

SUSTAINABILITY

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SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

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SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is far from a new concept. Indigenous peoples have practiced elements of sustainable living for generations by being in tune with the natural environment and its limits, cycles, and changes. This understanding is usually referred to as traditional ecological knowledge, or the deep knowledge and beliefs about relationships between people, plants, animals, natural phenomena, landscapes, and timing of events in a specific ecosystem.

Our Common Future

In October 1987, *Our Common Future*, also known as the Brundtland Report, was published by the World Commission on Environment and Development. In that report, the term "sustainable development" was officially defined as: "Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."



THREE DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Although sustainability is linked to the environmental movement, the notion that it is only focused on the environment is a misconception. Sustainability is based on three dimensions:

Environmental sustainability occurs when humanity's rate of consumption does not exceed nature's rate of replenishment and when humanity's rate of generating pollution and emitting greenhouse gases does not exceed nature's rate of restoration.

Social sustainability is the ability of a society to uphold universal human rights and meet people's basic needs, such as healthcare, education, and transportation. Healthy communities ensure personal, labour, and cultural rights are respected and all people are protected from discrimination.

Economic sustainability is the ability of human communities around the world to maintain their independence and have access to the resources required to meet their needs, meaning that secure sources of livelihood are available to everyone



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

One framework for incorporating sustainability into daily actions is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adopted unanimously by all United Nations member states in 2015, the 17 SDGs set out a plan of action to achieve a greener, more prosperous, and more equitable world by 2030.

The SDGs were designed to be a practical implementation guide for sustainability, consisting of 169 specific targets and 231 measurable indicators. While this approach is not perfect, it can be a useful way to think about sustainability.



WE NEED NEW KNOWLEDGE

WHAT ARE THE SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS BEHIND TRANSITIONS? Which factors make transitions successful? WHERE CAN WE FIND EXAMPLES OF TRANSITIONS?

HOW CAN TRANSITIONS BE ACHIEVED?

How can local initiatives and NGOs contribute to transitions? **WHY DO WE NEED SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS?** WHAT SHORT-TERM ACTIONS ARE NEEDED FOR LONG-TERM TRANSITIONS? DO WE NEED TO TACKLE SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES? WHAT NEW KNOWLEDGE

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF COMPANIES IN TRANSITIONS PROCESSES? WHO HAS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN MAKING THE TRANSITION? **WHAT ARE SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS?** How can policies support transitions? How can society catalyse and guide innovation?

How do global trends impact established societal systems? **SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS?** HOW CAN SMALL-SCALE INNOVATIONS LEAD TO CHANGES IN CORE SOCIETAL SYSTEMS? WHAT KNOWLEDGE IS NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND TRANSITIONS?

How can we design and present knowledge to maximise its influence? WHAT KNOWLEDGE IS NEEDED TO SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS? **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SOCIAL INNOVATION?** What is the role of governments (at all scales) in achieving transitions?

WHAT ARE TRANSFORMATIONS?

How do transitions help us live well within environmental limits? **HOW CAN SOCIETY CATALYSE AND STEER SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS?** WHO ARE THE MAIN ACTORS IN TRANSITION PROCESSES? WHERE CAN WE DEVELOP KNOWLEDGE TO SUPPORT TRANSITIONS?

What should be avoided in trying to manage transitions?

SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES AND NEW KNOWLEDGE NEEDS

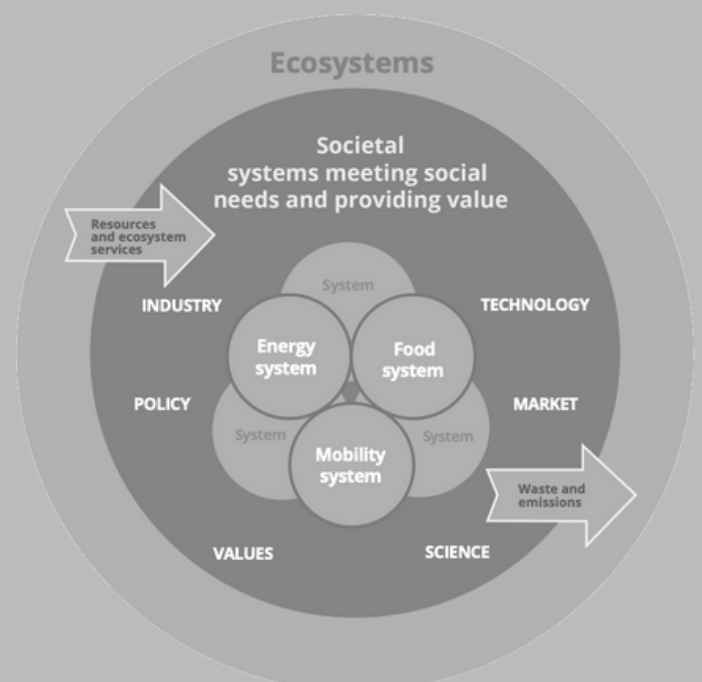
In the 40 years since the first EU environmental policies in the 1970s, Europe has greatly improved the quality of its environment, with associated benefits for economic development and human well-being. Despite these advances, Europe faces a variety of persistent and emerging environmental challenges in the coming decades linked to globalized systems of production and consumption. Little progress has been made in addressing several 'persistent problems' (Loorbach, 2010), such as biodiversity loss, climate change and resource use, which are tied in complex ways to European ways of living. Meanwhile, an ever more significant proportion of the global population is shifting towards the consumption patterns of developed regions, imposing escalating demands on ecosystems and threatening to undermine or even reverse advances in living standards.

