

MERICI COLLEGE GREEN TIP #18 – WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainability and sustainable futures are the goals of a process called 'sustainable development'.



So, what is 'sustainable development'?

According to the original definition:

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

Brundtland Report (WCED, 1987)

This definition emphasises the long-term concept of sustainability and introduces the ethical principle of achieving equity between the present and future generations.

The context in which the definition is embedded indicates that 'needs' include a sound environment, a just society and a healthy economy.

Alternatively:

"Sustainable development comprises types of economic and social development which protect and enhance the natural environment and social equity."

Diesendorf, *Models of Sustainability and Sustainable Development*, International Journal of Agricultural Resources, Governance and Ecology · February 2001

So, what does sustainability mean to you?

