

Tomorrow's Child

Without a name; an unseen face  
And knowing not your time nor place  
Tomorrow's child, though yet unborn,  
I saw you first last Tuesday morn.

A wise friend introduced us two,  
And through his shining point of view  
I saw a day which you would see;  
A day for you and not for me.

Knowing you has changed my thinking,  
For I never had an inkling  
That perhaps the things I do  
Might someday, somehow threaten you.

Tomorrow's child, my daughter – son,  
I'm afraid I've just begun  
To think of you and of your good  
Though always having known I should.

Begin I will to weigh the cost  
Of what I squander; what is lost  
If ever I forget that you  
Will someday come to live here, too.

*Glenn Thomas, Ó1996*

## **Introduction**

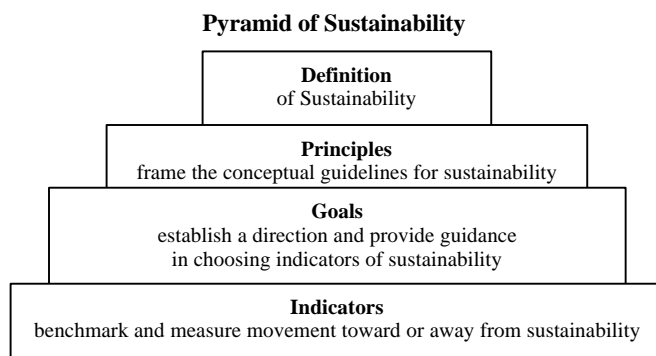
As a county, a nation and a world, we are facing crucial decisions about our future and our children's future. Both humans and the natural world are under enormous pressures. While our economy is booming we are witnessing a concomitant rise in population and a worldwide decline in the living systems upon which life depends. **Is this current course desirable or are we stealing from *Tomorrow's Child* to meet our expanding appetites today? Can we do better?**

Increasing concerns about our social, economic and environmental welfare require that we face the future with clearer eyes and a more integrated, longer-term perspective. This Report on Sustainable Community is designed to help Orange County in this task.

### **The Framework for Discussing Sustainability**

Over the past four months, the framework used by the Sustainability Committee (and this report) can be thought of as a hierarchy or pyramid, where each subsequent step further describes the concept of sustainability.

At the top of the pyramid is the **Definition**, the primary guidepost. **Principles** come next to frame the conceptual guidelines by stating sustainability's undeniable truths. The **Goals** make the definition more tangible and provide direction. The **Indicators** make the definition more concrete, because they enable us to benchmark and measure our community's progress toward or away from sustainability.



### **The Committee's Definition of Sustainability**

The Committee decided upon the following definition for Orange County:

***A sustainable community pursues ecological integrity and natural resource conservation as well as the satisfaction of basic human needs for the present and for future generations.***

In the simplest terms, sustainable communities are places where government and residents consider the goals of sustainable development in *all of their daily activities*. The political viability of a sustainable community depends on the full support of its people and a commitment from governing bodies, social and economic institutions, and private firms.

### **Inconsistencies in the Definition**

The broad definition of sustainability has made it more successful than many movements in bringing together widely divergent theoretical and ideological perspectives into a single conceptual framework.

The broad definition also means that there are inherent inconsistencies, such as needing to protect Orange County's open space while also needing to build more affordable housing (see Appendix A for Committee member Dirk Spruyt's explanation). Despite the inconsistencies, ideally sustainability creates a forum that cultivates a holistic view in which people can use their innovation and creativity to develop better solutions to the problems faced today.