Already, planetary boundaries relating to climate change, loss of biosphere integrity, land-system change, and biogeochemical cycles (phosphorus and nitrogen) have been crossed, implying risks of irreversible and abrupt environmental change. To reconcile high levels of human development (living well) with ecological sustainability, advanced economies in Europe and elsewhere will have to improve their environmental performance fourfold or even tenfold. Recent history suggests, however, that this is highly unlikely to occur within existing models of production and consumption. As the EEA argued in its five-yearly flagship report, *The European Environment – state and Outlook 2015*, Europe's progress in decoupling environmental pressures from economic growth in recent years has been incremental rather than radical. Moreover, these gains have only partially translated into improved ecosystem resilience and human health. In a rapidly changing global context, the outlook for Europe's ecological and social systems in the coming decades is worrying.

These transitions or transformations in core systems are understood to be 'long-term, multi-dimensional and fundamental processes of change', based on 'profound changes in dominant practices, policies and thinking.

Once a dominant design has become established, the focus of innovation normally shifts. Rather than explore alternative products, businesses invest in incremental improvements in production processes. In the case of the car, manufacturers have changed their organisational structures, dividing production into many teams specialised in optimising particular aspects of the engine, rather than questioning the technology as a whole. Industry networks have emerged to produce complementary goods, such as petrol, tyres and road infrastructure, creating wider economic interests in maintaining the dominant technology. Production standards, introduced by governments to help coordinate activities across increasingly complex industries, have further locked in aspects of the dominant design. So too has the emergence of private institutions such as technical schools. This co-evolution of technological and social systems is why transitions researchers talk about 'socio-technical systems'. The essential idea is that the many interlinkages across complex systems lock society into particular ways of meeting its needs. They incentivise incremental improvements to established technologies, rather than the more fundamental changes that are required to make our core societal systems sustainable. Transitions researchers have developed a variety of theories to explain how socio-technical systems are structured, and the ways that these systems can be reorganised to deliver better outcomes.

One of the most widely used approaches is the 'multi-level perspective'. Along the lines described above, the multi-level perspective characterises socio-technical systems as being structured and stabilised by a 'regime', comprising factors such as knowledge, investments, policies, institutions, skills and cultural values. Innovative technologies and practices are seen as holding the key to systemic change but they often need help to have any impact because businesses and consumers are locked into established ways of producing and consuming.



TADYA


TADYA (Tahtacıörencik Village Ecological Living Collective) consists of a group of villagers and facilitators in the Tahtacıörencik Village of the Güdül district in Ankara, founded in February 2014. It is a local solidarity-based collective, coupled with a non-profit association, which is Four Seasons Ecological Living Association, also founded in 2014.

Tahtacıörencik village is located in the skirts of Köroğlu mountains, which hosts a sylvan ecosystem with a rich bio-diversity, including large mammals like bears, wolves, bears as well as rare birds of prey like the black vulture. Süvari River, which is one of the cleanest water courses of Ankara, runs through the territories of the village. There are many families who practice agriculture with traditional methods, and willing to produce more, conditional to marketing opportunities.

The TADYA collective aims at (i) promoting agroecological principles and methods, centrally including permaculture and other regenerative farming approaches, (ii) preserving natural and agricultural biodiversity and resources, including heirloom seeds and local cultural assets, (iii) promoting small-scale family farming and facilitating community-supported agriculture, and (iv) fostering social connections by bridging urban and rural populations. Its core values include harmony with nature, solidarity, social inclusion, and horizontal organization.







"Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.."

GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND.

