

## Discussion outline – Sustainability and Green Building

### Plan Commissioner Network

Wednesday, November 19, 2008 @ T. Clayton Municipal Building, 6-8pm

#### I. What is Sustainability?

“Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains two key concepts: the concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world’s poor, and the idea of limitations...on the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs.” Source: The Brundtland Report, 1987

“In a sustainable society, nature is not subject to systematically increasing:

- a) Concentrations of substances extracted from the earth’s crust (e.g. digging up and using too much fossil fuels, iron ore, minerals and metals)
- b) Concentrations of substances produced by society (e.g. pesticides, pharmaceuticals, fire retardants)
- c) Degradation by physical means (e.g. overharvesting forests and fisheries, turn open land into pavement)

And d) people are not able to meet their needs (e.g. drinkable water, housing, safe food, participation)

Source: The Natural Step, <http://www.naturalstep.ca/>

#### Four Questions – How can our community:

- Reduce, and ultimately eliminate, our dependence on materials we take from the earth?
- Reduce, and ultimately eliminate, our dependence on and use of man-made materials and chemicals?
- Reduce, and ultimately eliminate, degradation of our natural resources, land, water and air?
- Create a community where everyone can meet their needs?

#### II. How can it apply to local governments/plan commissions?

- Toolkit for local governments: Energy, Buildings, Transportation/mobility, procurement, investments, Human Resources

#### III. Green Building -- one strategy in the sustainability spectrum

- Hear story from T. Clayton
- Hoffman, LLC

#### IV. Topic Selection for 2009