

Sustainability in the curriculum

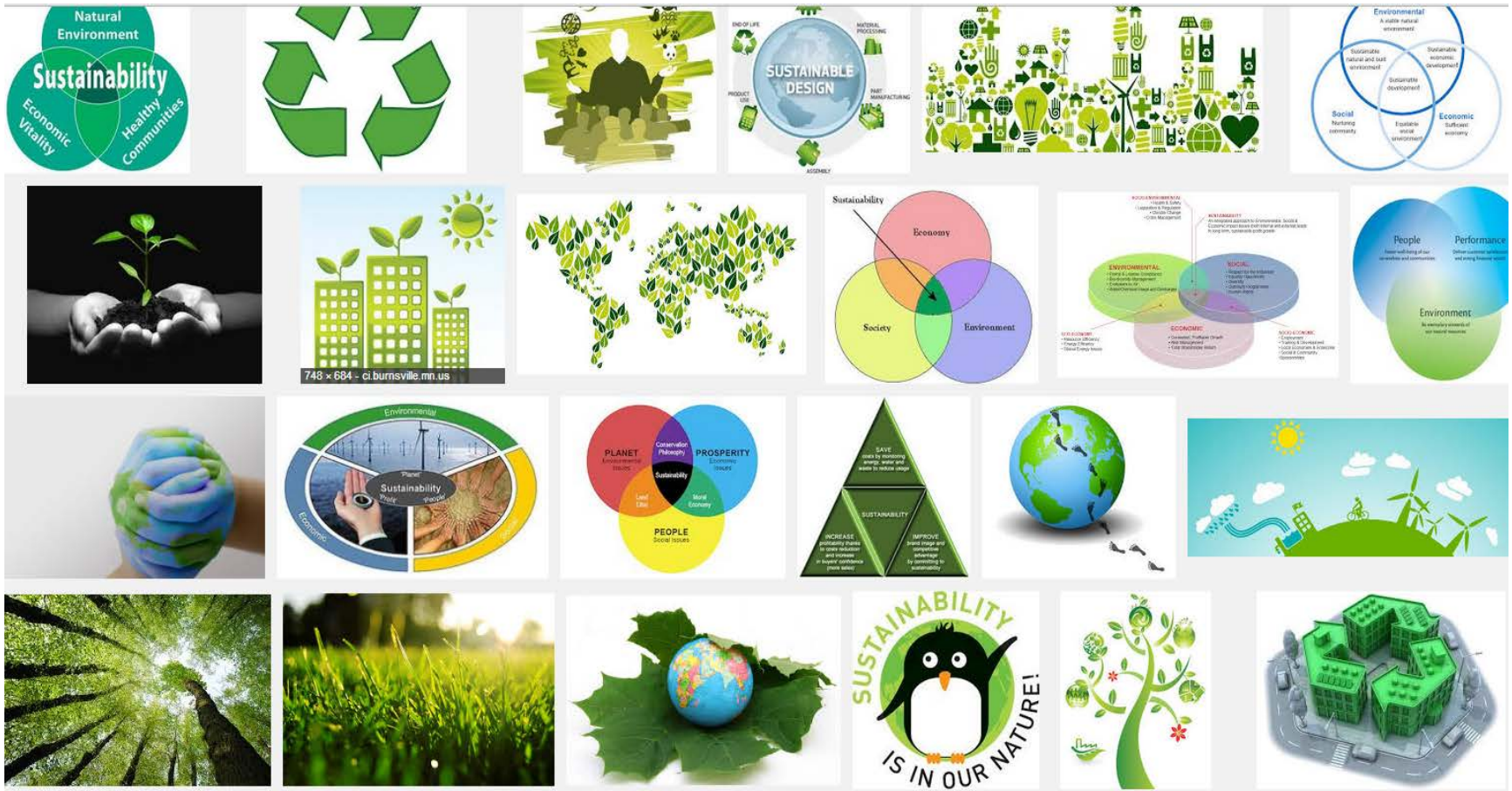
Empowering students, face future challenges and
enriching society