### ***Principles of Sustainable Community***

A principle is “a basic truth” such as, if we use resources faster than they can be replaced, they will be depleted. That’s undeniable. While principles may seem abstract, they provide an overarching framework for the greater specificity that follows. They help set priorities and keep programs and actions working towards our vision of becoming sustainable. The Committee developed four principles:

1. **Earth’s life support system, of which humans are a part, is interdependent and most stable in the long-term when diverse.**  
This means that no action occurs within a vacuum. Everything effects everything else.
2. **Natural resources will be depleted unless they are used no faster than they are replaced.**  
This implies that humankind has a responsibility of stewardship over the earth for the benefit of future generations.
3. **To prevent a systematic build-up of harmful substances, both natural and human-made wastes must be produced at a rate equal to or less than the rate at which they can be recycled by natural and/or artificial processes.**
4. **Human need spans economic, environmental, cultural, social and spiritual dimensions in a setting of equity, dignity, and justice.**  
This recognizes that the rights and expressions/actions of some cannot be at the expense of others, including future generations.

### ***Goals and Indicators of Sustainability***

Since sustainability is concerned with complex societal and ecological issues, it is necessary to develop a *set* of goals and indicators that will reflect the various components of these complex systems. Together, they can provide a snapshot of the overall health and sustainability of a community. Used over time, such a set can also provide the community with information about the direction in which it is heading – toward or away from sustainability.

Understandably not every trend for such a broad topic can be measured, but in selecting the goals and indicators, the Committee members tried to reflect the diverse needs of Orange County’s urban and rural residents. **What is hoped is that when the data are collected, the indicators will provide a proxy for the overall health of the economy, environment and society.**

The Committee members developed five goals that Orange County needs to achieve to become sustainable. It then developed 44 indicators that would translate those general goals into a concrete means of measurement. Keep in mind this is the first draft of indicators, the next step is to determine if the data can be collected and to refine the list.

The following section of the report, out of necessity, is a compilation of lists. To make it easier to read, it has been organized by the five goals each with their own objectives and indicators. Each indicator includes a description of why it should be measured and which direction it should go to be moving toward sustainability.

**Goal 1: We need to live within Orange County’s carrying capacity. To do that, we must create a restorative, cyclical and nonpolluting economy where there is an efficient use of resources.**

To meet Goal 1, the Committee determined that Orange County needs to achieve four objectives:

- A. Operate on a system of needs and reward this kind of behavior by creating a “pay as you use” system (i.e. charging higher rates for water use greater than subsistence use).
- B. Work towards a zero waste system by turning waste into resources and eliminating the use of toxic chemicals.
- C. Become more energy efficient by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels by:
  - Moving to alternative energy sources, such as solar.
  - Reducing our dependence on the automobile by providing access to a diverse means of transportation including public transit and alternative transit (bikes, sidewalks, etc).
  - Encouraging green building, which uses recycled materials and incorporates various methods of energy efficiency.
- D. Reduce/eliminate pollutant loading of waterways.

**Indicators selected to measure progress toward Goal 1:**

**1. Number of trips taken by Single Occupancy Vehicles.**

This indicator is a broad proxy for whether alternative forms of transportation are used and whether we are moving away from our over-dependence upon fossil fuels. It also is an indicator of land use (also in Goal 3): if more SOV trips are taken, a community’s land uses may not be well integrated. In addition, the more roads built or widened to accommodate our SOV use, the more it affects our water supply and air quality. All important components of environmental and economic sustainability. This number should decrease.

**2. Per capita water consumption.**

Water is a precious resource which should be conserved and used efficiently. Treating and delivering water for domestic, commercial, and institutional uses costs money and requires the use of chemicals. Therefore, a community which is decreasing per capita water use is becoming more sustainable and more cost-efficient.

**3. Annual urban and rural population growth.**

Population growth drives urban and suburban sprawl. It challenges our ability to manage traffic, maintain wilderness and open space, and handle many other social and environmental problems. Overall population growth should slow over time, with higher concentrations of growth in the urban areas, in order to protect the rural areas from sprawling development.

**4. Number of active solar systems.**

This is a good indicator of businesses’ and citizen’s attempt to shift our dependence from non-renewable or polluting energy sources (i.e. from fossil fuels or nuclear energy) to renewable ones. This number should increase.

