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# TOPICAL LIST OF INDICATORS

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# INTRODUCTION

## What Is Sustainability?

Living sustainably means we meet today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A sustainable community maintains a healthy environment, society, and economy, thereby providing a productive and meaningful life for all community residents, present and future.

The environment, society, and economy are interconnected. A healthy economy is dependent on a healthy society, and both are dependent on a healthy environment. A disruption in any one area affects the health of the other two. Sustainable planning recognizes this interconnection.



Sustainability requires that we manage our affairs so our economy and society can continue to exist without destroying the natural environment on which we all depend. Sustainable communities acknowledge that there are limits to the natural, social, and built systems upon which we depend. Key questions asked in a sustainable community include: "Are we using this resource faster than it can be renewed?" and "Are we enhancing the social and human capital upon which our community depends?"

## What Is an Indicator?

"Indicators" are statistics and trends that display the direction in which a particular condition is heading. Indicators measure whether a community is getting better or worse at providing all its members with a productive, enjoyable life, both now and prospectively in the future. Communities are increasingly using indicators to gauge whether they are moving toward sustainability.

## What Would a Sustainable San Mateo County Be Like?

A sustainable San Mateo County would ...

