

STRONG Sustainability, STRONG Professionals

Strengthening Graduate Learning

Outline

- Why This Focus?
- STRONG Sustainability
- STRONG Professionals
- Strengthening Graduate Learning
- Strong Sustainability Academic Strategy

Why This Focus?

- **Sustainability**

- holistic
- ethic
- urgent

- **Professionals**

- practice
- professional organizations
- potentials

Sustainability Academic Strategy (SAS)

- “The SAS Working Group understands sustainability as the emergent property of a societal conversation about the kind of world we want to live in, informed by some understanding of the **ecological, social** and **economic** consequences of our individual and collective actions. Sustainability is about achieving a future that is both desirable and achievable in ecological, social and economic terms.”
- “It is...a **highly normative and political concept**, though deeply informed by scholarship on the interaction of human societies and the environment around them. Universities should be a major locus for discussion and debate on all aspects of sustainability.”

SAS

“strong dialogue”

- The SAS Working Group understands sustainability as the emergent property of an **urgent** societal conversation about the kind of world we want to live in, informed by some understanding of the **ecological, social** and **economic** consequences of our individual and collective actions. Sustainability is about achieving **asap** a future that is both desirable and achievable in ecological, social and economic terms.”
- “It is...a **highly normative and political concept, demanding urgent action that is** deeply informed by scholarship on the interaction of human societies and the environment around them. Universities should be a major locus for discussion and debate on all aspects of sustainability.”

	TECHNOCENTRIC		ECOCENTRIC	
	Cornucopian	Accommodating	Communalist	Deep ecology
Green labels	Resource exploitative, growth-orientated position	Resource conservationist and 'managerial' position	Resource preservationist position	Extreme preservationist position
Type of economy	Anti-green economy, unfettered free markets	Green economy, green markets guided by economic incentive instruments [EIs] (eg pollution charges etc)	Deep green economy, steady-state economy regulated by macro-environmental standards and supplemented by EIs	Very deep green economy, heavily regulated to minimise 'resource-take'
Management strategies	Primary economic policy objective, maximise economic growth (Gross National Product [GNP]) Taken as axiomatic that unfettered free markets in conjunction with technical progress will ensure infinite substitution possibilities capable of mitigating all 'scarcity/limits'	Modified economic growth (adjusted green accounting to measure GNP) Decoupling important but infinite substitution rejected. Sustainability rules: constant capital rule	Zero economic growth; zero population growth Decoupling plus no increase in scale. 'Systems' perspective – 'health' of whole ecosystems very important; Gaia hypothesis and implications	Reduced scale of economy and population Scale reduction imperative; at the extreme for some there is a literal interpretation of Gaia as a personalised agent to which moral obligations are owed
Ethics	Support for traditional ethical reasoning: rights and interests of contemporary individual humans; instrumental value (i.e. of recognised value to humans) in nature	Extension of ethical reasoning: 'caring for others' motive – intragenerational and intergenerational equity (ie contemporary poor and future people); instrumental value in nature	Further extension of ethical reasoning: interests of the collective take precedence over those of the individual; primary value of ecosystems and secondary value of component functions and services	Acceptance of bioethics (ie moral rights/ interests conferred on all non-human species and even the abiotic parts of the environment); intrinsic value in nature (ie valuable in its own right regardless of human experience)
Sustainability labels	Very weak sustainability	Weak sustainability	Strong sustainability	Very strong sustainability

David Pearce, 1993

Blueprint view



Weak sustainability


Strong sustainability

Tim
O'Riordan,
1998

Table 1.1 The transition to sustainability

	<i>Environmental Policy</i>	<i>Economic Policy</i>	<i>Public Awareness</i>	<i>Public Discourse</i>
Stage 1: very weak sustainability	Lip service to policy integration	Minor tinkering with economic instruments on a case-by-case basis; some reinvestment of income toward the goal of sustainability	Dim awareness and little media coverage	Corporatist discussion groups and consultation exercises
Stage 2: weak sustainability	Formal policy integration and specific targets, backed by new institutional structures	Substantial restructuring of economic incentives; large-scale reinvestment of income toward the goal of sustainability	Wider public education involving 'perforated' classroom walls	Roundtables, stakeholder group participation, and legislative surveillance
Stage 3: strong sustainability	Binding policy integration and strong international agreements coupled to performance targets and indicators	Full valuations of the cost of living, green accounting, and creation of a 'civic income' for social use	Curriculum integration, with local educational initiatives geared to community growth	Community involvement, pairing of initiatives in the developed and developing worlds
Stage 4: very strong sustainability	Strong international conventions, national duties of care, and statutory and cultural support	Formal shift to sustainability accounting locally, nationally and internationally	Comprehensive cultural shift coupled with technological innovation and new community structures	Community-led initiatives become the norm

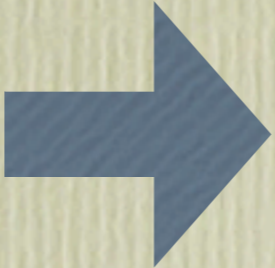
Strengthening SAS

- **Explore** and **Exemplify**
- **Living Laboratory** and **Agent of Change**
- Inject a Sense of **Urgency**  Transformation
- More on Social and Economic Sustainability
- Address the Interdependencies
- Add Focus on Sustainability Governance
- Add Focus on Ethics

Professionals & professionals: Old and New

- Clergy, Lawyer, Doctor...Military, Police
 - engineer, forester, architect, teacher, nurse, dentist, accountant, social worker.....
 - economist, biologist,.....
 - planner, mediator (transdisciplinary)
 - emerging: Ecological Economics, Planners Network, New Urbanist Congress, IAP2, IT,.....

Defining Characteristics

- value to society  status and privilege
- autonomy and organization
- specialized knowledge (theory, judgement)
- advanced education
- entry controls
- certification and licencing,
- ethics codes
- continuing professional development

Professionals:
Sustainability Potentials
*if we didn't have them, we would
want to invent them*

- Critical roles (omnipresent)
- Essential capabilities (learning)
- Vital commitment (ethics)

Professionals: Challenges in Reaching Potentials

- Failures in performance (Enron, Anderson, NYT)
- Reformulating concept of professional (e.g. Mediators)
- Under resourced (e.g. Planners and emergent organizations)

Academy and Profession: Helping Each Other

- **Academy**

- Curriculum
- Degrees and Certificates
- Research
- Service



- **Profession**

- Adjunct Professors
- Internships
- Fellowships
- Mentoring
- Accreditation

STRONG Sustainability and STRONG Professional Learning

- **Knowledge**

- environmental systems
- social systems
- economic systems
- governance systems
- ethics

- **Skills**

- learning to learn
- policy analysis and design
- communication and interaction
- collaboration and advocacy
- strategy and tactics

Among the Many Questions

- How can SCARP work more closely with Adjunct Professors in designing and delivering the curriculum?
- Should SCARP add a professional doctorate?
- Should IRES add a (i) professional masters; (ii) professional doctorate?
- Should CFIS incorporate experimental development of STRONG sustainability learning and STRONG professionalism into its mission?