**5. Per capita Kilowatt hours of electricity.**

By definition, the use of non-renewable energy sources, which provide most of our electricity, is not sustainable in the long term because supplies are finite. This number should decrease in order to reflect a more efficient use of our energy resources.

**6. Ratio of impervious to pervious surfaces.**

Impervious surfaces prevent water from soaking into the soil, increase flooding and runoff of pollutants into our streams and water supply, and reduce the amount of land available for cultivation or open space. The amount of impervious surfaces should remain at constant levels or decrease.

**7. Miles of sidewalks and bikeways constructed, and the number of marked crosswalks.**

Automobile pollution degrades natural resources more than any other mode of transport. Wide or protected bike lanes, sidewalks, and crosswalks would facilitate use of non-polluting modes of transportation and reflect a walkable and integrated community in terms of land uses. This number should increase.

**8. Proportion of waste stream recycled and percentage recycled in the county (both solid waste and water).**

A sustainable community minimizes the amount of waste that cannot be recycled or reused. It uses materials efficiently and in cycles – in other words over and over again, instead of using them up. The proportion should increase.

**Table 1. Cross Reference of Goal 1 Objectives and Indicators\***

	<i>INDICATORS 1-8</i>							
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>A. Needs-based system</b>	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
<b>B. Zero Waste</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>C. Energy Efficiency</b>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
<b>D. Watershed Protection</b>		✓	✓			✓	✓	

*\*The cross reference shows the correlation between the indicators and objectives for Goal 1. The objectives are listed in the rows (A-D), the indicators on the columns (1-8). A 'check' shows which objectives can be measured by which indicators.*

## **Goal 2: We must preserve the area's natural resources.**

To meet Goal 2, the Committee determined that Orange County needs to achieve five objectives. Many of the components in Goal 2 have commonality with Goal 1.

- A. Protect the area's bio-diversity and air, water and soil quality.
- B. Conserve open space including woodlands, parks, pastures and forests (including old growth) with the understanding that larger pieces of natural and connected land are more sustainable for wildlife. This can be achieved by higher density development with trade offs for land preservation.
- C. Preserve farmland, particularly farms that can meet local needs.
- D. Reduce chemical and energy intensive lawn and landscaping care.
- E. Educate people so they understand their environment; how their activities impact it; and how to use resources more sustainably.

### **Indicators selected to measure progress toward Goal 2:**

#### **1. Percentage of farm acreage using Best Management Practice techniques.**

BMPs indicate that the area's cultivated lands are incorporating practices to protect top soil from eroding into the county's watersheds. This number should increase.

#### **2. Number of stream miles that do not meet water quality standards for pollutants, silt and flow rates.**

This indicator is a broad proxy for many aspects of the environment beyond the health of the stream. For example, silt levels reflect the level of topsoil being lost. The indicator would also reflect the use of chemicals in agriculture and on lawns. Many of those chemicals reduce topsoil and wind up in our water supply. This number should decrease.

#### **3. Number of days per year Orange County is out of compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.**

Air quality is fundamental to a healthy natural and human environment. Air pollution in any significant amount can make life unpleasant or even dangerous to human health. This number should decrease.

#### **4. Ratio of acreage of developed to undeveloped land and cultivated farmland.**

Dwindling open space, represented in the loss of undeveloped and cultivated farmland, indicates sprawling development, loss of locally produced goods, and loss of habitat that supports the diverse species that live in Orange County. Developed land should remain static at current levels or increase only slightly.

#### **5. Total acreage of designated natural areas and stream miles under some type of long-term protection.**

Preserving a living heritage of Orange County land provides a valuable educational resource for residents and helps maintain the distinctiveness of the County. In addition, protecting forest land helps safeguard important ecosystem functions such as filtration of polluted runoff, absorption of rainwater, and filtration of polluted air. The number of acres should increase.

