

# **Southwest Michigan Sustainability Committee**

April 29, 2014

# Sustainability

- Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Balances the aims of three interrelated pillars: **environmental, economic, and social**.
- Promotes the idea of viewing issues **holistically**, rather than just through narrower environmental or economic lenses.
- A “sustainable community,” therefore, is an urban, suburban, or rural community that has more housing and transportation choices; is closer to jobs, shops or schools; is more energy independent; and helps protect clean air and water.



**Natural  
Environment**

**Sustainability**

**Economic  
Vitality**

**Healthy  
Communities**

# Sustainability Ideas

- Improve Energy Efficiency of Buildings
- Purchase Renewable Energy
- Use Clean Fuel Equipment/Vehicles
- Support public transit; pedestrians, bicyclists (complete streets policy)
- Provide recycling to residents; participate in & promote County waste programs
- Conserve water (irrigation, municipal, household, business)
- Improve stormwater management (reduce flooding and improve water quality)
- Ensure green space and recreational areas
- Support locally grown food and agricultural preservation
- **Holistic/Creative Problem Solving**