

ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND LWV POSITIONS compiled by Alice Ramsey and Georgia Locker 09/09 from LWV California Task Force Report

In 1993, President Clinton created a nonpartisan President's Council on Sustainable Development, with "industry" and "environmental" co_chairs and broad representation from diverse communities. In their March 1996 report, *Sustainable America*, this group presented ten goal statements, which were identified as **Elements of Sustainability**. Below are the Elements and examples of LWVCO and LWVUS positions. Following each topic and goal, the applicable LWVCO and LWVUS positions are listed in italics, with LWVCO positions listed first.

HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Ensure that every person enjoys the benefits of clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment at home, at work, and at play.

(LWVCO: Health Care; Children's Support Systems; Water; Land Use; Hazardous Materials; Environmental Planning and Management; Water;. LWVUS: Natural Resources—Air Quality; Energy; Solid Waste Management and Disposal; Water Resources, Nuclear Issues; Public Participation; Agriculture)

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Sustain a healthy U.S. economy that grows sufficiently to create meaningful jobs, reduce poverty, and provide the opportunity for a high quality of life for all in an increasingly competitive world.

(LWVCO: Children's Support Systems; Education; Higher Education; School Finance; Juvenile Justice. LWVUS: Social Policy_In Brief, Equality of Opportunity, Meeting Basic Human Needs, Urban Policy. LWV_Principles.)

EQUITY

Ensure that all Americans are afforded justice and have the opportunity to achieve economic, environmental, and social well being.

(LWVCO: Apportionment; Colorado Constitution; Fiscal Policy; General Assemble; Justice System; Local Government; Juvenile Justice; Precinct Caucus/Assembly System; School Finance; Transportation; Education; Higher Education. LWVUS: Government_In Brief; Social Policy_In Brief, Equality of Opportunity. LWV_Principles.)

CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Use, conserve, protect, and restore natural resources – land, air, water, and biodiversity – in ways that help ensure long-term social, economic, and environmental benefits for ourselves and future generations.

(LWVCO: Environmental Planning and Management; Land Use; Water; LWVUS: Natural Resources_In Brief; Resource Management; Environmental Protection and Pollution Control; Public Participation. LWV_Principles)

STEWARDSHIP

Create a widely held ethic of stewardship that strongly encourages individuals, institutions, and corporations to take full responsibility for the economic, environmental, and social consequences of their actions.

(LWVCO: Local Government; Environmental Planning and Management; Hazardous Materials; Land Use; Water. LWVUS: Natural Resources_In Brief, Resource Management, Environmental Protection & Pollution Control, Public

Participation.)

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES^{1[1]}

Encourage people to work together to create healthy communities where natural and historic resources are preserved, jobs are available, sprawl is contained, neighborhoods are secure, education is lifelong, transportation and health care are accessible, and all citizens have opportunities to improve the quality of their lives.

(LWVCO: Land Use; Transportation; Water; Children' Support Systems; Education. LWVUS: Government_In Brief, Agricultural Policy, Citizen Right to Know, Citizen Participation; Social Policy_In Brief, Early Intervention for Children at Risk, Equality of Opportunity, Health Care, Meeting Basic Human Needs, Urban Policy, Violence Prevention. LWV_Principles.)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Create full opportunity for citizens, businesses, and communities to participate in and influence the natural resource, environmental, and economic decisions that affect them.

(LWVCO: Colorado Constitution; Justice System; Local Government; General Assembly; Fiscal Policy; School Finance; Transportation LWVUS: Government_In Brief; Natural Resources_Public Participation; Social Policy_Equality of Opportunity. LWV_Principles.)

POPULATION

Move toward stabilization of U.S. population at a level consistent with the capacity of the local community, the state, the nation, and the earth to support its inhabitants.

(None on U.S. population policy but see LWVUS: International Development Assistance^{2[2]}; Resource Management)

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Take a leadership role in the development and implementation of global sustainable development policies, standards of conduct, and trade and foreign policies that further the achievement of sustainability.

(LWVUS: Government_U.S. Relations with Developing Countries; International Relations_United Nations. LWV_Principles.)

EDUCATION

Ensure that all Americans have equal access to education and lifelong learning opportunities that will prepare them for meaningful work, a high quality of life, and an understanding of the concepts involved in sustainability.

(LWVCO: Education; Higher Education LWVUS: Government_Citizen Right to Know, Citizen Participation; Natural Resources_Public Participation; Social Policy_Equality of Opportunity.)