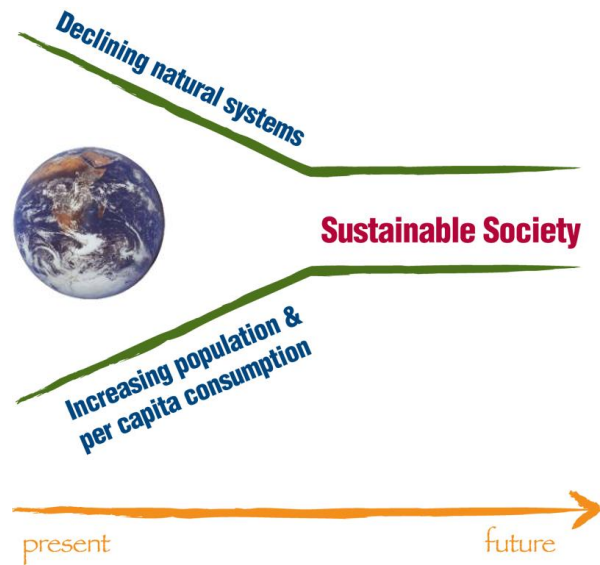


# The Natural Step – A Sustainability Framework



## ways we are unsustainable

We Dig Stuff Up



We create man-made chemicals



We break nature's cycles



We create societies where people can't meet basic needs



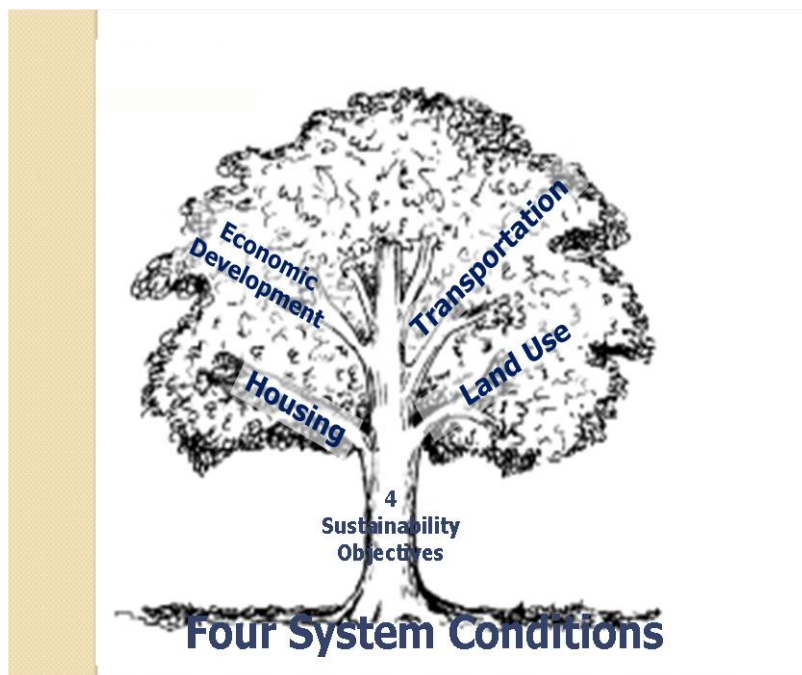
## The Natural Step system conditions for a sustainable society

In the sustainable society, nature is not subject to systematically increasing

1. ... concentrations of substances extracted from the Earth's crust (such as heavy metals, fossil fuels, etc.)
2. ... concentrations of substances produced by society (such as plastics, toxic chemicals, etc.)
3. ... degradation by physical means (such as via erosion, or rapid depletion of unique ecosystems, etc.)

And in that society...

4. people are not subject to conditions that systematically undermine their capacity to meet their needs.



### Guiding Objectives For A Sustainable Society, Based On The Natural Step Framework. Develop Policies And Practices That Ultimately:

1. Reduce dependence upon fossil fuels, extracted underground metals and minerals.
2. Reduce dependence on chemicals and other manufactured substances that can accumulate in Nature.
3. Reduce dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems.
4. Meet the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently.

*Objectives of American Planning Association's Strategy for Planning for Sustainability, adopted April 2000.*

### Resources:

<http://www.naturalstep.ca/> - The Natural Step Canada

<http://www2.uwsuper.edu/sustainability/> - Sustainability Capacity Center