Mark Weinstein & Lina Erlandsson



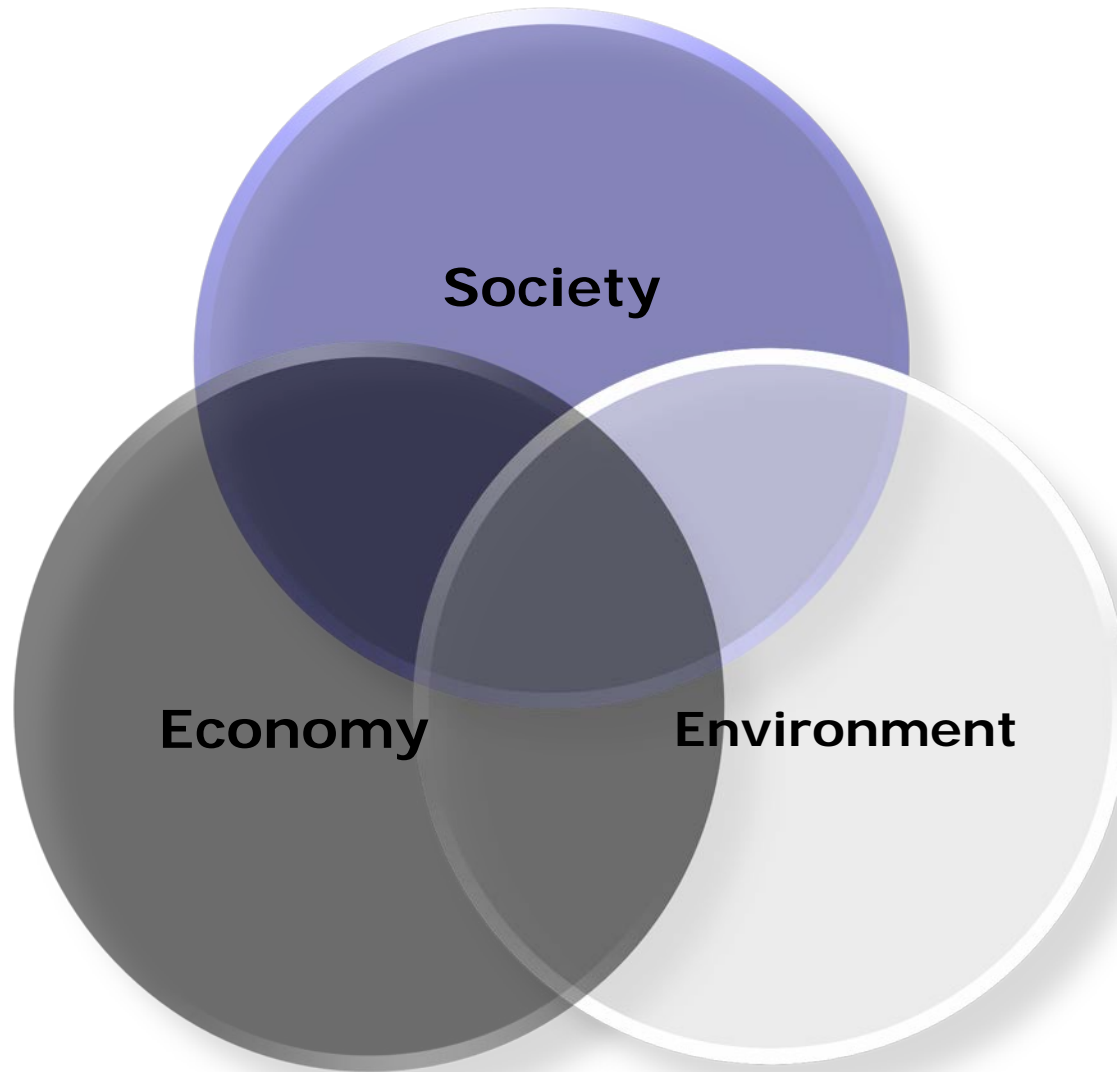
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is aiming to equip students with skills, knowledge and values that will help them address and solve the social, environmental and economic challenges of today as well in the future.

Which picture represents sustainability?