#### **6. Total acreage of unfragmented and large tracts (+40 acres) of hardwood and mixed hardwood pine forests.**

See above description. Large tracts of unfragmented land provide a safe habitat for the County's plant and animal species, and protect the county's bio-diversity. The total acreage should increase to some plateau given the finite area of Orange County.

**Table 2: Cross reference of Goal 2 Objectives and Indicators\***

	<i>INDICATORS 1-6</i>					
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>A. Protection of Resources</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>B. Open Space Conservation</b>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>C. Farmland Preservation</b>	✓			✓		
<b>D. Native Plant Use/Reduce Lawns</b>		✓				
<b>E. Ecological Education</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*\*The cross reference shows the correlation between the indicators and objectives for Goal 2. The objectives are listed in the rows (A-E), the indicators on the columns (1-6). A 'check' shows which objectives can be measured by which indicators.*

**Goal 3: People should be able to live in the community where they work.** People on the Committee envisioned a community where one could afford to live, work and shop within a relatively small area, and one that was not intrinsically tied to the automobile.

To meet Goal 3, the Committee determined that Orange County needs to achieve six objectives:

- A. A living wage which would allow people to meet basic needs, such as housing, food and transportation.
- B. A diversity of employment, where individual talents are utilized and opportunities to broaden the economy are taken advantage of, particularly from the University.
- C. A wide mix of housing types and housing options available for everyone, with a special focus on the low income populations.
- D. An availability of job training opportunities that enable people to improve their employment and income prospects.
- E. An integration of land uses rather than a segregation of them; where there are land use patterns that are walkable and have mixtures of housing types and commercial development.
- F. An effort to keep money within the local economy.

#### **Indicators selected to measure progress toward Goal 3:**

**1. Percentage of people receiving job training who find employment within the greater community.**

This is a measure of the ability of people to receive necessary training and to find jobs that pay better wages within their community. The percentage should increase.

**2. In and out commuting.**

This is a measurement of employment availability within a local area. Over time, fewer people should have to out-commute.

**3. Number of jobs attracted and created in Orange County that pay a living wage.**

This is a dual indicator measuring two distinct trends. It would reflect both the public and the private sectors cooperation and contribution to ensuring citizens can afford to live near to where they work. This number should increase.

**4. Percentage of all jobs that pay a living wage in Orange County.**

Orange County tends to have either high paying jobs or low paying ones. There is very little in the middle. This indicator would reflect whether, over time, there are more jobs paying middle incomes. This percentage should increase.

**5. Ratio of dwellings per township sold for: <\$120,000, \$120-\$200,000, and >\$200,000 (in 1998 dollars).**

In 1997, the average price of a new home was \$265,000. This indicator would measure the diversity of housing types and affordability in each community. The pie chart should break out evenly and should be adjusted to 1998 dollars.

**6. Rental rates per township (in 1998 dollars).**

This measure would reflect trends in housing affordability over time by providing the relative rates between townships and the county. The rates should remain static or increase no faster than the inflation rate.

**7. Number of miles driven to work and to shop.**

This number would indicate whether or not people are able to work, shop and live within their community without having to drive long distances. Over time this number should decrease.

**8. Ratio of mixed use development versus separated uses.**

This is an attempt to answer the question ‘how much are we sprawling?’. It would indicate an integration of land uses, rather than a separation of them. The ratio of mixed use to separate use should increase.

**9. Ratio of business sizes (<10, 11-49, 50-99, >100 employees).**

This number would indicate the diversity of employment which is an overall measure of the flexibility of the economy to withstand change and provide a diversity of opportunity. The ratio should reflect a balance, without one segment overpowering another.

**10. Composition of the tax base, residential to nonresidential.**

This would indicate whether the economy and its land uses is becoming more diversified. Over time, the nonresidential tax base should increase.

**11. Percentage of people at 80% or lower than the median income who are 1) paying greater than 30% of their income on housing (including utilities), and 2) spending greater than 50%.**

This indicator measures whether people can afford to live in their community. The standard is that anyone paying greater than 30% of their income on housing cannot afford to meet their basic needs. The percentage should decrease.

