

THE TRANSFORMATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(Over the past 100 years)

A white paper on the democratic rationale for applications of a conservation-based system of development metrics for a sustainable global habitat, re: The Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities' (JISC) registered EcoSTEP®[®], and SUSTAINOMETRICS®[©] tools.

—W. Cecil Steward, 2019, JISC, Nebraska Shades of Green Library, www.joslyninstitute.org

Major contemporary influences: Transitions (change) in the context of the **Five Domains of Sustainable Development:**

Environment—a growing public awareness of the fragility, and human influences on the survival, of natural systems, as we have known them; (a limited cognition and educational experience)

Events— * Climate change, * Carbon emissions, from an almost total reliance on carbon resources for the energy that drives the economy, * Over-harvesting of natural resources, * Indiscriminate distribution of man-made chemicals and pesticides, *Manufacture of non-biodegradable plastics (using carbon resources) and packaging, *Lack of conservation-based management of land, water, energy, materials, and food....

Socio-cultural—challenges to major social and cultural traditions that humans have experienced over more than 200 years of industrial-driven “civilization”; (reemergence of homophobia, racism, tribalism, intolerance of cultural distinctions, and sexual violences)

Events—* Social Media, and the opportunity for every cell-phone to be the “corner soap-box of free speech” in democratic cultures, * Distrust of government and elected officials, * Inability to control incidents of gun-violence, *Collapse of faith-based ethics and principled behavior among multi-denominational church authorities.....

Technologies—a “reverence” for mankind’s devotion, and success, at “making” things, tools, and places; (blind faith, and the lack of quality control for experiments, marketing, public applications, and adoptions, without adequate analyses of consequences of uses)

Events—* Biological, material, and chemical pollution with no place to dispose of wastes, * Human life controlled by the consumption cycle of “make - own - dispose - make new”, * Corporate “planned obsolescence” of products to assure a continuity of new markets.....

Economics—humankind’s adoption of a universal, “capitalist” culture of measuring the value of all secular events, things, objects, and human effort in terms of “money”; (the distribution of value and economic resources has not been equitable, creating strife and tensions between “haves” and “have-nots”)

Events— * Gross National Product (GNP) established as the primary metric for “national growth and prosperity”, * Creation of “econometrics” as the science of economic value, *Federal tax policies that allow the wealthiest individuals to avoid an equitable percentage of tax responsibility....

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JOSLYN INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

127 N 11th Street/Suite 2
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402 730 5996

8250 Ruggles Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68134
402 991 8747

jci@sustainabledesign.org
www.joslyninstitute.org

Public Policies—Governments, regulations, and public policies have been established and administered with more, or less, emphases on human rights and public participation in the making of policies; (democratic principles require equity of public participation, access for all, and a system of governance that responds to contemporary evolution of human and earth needs, and change in the above domains).

Events—* Transformation of the two-party democratic governance process that allows the wealthiest corporations and individuals to “buy” access and influence to the making or changing of public policies in their own self-interests, * State and local policies that allow “red-lining” of mortgage financing and community development funding to minority and/or disadvantaged individuals and neighborhoods, *A growing U.S. population of poverty-level, homeless individuals, and under-nourished children, *A political and economic division of cultures within the U.S.,* Financial Trust policies that have allowed corporations to become “too large, to fail” in times of economic stress, * Divestment of federal regulation of key, national public service entities for the sole advantage of private companies and corporations under the economic principles of “capitalism”, (i.e., national and international airlines, rail transportation, postal services, telecommunications, health-care, etc).....

- Building visions of our planetary future:

The key question is not “What does it mean to be human?”, but

“What does it mean to be human and living on planet Earth with 10 billion other individuals?”

- Other questions to be pondered:

Why are the Scandinavian nations judged to accommodate the “happiest” cultures on the planet?

Why has the Republican governor of Florida established a “State Office of Resiliency”?

Why has the nation of Bhutan based its entire national constitution upon the principles of “conservation”?

What have we learned from the studies of child and social psychologists that could aid in living in sustainable communities?

What impact can the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) have on our collective global future?

- Goal 1: No Poverty. Economic growth must be inclusive to provide sustainable jobs and promote equality
- Goal 2: Zero Hunger



- Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being
- Goal 4: Quality Education
- Goal 5: Gender Equality
- Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

How can the principles of sustainable community metrics affect visions, management, operations planning, physical development planning, business and manufacturing, and infrastructure design, construction and community administration, to achieve happy, peaceful, resilient, and sustainable communities?



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