

The Five Core Sustainability Principles

A New Framework

Transforming the world's economy to a sustainable basis presents the most significant challenge to the 21st century. This challenge is unprecedented in scope. It requires a fundamental shift in consciousness as well as in action. It calls for a fresh vision, a new dream and new approaches for shaping an evolving new reality.

If we are serious about ensuring a sustainable future, we need to be guided by a set of rigorous principles which underlie sustainability as an enduring state. The set of principle offered in this presentation was developed for this purpose. It was refined recently after a six weeks, on-line dialogue conducted on the Buckminster Fuller Institute web site (www.bfi.org), in which near 1,000 people participated from around the world.

The principles are articulated in a general fashion but can receive a specific operational meaning in relation to particular sectors of the economy, development issues, business strategies, investment guidelines, or initiatives taken by individuals. They are expressed in relation to five fundamental domains:

- ***The Material Domain:*** Constitutes the basis for regulating the flow of materials and energy that underlie existence.
- ***The Economic Domain:*** Provides a guiding framework for husbanding and managing wealth.
- ***The Domain of Life:*** Provides the basis for appropriate behavior in the biosphere.
- ***The Social Domain:*** Provides the basis for social interactions.
- ***The Spiritual Domain:*** Identifies the necessary attitudinal orientation and provides the basis for a universal code of ethics.

The result is a set of five core principles, each with its own derived policy and operational implications. The set is fundamentally systemic in nature, meaning, that each principle affects all the others and is affected by each in return.

Recent presentation and seminar about sustainability and the sustainability principles were conducted by Dr. Ben-Eli in the following locations:

- ***The World Bank. Washington, DC.***
- ***SustainAbility. London, England.***
- ***The Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.***

- *Key Stone Center, Colorado. (At San Jose, Costa Rica).*
- *World Bank Institute. Washington, D.C.*
- *MIT, Leadership Forum. Cambridge, Massachusetts.*
- *The Boeing Leadership Forum. St. Louis, Mo.*
- *Center for Sustainable Human Development. San Jose, Costa Rica.*
- *The Green Building Society. Houston, TX.*
- *The Central European University. Budapest, Hungary.*
- *The Center for Environmental Economics, St. Gallen University. St. Gallen, Switzerland.*
- *Preus-Kune. Miami, FLA.*
- *The Omega Institute at The Crossing. Austin, TX.*
- *The New School University. New York, NY.*
- *Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Toronto, Canada.*
- *University College London. London, England.*
- *EUROMED Marseille, School of Management. Marseille, France.*
- *University of Geneva, MBA program. Geneva, Switzerland.*
- *Inter-American University. San Juan, Puerto Rico.*
- *The Human Forum, Alliance for the New Humanity. San Juan, Puerto Rico.*
- *Mythic Journeys 06, Atlanta, Ga*
- *The World Wisdom Alliance, Club of Budapest. Toronto, Canada*