**12. Percentage of population receiving federal, state and/or local financial assistance (not including educational financial aid assistance).**

This indicator reflects the percentage of the population which is not able to meet basic needs without assistance, which is an overall indicator of whether people have adequate job training, access to employment that pays a living wage, and affordable housing. This percentage should decrease.

**Table 3. Cross Reference of Goal 3 Objectives and Indicators\***

	<i>INDICATORS 1 THROUGH 12</i>											
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>A. Living Wage</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓
<b>B. Employment Diversity</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>C. Housing Mix/Affordability</b>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
<b>D. Job Training</b>	✓		✓								✓	✓
<b>E. Mixed Use</b>							✓	✓		✓	✓	
<b>F. Dollars in Local Economy</b>							✓	✓		✓		

*\*The cross reference shows the correlation between the indicators and objectives for Goal 3. The objectives are listed in the rows (A-F), the indicators on the columns (1-12). A ‘check’ shows which objectives can be measured by which indicators.*

**Goal 4: People should be able to meet basic needs and live with dignity.** There was a deep concern expressed that some people within Orange County are being left behind or forgotten in the region's economic prosperity. People are unable to actively participate in the community and in protecting the environment unless their basic needs are met. Many of the basic needs issues, such as a living wage and housing, are covered in Goal 3; Goal 4 deals more with Human Services issues.

To meet Goal 4, the Committee determined that Orange County needs to achieve six objectives:

- A. Engender a feeling of safety.
- B. Enable all people to be a part of and be included in the community, including minorities seniors and people with disabilities. Ensure that people's basic needs are met. This includes adequate funding for and availability of services such as transportation, assisted living, nutrition services and emergency home repair.
- C. Provide adequate shelter to all citizens.
- D. Enable all citizens to have access to health services, including physical, mental and prescription services.
- E. Encourage affordable and accessible adult and child day care.
- F. Have a more equitable range of incomes between highest and lowest level employees within both the public and private sectors.

#### **Indicators selected to measure progress toward Goal 4:**

##### **1. Crime rates by category.**

This indicator tells us about the present health of the community – reflecting how safe citizens are in their homes and on the streets. The number should decrease over time.

##### **2. Number of 'housing problems' as defined by the census.**

This indicator provides a good proxy for the quality of housing in a community. 'Housing problems' include: 1) those paying greater than 30% of income on housing costs 2) overcrowded conditions 3) homes with structural problems, such as inadequate plumbing or kitchens. The number should decrease.

##### **3. Percentage of disabled and elderly that have asked for services and been denied or have run down eligibility.**

This indicator would give a good idea of how well the community is meeting the needs of these citizens. The percentage should decrease.

##### **4. Percentage of eligible children and their families served by Smart Start.**

This indicator would give a good idea of how the community is providing for its children. The percentage should increase.

##### **5. Ratio of preventative to acute care dollars available.**

State health dollars tend to make more money available to serve the acute care needs rather than on prevention efforts. This indicator reflects how the state's health resources are being allocated between caring for and/or preventing illness. This ratio should equalize over time.

##### **6. Income by quartiles and number of persons within each quartile.**

This indicator would reflect the distribution of income in the community, an important part of equity. The pie chart should reflect decreasing income disparity over time.

##### **7. Percentage of population with health insurance.**

The number of people who have access to health care is an important component of the personal and economic health of a community. The number should increase.

**8. Percentage of elderly with supplemental insurance.**

This indicator would reflect how well the elderly fare in Orange County. If they cannot afford supplemental insurance, it is likely that they are unable to meet other basic needs, such as adequate housing and nutrition needs. This number should increase.

**9. Percentage of children who qualify for free breakfasts/lunches.**

This would be an overall indication of how much we provide for the community's children, which is an important component of equity. The percentage should decrease, because if fewer children qualify there are fewer in need.