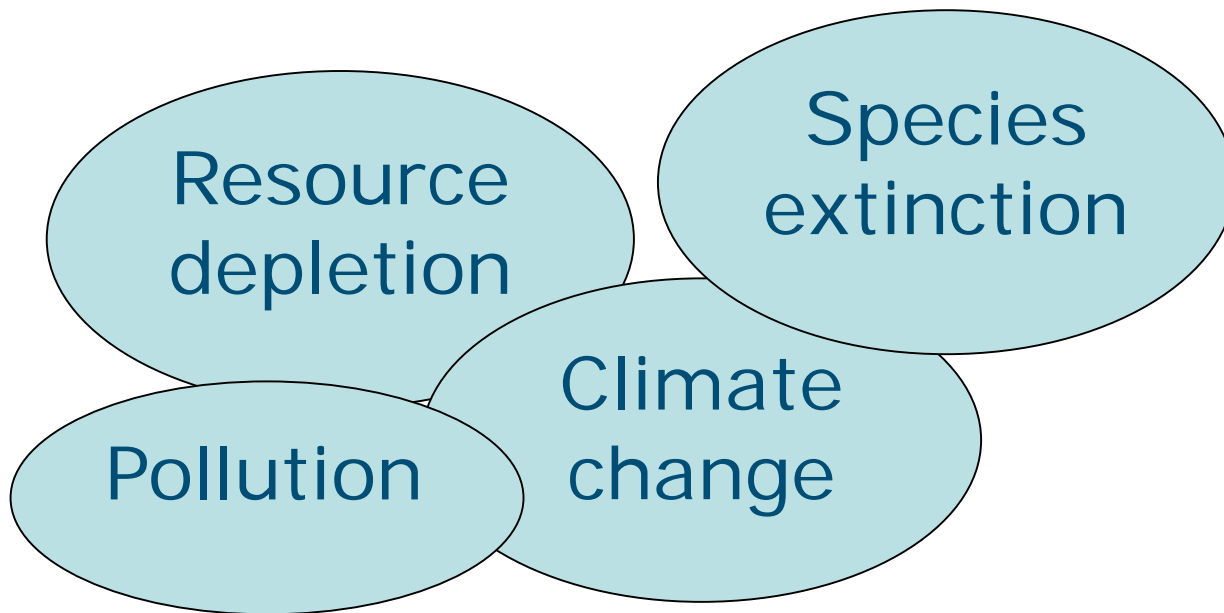
What is sustainability?

- Sustainability is satisfying current needs without sacrificing future well-being through the balanced pursuit of ecological health, economic welfare & social empowerment
- Sustainable development is the process of moving towards that goal of sustainability: the ongoing management and stewardship of environmental, economic & social processes such that our planet remains a viable proposition



