



VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

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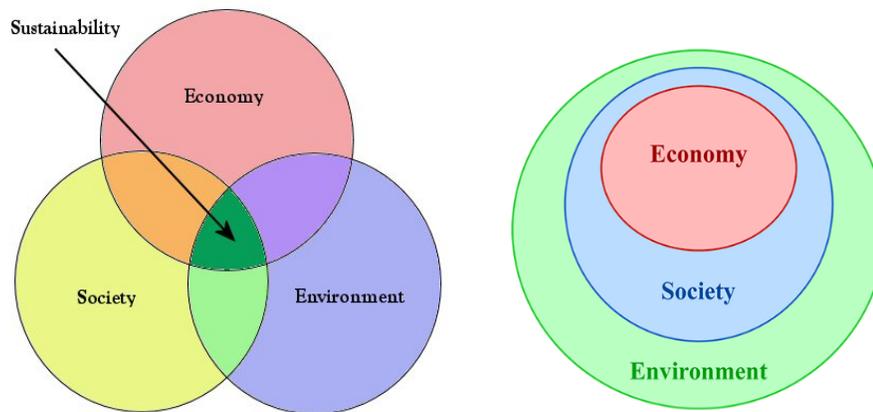
SUSTAINABILITY PRIMER

A Definition of Sustainability

Sustainability is typically defined as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.” This definition dates back to the 1987 *Brundtland Report* produced by the World Commission on Environment and Development and commissioned by the United Nations.

Sustainability: The “Triple Bottom Line”

In practice, sustainability is often conceptualized as incorporating three areas of concern for towns and cities: Economy, Environment, and Equity. This is often referred to as the “triple bottom line,” which is commonly depicted through diagrams below. The one on the left is a more “textbook” version of the diagram, while the one to the right is how municipalities typically plan for sustainability. The Environment is the overarching theme.



Sustainability Topics

There are many different ways to organize the structure of a sustainability plan, or, in the Village’s case, a comprehensive plan update with sustainability as a major focal point. The local examples we’ve collected generally are structured around the following topic areas: **Energy, Climate, Materials Management/Waste, Water/Resilience, Land Use, and Transportation.**

At the regional level, the primary sustainability-related topic areas in the [Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan](#) are structured as follows:

- Land Use, Livable Communities, and Transportation
- Energy
- Materials Management
- Agriculture and Open Space
- Water

At the local level, public awareness is often included as a primary topic in sustainability plans—a topic the CFTE identified during the March 20 meeting as being very important. The [City of Rye Sustainability Plan](#) and the [City of New Rochelle GreeNR](#) include Community Awareness & Outreach as a primary topic.



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We consulted various other sustainability planning resources to get a sense of the guidance that is being provided with respect to topics. The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and the Institute for Sustainable Energy produced [Sustainable Communities: A Municipal Toolkit](#). The structure of this guide includes several more descriptive titles related to **Energy** and a section on **Local Food**, which could include—for non-rural communities—rooftop farming or gardening, community-supported agriculture, etc.

- Energy Efficiency
- Clean Energy Generation
- Materials Management
- Land Use & Transportation
- Local Food
- Resilience & Climate Adaptation

Other topics we have observed in various plans and guides include: **Air/Air Quality, Public Health & Environmental Justice, and Equity**. “Umbrella” topics are those, such as **Climate Change** and **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**, which can encompass a wide range of topic areas.

Within the topic of **Water**, many municipalities recently have been focusing on reducing stormwater runoff by installing green stormwater infrastructure, which refers to non-structural methods to reduce stormwater runoff (e.g., green roofs, rain gardens, etc.). Other water-related actions might include, for example, discouraging residents from using pesticides on their lawns and gardens.

Related to the topic of **Transportation**, some plans and guides use the term “Mobility,” which suggests a broader view of transportation encompassing accessibility and facilities for all modes: foot, bicycle, car, and truck.

Clearly, “sustainability” can encompass many different aspects of a community. Furthermore, sustainability initiatives don’t always fall neatly into just one topic area. For example, initiatives involving trees (their management, preservation, and enhancement) address multiple topics, including **Energy** (tree cover for energy efficiency), **Water** (trees keeping soil intact for runoff absorption), and **Air Quality** (pollution reduction).