

Economy, Society and Environment: how do they relate to each other?

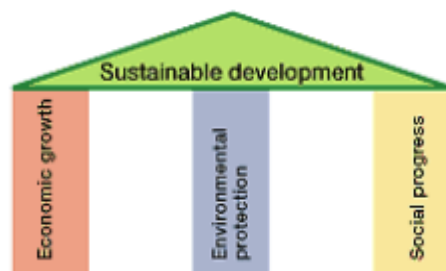
The relationship between the economy, society and environment most commonly finds form in discussions and ideas around sustainable development. Sustainable development is a loose term, but a commonly used definition identified by the Brundtland report (1987) and used by the European Council is: "that the needs of the present generation should be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The graphics below show the different ways in which the relationship between economy, society and environment are often presented.

Figure 1. Three Visual Representations of Sustainable Development: Pillars, Circles, Interlocking Circles

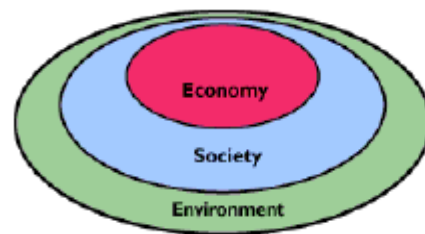
A. Pillars

The three pillars of sustainable development



http://www.vda.de/en/service/jahresbericht/auto2002/auto+umwelt/u_3.html

B. Concentric circles



<http://www.sustainablecampus.cornell.edu/sustainability-intro.htm>

C. Overlapping Circles



The three pillars of sustainable development, from left to right, the theory, the reality and the change needed to better balance the model

<http://www.iucn.org/programme/>

(The World Conservation Union: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_future_of_sustainability.pdf)