



“Over the long run, a successful society is supported by both a healthy economy and a healthy environment, which, in turn, are supported by the health of the community. Each element is one critical leg that supports a three-legged stool. All three legs of the stool must be strong. Remove any of the three legs and the stool will soon collapse.”

Source: *A Citizen's Guide to Achieving a Healthy Community, Economy and Environment*, Center for Compatible Economic Development, The Nature Conservancy, Leesburg, Virginia, 1996. (Used with permission.)

Principles

OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Round Table on Sustainable Development offers five principles as guideposts along the path of sustainable development. They are:

1 Global interdependence. Economic prosperity, ecosystem health, liberty and justice are linked, and our long-term well-being depends on maintaining all four. Local decisions must be informed by their regional and global context.

2 Stewardship. Stewardship requires the recognition that we are all caretakers of the environment and economy for the benefit of present and future generations. We must balance the impacts of today's decisions with the needs of future generations.

3 Conservation. Minnesotans must maintain essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems of the environment; harvest renewable resources on a sustainable basis; and make wise and efficient use of our renewable and non-renewable resources.

4 Indicators. Minnesotans need to have and use clear goals and measurable indicators based on reliable information to guide public policies and private actions toward long-term economic prosperity, community vitality, cultural diversity and healthy ecosystems.

5 Shared responsibility. All Minnesotans accept responsibility for sustaining the environment and economy, with each being accountable for his or her decisions and actions, in a spirit of partnership and open cooperation. No entity has the right to shift the costs of its behavior to other individuals, communities, states, nations or future generations. Full-cost accounting is essential for assuring shared responsibility.