

1. Q) When we say “sustainability”, what do we mean?

A) Sustainability means working to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

2. Q) There are many definitions of “sustainability.” Where did this one come from?

A) This is the most commonly used definition of sustainability, coined by the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development.

3. Q) Is sustainability a new concept?

A) Actually, sustainability is not only a long-standing American tradition, but it has been the recognized way of life for native or indigenous peoples in many other places in the world.

4. Q) How will educating our students for sustainability help them?

A) Sustainability empowers our students as stakeholders in their communities as they work towards creating their desired sustainable future.

5. Q) What is the challenge of the modern sustainability movement?

A) The challenge of the sustainability movement is to help modern societies reconnect with this seasoned tradition:
taking care of all living things within the means of nature.

6. Q) What are the goals of the modern sustainability movement?

A) The diagram to the right shows the 3 interconnected major goals of sustainability.



7. Q) What does education for Sustainability (Efs) have to do with these goals?

A) Efs seeks to bring these three goals closer to reality. It promotes an understanding of the interconnectedness of the environment, economy, and society. Ultimately, Efs links this knowledge with inquiry and action to help students build a healthy future for their communities and planet.

8. Q) Why should an educator care about Efs? How can it improve education?

A) Seeing the world through the lens of Efs, integrates local and global issues into the curriculum. It is a compelling connector for students personally and collectively. It easily aligns with the Common Core Learning ELA and Math Standards, as well as STEM standards. In short, Efs fosters:

- Basic Environmental Literacy
- Interconnectedness
- Love of Place
- Systems Thinking
- Ecological Economics
- Values
- Citizenship Skills