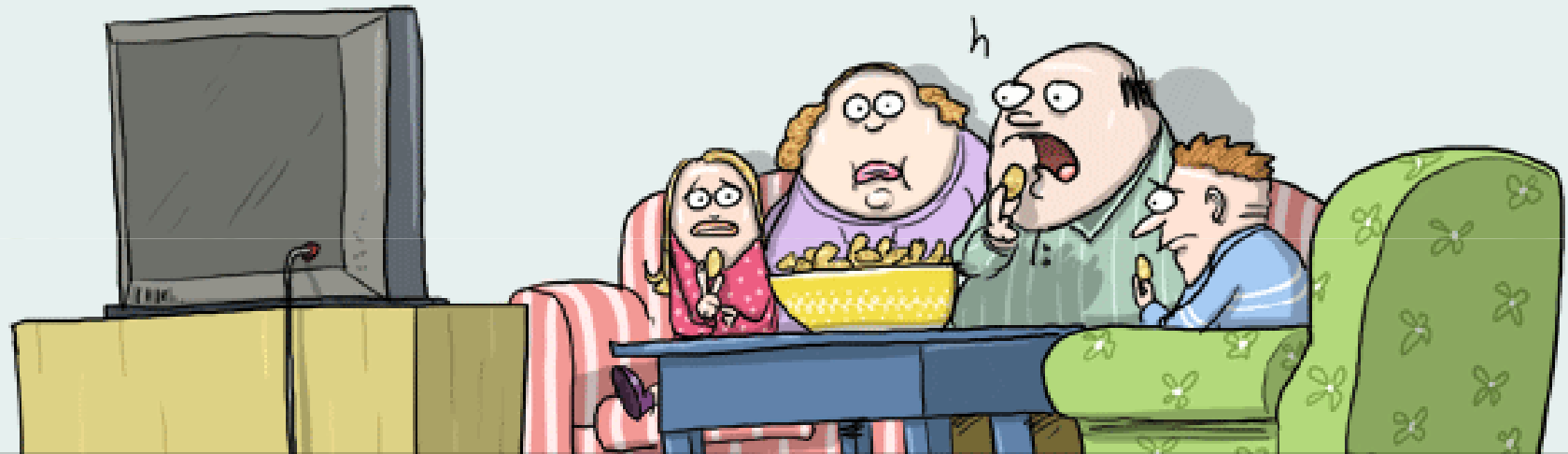
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Our priorities?

- Basic education for all (\$6 billion) versus cosmetics in USA (\$8 billion)
- Water and sanitation for all (\$9 billion) versus ice cream in Europe (\$11 billion)
- Basic health and nutrition (\$13 billion) versus pet foods in Europe and USA (\$17 billion)

(Human Development Report “Consumption for human development”, 1998)

Listen kids, there's a financial crisis going on, so we need to cut down on expenses. From now on Monday is no-dip day ... I know it's hard, but let's get through this together! I know we can do it!



(www.wulffmorgenthaler.com, 2009)

10 basic human needs

- Subsistence / survive
- Idleness, leisure / relax
- Affection / love
- Freedom / choose
- Protection /protect
- Identity / belong
- Understanding /understand
- Creation /create
- Participation /stand up
- (Transcendence /dream)

(Manfred Max-Neef; "All we need" 2007)

Singular satisfiers: satisfying a particular need, in fact inhibit or destroy the possibility of satisfying other needs.

Eg. commercial television - while used to satisfy the need for recreation, interferes with understanding, creativity and identity.

Synergic satisfiers: not only satisfy one particular need, but also lead to satisfaction in other areas.

Eg. breast-feeding; educational games.



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Situation in Europe

- In 2002, EU-25 contained 7 % of the world's population and its consumption generated 17 % of the world's ecological footprint.
- We are taking our resources from the rest of the world and giving them back our waste.
- Eco-efficiency improvements are being outweighed by consumption growth.
- Current trends show rise in household consumption expenditures by 50% by 2030.

(European Environment Agency report, 2005)

A global circle

In 2006, Jeffrey Weidenhamer, a chemist at Ashland University in Ohio, bought some cheap, Chinese-made jewelry at a local dollar store for his class to analyze. The jewelry contained high amounts of lead and copper.

“Hi-tech” trash shipped illegally to China

- > unsafe and non-proper metal removal from waste
- > made into cheap jewelry
- > back to developed countries

(“High-tech trash”, National Geographic, 2008)

New directions

“Capitalism may collapse because it does not allow the economy to tell the ecological truth”.
(Lester Brown)

-> greening economy

“After 3.8 billion years of evolution (or of research and development) nature has learned what works, what is appropriate and what lasts.”
(Janine Benyus)

-> biomimicry in technology



Vegetal City by
Luc Schuiten

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Our role?