**10. Waiting list for subsidized adult and child day care (in days).**

Again, this is an indicator of how we provide for those most in need, an important component of equity. The length of the waiting list should decrease.

**11. Percentage of public buildings, including restaurants, movie theaters and grocery stores, that do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.**

This indicator would measure how we accommodate and include our disabled population, an important component of equity. The percentage should decrease.

**Table 4. Cross Reference of Goal 4 Objectives and Indicators\***

	<i>INDICATORS 1 THROUGH 11</i>										
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>A. Safety</b>	✓									✓	
<b>B. Community Needs/Inclusion</b>	✓			✓					✓	✓	✓
<b>C. Adequate Shelter</b>		✓	✓					✓			
<b>D. Equitable Incomes</b>						✓					
<b>E. Health Care</b>			✓		✓		✓		✓		
<b>F. Adult and Child Care</b>			✓	✓					✓	✓	

*\*The cross reference shows the correlation between the indicators and objectives for Goal 4. The objectives are listed in the rows (A-F), the indicators on the columns (1-11). A 'check' shows which objectives can be measured by which indicators.*

**Goal 5: We must foster diversity where everyone has access to education and has a sense of belonging to a broader community.**

To meet Goal 5, the Committee determined that Orange County needs to achieve seven objectives.

- A. A strong sense of heterogeneous community, crossing cultural, economic, racial, generational, geographical and educational barriers.
- B. Multi-cultural involvement and access to multilingual education.
- C. Educational opportunities for both adults and youth.
- D. Built-in ways to establish and foster community.
- E. A reduction in the urban/rural divide (through projects like SOCF!).
- F. Visibility of everyone and a representation of all voices in the community, particularly minorities.
- G. The development of a sense of self worth.

**Indicators selected to measure progress toward Goal 5:**

**1. High School/GED graduation rate.**

A more highly educated population garners not only higher wages, but is more likely to actively participate in their local community. This rate should increase.

**2. Number and diversity of people serving on county and municipal advisory boards.**

The number portion indicates citizen participation in the public decision making processes. The diversity portion ensures that it is not always the same group of people participating in many public processes. The number and diversity should increase.

**3. Percentage of people voting in local elections.**

This indicator reflects the level of citizen participation in the electoral process, over time this will give a picture of the changes in political participation in the community. The percentage should increase.

**4. Number of estimated hours volunteered per capita.**

This reflects the level of community participation in programs to aid others. Volunteer service is a means for citizens to actualize their concern for others in their community and indicates active engagement in community improvement.

**5. Number of public events that foster community.**

This indicator reflects community engagement and involvement in activities which bring the community together in celebration and leads to community identity and cohesiveness (i.e. Apple Chill, Hog Day and La Fiesta del Pueblo).

**6. Ratio of students to classroom teacher.**

This is a measure as to how well our educational system is meeting the needs of its students. There should be a set ratio to meet.

**7. Number of adult continuing education opportunities available locally.**

Opportunities to lifelong learning prepare citizens for meaningful work, recreation and a high quality of life. This number should increase.

**Table 5. Cross Reference of Goal 5 Objectives and Indicators\***

	<i>INDICATORS 1-7</i>						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>A. Diverse Community</b>		✓	✓		✓		
<b>B. Cultural Involvement</b>		✓	✓		✓		
<b>C. Access to Education</b>	✓					✓	✓
<b>D. Fostering Community</b>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>E. Reduction of Urban/Rural Div.</b>		✓	✓		✓		
<b>F. Participation and Representation</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>G. Self-Worth</b>	✓	✓		✓	✓		

*\*The cross reference shows the correlation between the indicators and objectives for Goal 5. The objectives are listed in the rows (A-G), the indicators on the columns (1-7). A 'check' shows which objectives can be measured by which indicators.*

### **The Next Steps**

Over a four month period the citizens that participated in the Sustainability Committee achieved an ambitious agenda. The Committee report lays the groundwork for thinking about sustainability in Orange County and gives an idea of how sustainability could be measured.

