

# Ecological Self

Is Sustainable Development  
Personally Meaningful?

**From space we can see a small and fragile ball dominated not by human activity and edifice but by patterns of clouds, oceans, greenery and soils. Humanity's inability to fit it's activities into that pattern is changing planetary systems fundamentally"**

**(Our Common Future, Bruntland, 1987, p.308)**

# What we know?

- Developing Sustainable systems are constantly being questioned
- Developing and importantly sustaining efficient systems is a complex task
- A collective creative process is required, giving consideration to the changing nature of social, economic, environmental and political issues at any given time.
- The concept of sustainability and sustainable development means different things to different people.
- It has become a catch phrase
- Systems are 'neither sustainable nor development'

(Luke 2005, p.228)

# Sustainable Development Module

- **Introduction to SD**
- **Climate Change**
- **Energy**
- **Food**
- **Economy**
- **Environment**
- **Production / Consumption**
- **Critical Thinking**
- **CSR**
- **Measuring strong / weak Sustainability**
- **Policy - political governance**

## **Discussion on views:-**

**What makes Sustainable development possible?**

- **Reducing our impact on the environment?**
- **Who's responsible?**
- **What do we want?**
- **What sort of lifestyle do we want?**
- **Positive human experiences within our context, indigenous or not**
- **Happiness & Wellbeing**

# I have choices

- **These choices are influenced by personal taste, what is fashionable, what is acceptable.**

**“The individual consciousness is made up of the collective and the collective is made up of the individual, they inter-are”**

(Thich Nhat Hanh 2007, p.159)

# **Being Present**

**Taking Time**

**'Doing' is central to human experience.**

**'Doing' is complex**

**Thinking about 'doing':**

**form** (what is directly observable, context & demand of task)

**function** (ways in which the 'doing' affects us)

**meaning** (see it as important).

# Influences

***All sorts of things  
influence what  
occupations ‘we’  
...do, like personal  
capacity, culture,  
norms and values,  
illness and  
adversity’’*** (Watson, p.3)

# **Empowering Sustainable Living through 'Doing'**

**"We must become the change we seek."**

**~Mahatma Gandhi-**

# Reflective Consciousness

“... which allow us to formulate values, beliefs, goals and strategies”

(Capra, 2003, p.34; )

**Why do I what I do?**

**What motivates me?**

**What frustrates me?**

**What are my key interests?**

**What changes or developments would I like to see?**

**What makes me HAPPY?**

# My Human Rights

**(I am a) ...human being...born free and equal in dignity and rights. (I am) endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards (myself and others)...in a spirit of brotherhood.”**

**Who Care's?  
Do You?**

# Intrinsic Motivation

“the motivation for learning and change springs from the self-actualizing tendency of life itself, the tendency for the organism to flow into all the differentiated channels of potential development, insofar as these are experienced as enhancing.” (Rodger 1961, p.285)

# Ecological citizenship

- Personal awareness is essential to promote common responsibility
- Mindfulness to expand an understanding of human and nature interactions
- Sharing this will enable us to work together as a community.

# Why wait?

***"Let us not waste our time in idle discourse! (Pause. Vehemently.) Let us do something, while we have the chance! It is not every day that we are needed. But at this place, at this moment of time, all mankind is us, whether we like it or not. Let us make the most of it, before it is too late!"***

Samuel Beckett

# **Cohesive, dynamic community.**

- **As a class become a community in which you learn together by looking deeply into your lives as energy students,  
This is an opportunity to look at important issues.**
- **A place to discuss the meaning of life**
- **A place to discuss the meaning of ‘sustainable development’ and how to take action**

# Sustainability Revolution

**“You can never direct a living system; you can only disturb it”**

(Maturana & Varela, cited in Capra, 2003, p.32)

“...we need to fundamentally redesign many of our technologies & social institutions so as to bridge the gap between human design & ecologically sustainable systems of nature” (Capra, 2003, p.86)

However we need to understand ourselves and others

“to create human organisations that mirror life's adaptability, diversity and creativity” (Capra, 2003, p.87)

to be part of the ‘Sustainability Revolution’ (Edwards, 2005)

**There is only one time that is  
important – NOW! (Tolstoy, 1903)**

**Be Happy!**