- Consumers
- Students
- Citizens
- Humans

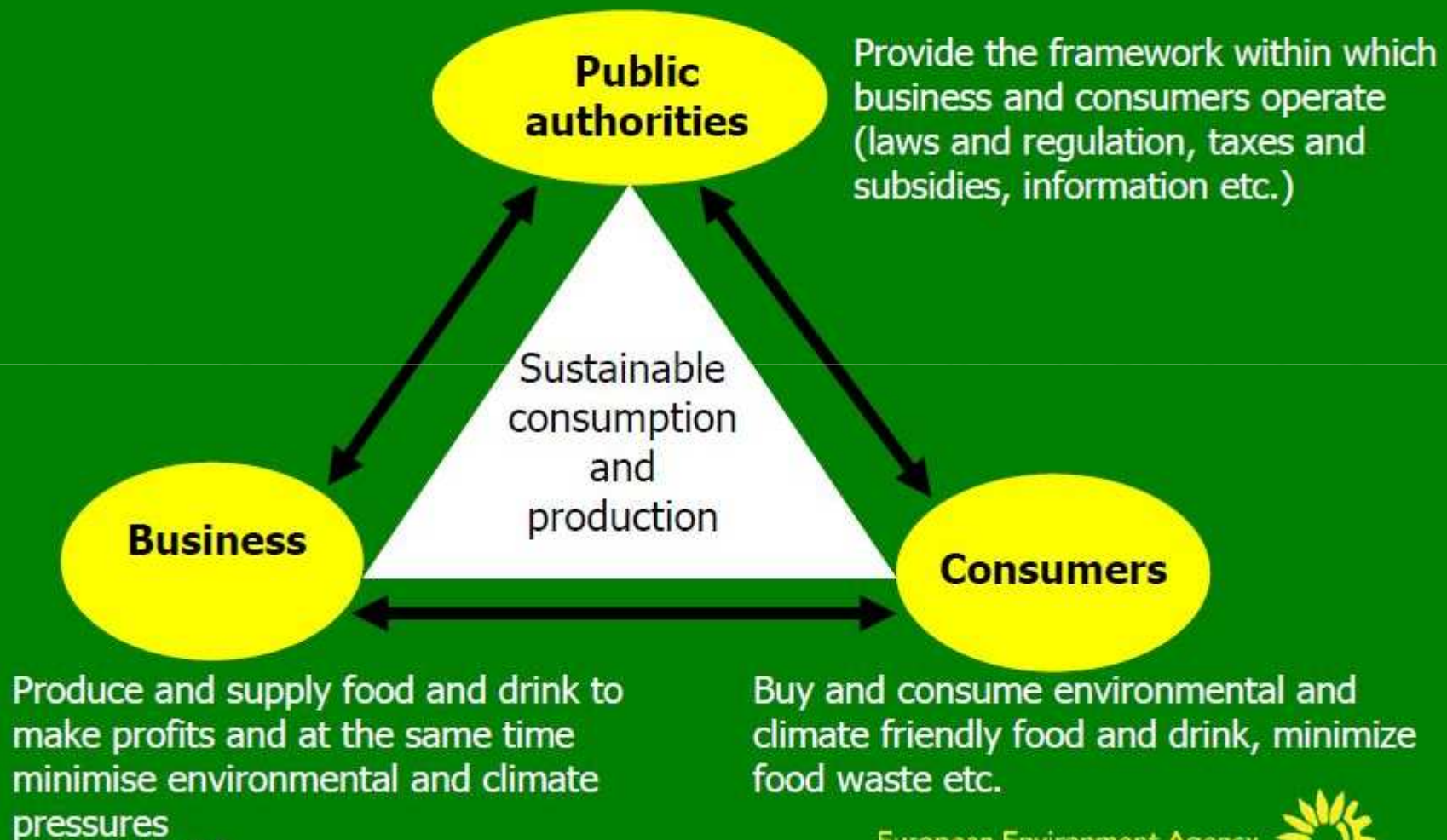
How to move towards sustainable development?

Key-word	%
Education, awareness	46,4
Governments	28,6
Resource use	20,7
Changing lifestyle	20
Companies	7,9
Equal opportunities	5,7

What are AEGEE'ans doing?

Key word	%
recycling	32,1
transport	25,7
energy use	26,4
volunteer work	24,3
consumption	20,7
self-development	18,6
water use	8,6
packages	7,9
food	5,7
Supporting NGOs, foundations	4,3
one person cannot change anything	2,9

Opportunities in the triangle of change



Everyday-questions

- Plastic or glass?
- Paper or fabric?
- Etc

www.treehugger.com -> Pablo Päster

A simple Google search can result in 1-10 grams of CO2 emissions.

Universities and sustainability

- Centres of education, research, development, innovation -> dedicated to trigger changes
-> leadership role in advancing knowledge, technology and tools to create a sustainable future.
- Universities can clearly reinforce their commitment to sustainability by how they design and manage their own campus.

(International Sustainable Campus Network)

International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU)

- An alliance of 10 of the world's leading research universities (eg. Peking University, University of Cambridge, University of Copenhagen, Yale University).
- IARU Campus Sustainability Programme: reduce the overall environmental impact of universities, main focus on climate change.
- Campus Sustainability Toolkit: 6 steps how to implement sustainability into university management.

Examples

- Organic food in the cafeterias
- Gender balance and cultural diversity
- Landscape design supporting nonformal learning outside of the classroom
- Energy efficiency
- Decreasing water use
- Environmental friendly transport
- Sustainability courses in curricula
- **Student initiatives**
- etc

What can we do?

Think!

Ask!

Research!

Create!

Explain!

New era of sustainability is being
organised from the bottom up.
(Paul Hawkin)

“In spaceship Earth there are no passengers.
We are all crew.”



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*I choose to understand, not follow,
I choose to protect, not hurt,
I choose to love, not hate,
I choose to create, not destroy,
I choose to dream, not give up,
I choose identity, not anonymity,
I choose to relax and act,
I choose to participate.*

("All we need", 2007)

Thank you!

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