Environmental sustainability

All of the obvious things that we think about when we think of sustainability

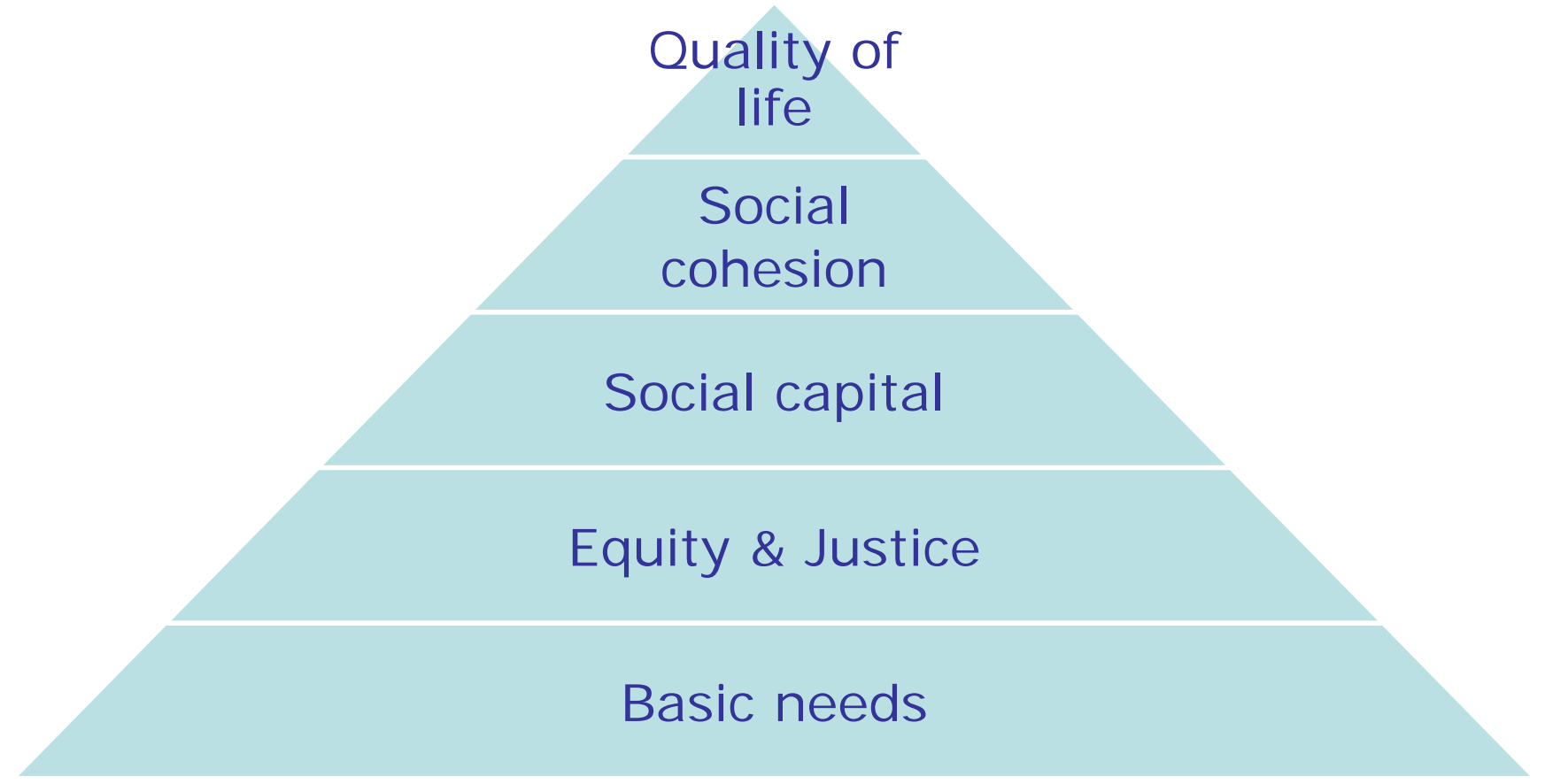


Economic sustainability

- Maintaining a level of economic activity & growth that is necessary to stimulate employment & deliver sufficient living standards in societies around the globe
 - What level of growth is needed to support positive social outcomes?
 - How are the benefits of growth distributed & shared?
 - What level of growth is desirable/possible within environmental constraints?

Social sustainability

Ensuring the continuing viability & functionality of society as a collective entity



NTU Student Sustainability Survey 2015

- 59% of the respondents wanted to incorporate **more sustainability content** in existing courses
- The majority of the respondents wanted to **learn more about sustainability**.

NTU Student Sustainability Survey 2015

'More course awareness'

'Professors mentioning or reminding their students about sustainability could be a wise move'

'I think it should be a compulsory requirement of every course discipline'

'A small module in each course on sustainability'

'Work together with students rather than just giving them info'

'I think the fundamentals are there, but they definitely need to be advertised more/integrated into course learning.'

'Incorporate more sustainable content into course modules'

'NTU should incorporate it within every module and have a specific module'

'Keep up current work but increase awareness throughout courses'

NUS Uni skills survey 2016 – results from NTU

- The majority of the students believes universities should be obliged to develop student's **social and environmental skills** as part of their course
- Students are starting to see the connection between **increased employability** and **sustainability skills and knowledge**.
- 74% of the respondents are ready to sacrifice £1000 of their starting salary to work for a company with a **strong environmental and social record**.