When the Task Force begins its next step in the visioning process, the members should ask themselves, 'Do our ideas comply with the Principles of Sustainability?' If not, Orange County's long-term future and quality of life could be in jeopardy.

The Sustainability Committee's work should not stop with the current report, however. **The ultimate goal of this citizen-led process is to, on a regular basis, collect and compile the indicator data into one report.** The intent would be to provide the Task Force, town and county decision makers, and citizens a 'whole system' view of Orange County's present and long-term cultural, economic, and environmental health and vitality. The information will help us make decisions about how to guide Orange County toward sustainability. (See Appendix B for an example of how a Sustainable Community Report for Orange County could look. The pages are taken from Seattle's "Indicators of Sustainable Community").

The next step for the Sustainability Committee, then, is to begin collecting data to determine 1) if the data can be collected for the indicators selected and 2) develop the County's first Indicator Report.

Once the data are collected, the Committee should reconvene to assess Orange County's current status, further refine the indicators, and review the Task Force's visioning process in terms of sustainability.

## APPENDIX A

### CONFLICTING OBJECTIVES – HARD CHOICES

Submitted by Dirk Spruyt

For our county to become truly sustainable, we must move towards and eventually comply with the four Principles of a Sustainable Community found in the report. This means that:

1. Orange County must stop and perhaps reverse its destruction of the diversity of life – all kinds of life – in the county.
2. It means consuming resources no faster than they can regenerate and eventually not using non-renewable resources unless they are recycled. This includes those resources that come from outside the county. Sustainability is a global issue, not limited to our local scene.
3. It means our wastes must be no more than can be recycled naturally or by artificial means. We will not have land fills. We will have recycling programs which will focus on minimizing waste at the personal and household levels.
4. Life for people living in Orange County should be balanced, fostering the development and expression of all our different facets (physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual). It should provide dignity and justice which will need to be within the constraints outlined above.

This suggests that we are facing difficult, competing, conflicting choices. We cannot continue to destroy the places we depend on for the resources of our lifestyle, even our life itself. Only by becoming more efficient might there be room for growth. More likely will be the need to scale back. The alternative is deepening impoverishment, if not for the wealthy, more and more the unfortunate.

To find specific examples among the many objectives listed for each Goal, one need only ask if carrying out the objective conforms to the Principles reviewed above. For Goal 1, for example, do objectives encourage an increase in our population? More people means an increase in consumption (land, housing, roads, consumables, services, etc.) and more pollution (solid wastes, air, water).

We must ask what are ALL of the costs of providing more affordable housing in our community? The same applies to roads, sidewalks and bike paths. And the costs are not just for initial construction, but long term impacts on the environment, maintenance and replacement.

Growth, what we assume is inevitable, is not sustainable. We may buy time by increasing efficiencies but in the long term we will be forced to face the impossibility of ongoing growth. Because so many of our unsustainable practices are imbedded in our culture and lifestyle, a short term solution is to seriously address the possibility of slowing, even reversing the number of us that live in Orange County. While this may seem like a radical idea, many of the problems we are struggling to deal with would be resolved or greatly lessened by having a stable or shrinking population.

## APPENDIX C

### Participants in the Sustainability Committee Meetings

**\* denotes people who attended three or more meetings**

Barry Beggs	Paul Mudd *
Merrilie Brown	Macon Ollis *
Kathy Buck *	Ellen Perry *
Bob Chapin *	Peggy Pollitzer *
Fred Daldorf *	Susan Poulton
Rachel Elliott	Myles Presler
Seth Elliott	Martin Rody *
Pat Evans *	Bob Rudolph
Norm Gustaveson	Ruby Sinreich
Bill Hendrickson	Carl Shy
Madeline Jefferson	Dirk Spruyt *
Bob Lauterborn	Ted Vaden
Katherine Leith *	Jim Ward *
Marty Mandell *	Stick Williams *
Hervey McIver *	
Tom Merz	

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