'They brainwashed us from day 1. I'm sick of hearing about global warming, healthy eating, and multiculturalism'

Student demand – UK wide

- **National Union of Students**

- Sustainability agenda based on student demands

- **HEA/NUS Survey**

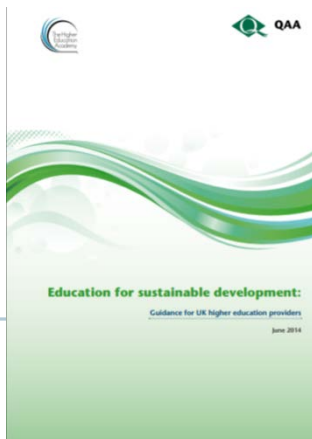
- HEA/NUS Report: 'Students Attitudes Towards and Skills for Sustainable Development'

HEA/NUS Survey – Key findings

- Eight in every ten students consistently believes that **sustainability should be actively incorporated and promoted by universities** - this increases as respondents progress through their studies.
- Over two-thirds of respondents consistently believe that sustainability should be **incorporated into all university courses**.
- Desire among students for a **reframing of curriculum content**, rather than additional content or courses

External frameworks for sustainability in higher education

- **Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)**
 - Education for Sustainable Development: Guidance for UK higher education providers
- **Higher Education Academy (HEA)**
 - The Future Fit Framework
- **Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)**



NTU is a sustainable university!

- NTU ranked 4th best in the UK on sustainability (People and Planet University League)
- NTU ranked 3rd in the international sustainability league table with 360 other universities (UI GreenMetric)
- One of the first universities taking part in NUS Responsible Futures.



Small group activity

Share some examples in the following areas:

- What do you currently do on your course that explicitly addresses part of the sustainability agenda & is presented within as such?
- What do you currently do on your course that is within the discourse of sustainability but which is not currently framed as such?
- What could you introduce to your course that would fit in with the sustainability agenda that would sit comfortably within your subject area?

Curriculum Refresh Framework

F1 - Students explore how aspects of the discipline contribute to one or more of the **Sustainable Development Goals**. The course provides opportunities for students to explore the potential of their discipline to interconnect with other disciplines or areas of expertise and make creative leaps forward.

F2 - The course examines **relationships between environmental, social and economic systems** from **local to global level**.

F3 - **Leadership for sustainable development** is encouraged through challenging assumptions and negotiating alternatives to unsustainable current practices, especially within the student's own discipline.

F4 - The course encourages **systems thinking** in terms of recognising connections and interactions between factors, and understanding that actions often have multiple consequences.

F5 - The course encourages **commitment to lifelong learning** about adapting to future challenges of meeting social and environmental responsibilities.

F6 - The course facilitates and supports **dialogue and debate** on critical issues related to global social responsibility within the wider sustainability agenda, fostering respect for different values and world views.

F7 - The course encourages the capacity for independent, evidence-based integrated thinking as the foundation for developing their **personal ethical code**.

Support for Curriculum Refresh

- **Course leader workshops**
 - Monthly workshops on ESD and curriculum refresh
- **Education for Sustainable Development – Future Thinking Learning Room**
 - Can be found under the Staff Development tab on NOW

Education for Sustainable Development: Future Thinking Learning Room

Enabling us to be an environmentally responsible and sustainable organisation

Welcome! This learning room is to support staff in fulfilling the Education for Sustainable Development - Future Thinking section of Curriculum Refresh. Here you will find a variety of teaching resources and guidelines within the remit.

There are different ways you can use this learning room: **to access the Curriculum Refresh Resources click here.** Alternatively you can explore this homepage to access resources via School or by Sustainable Development Goal.

Please note that this learning room is currently under construction. At the moment you can find the most resources in the 'Schools' section. Bear with us whilst we continue to add resources and develop the pages.



NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY

TILT
Trent Institute for Learning and Teaching

ESD - Future Thinking

If you want to read more about the idea of Education for Sustainable Development and how it is linked to Curriculum Refresh click the logo below.



The SDGs

The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are part of the new Agenda 2030 aiming to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all.

Click the button below to find out more and to access teaching resources for each of the goals.



Access the resources

Click on the buttons below to begin browsing the resource library.



Support for Curriculum Refresh

- Course leader workshops
- Education for Sustainable Development – Future Thinking Learning Room
- **ESD officers**
 - **Lina Erlandsson** – School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment, Arts and Humanities, School of Education, Nottingham Law School and School of Social Sciences
 - **Jessica Willats** – School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences, Nottingham Business School, Art & Design & Science and Technology.