

# Social Justice and Sustainability: Shared Root Problems and Interconnected Solutions

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What is social justice?

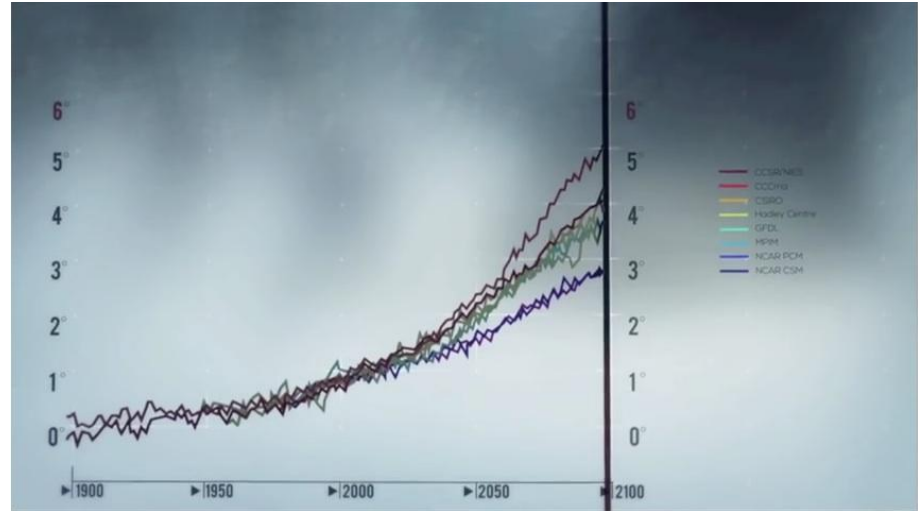
# Social Justice-y Words

- Diversity
- Pluralism
- Equity
- Inclusion
- Solidarity
- Affirmation

**What is sustainability?**

# What is Sustainability?

- An integrated understanding that ecology, sociology, and economy are inextricably and dialectically linked.
- A critical examination of root values and mindsets. Root mindsets form relationships and practices along a spectrum of sustainability.



3-5 degrees Celsius increase by 2100



## About ED

### Overview and Mission Statement

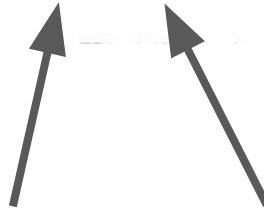
ED's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

### How Do I Find...

- Student loans, forgiveness
- College accreditation
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- FERPA
- FAFSA

Is this social justice?

Is this sustainability?



# How are social justice and sustainability connected?

Is there a frame that links them together?

# Sustainability Framework

## Environment

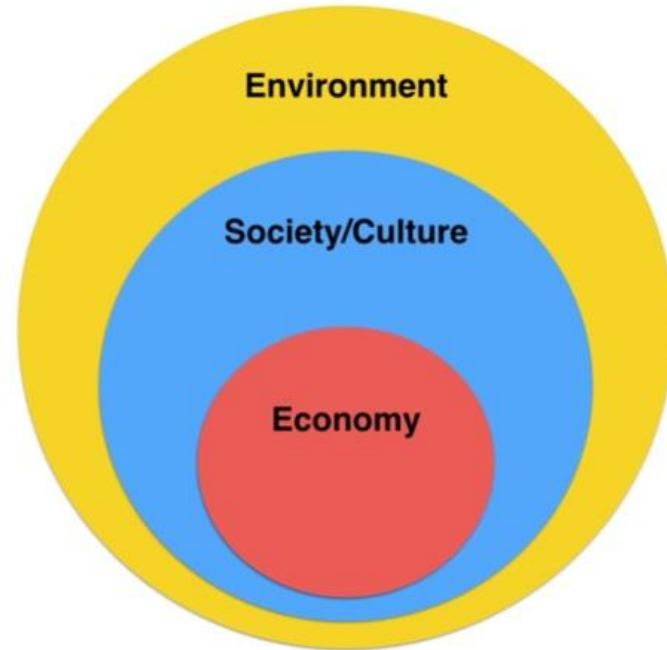
- \* Prevent crossing over irreversible tipping points
- \* Humans support the Earth in replenishing itself within a human generation on global and local scales

## Social/Culture

- \* Human/nature connection critically analyzed
- \* Solidarity - affirmation - critique of power
- \* Working towards peace (non-violent conflict resolution)
- \* Health, wellness, and happiness

## Economy

- \* Strong local economies and responsible global commerce
- \* Reintegration of the cultural commons





# Sustainability is Not...

- Exclusively about the environment
- Just focused on carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- Just focused on the burning of fossil fuels
- Separate from issues of racism, sexism, genderism, poverty, extreme wealth, religionism, or colonization
- Be careful with “sustainable development” (can be a cooptation by business)

# What is Sustainability Education?

- The outcomes of sustainability education contrast current education reforms, movements, and missions that promote “global competitiveness.”
  - Current US Dept of Education Mission Statement (since President Obama):
    - [P]romote student achievement and preparation for **global competitiveness** by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.
  - “College and career-ready”
  - 21st Century Learners
  - Corporate-based STEM initiatives



# Principles & Outcomes of Sustainability Education

- Social justice and environmental justice are inextricably tied together.
  - Critical examination
  - Critical self reflection
  - Deep content knowledge in contexts and relationships
  - Self and communities (class, school, locality, state, nation, global, nature) analysis
  - Solidarity, affirmation, and critique of power
- Restoration and regeneration
- Preparing students to become adults who can identify problems, utilize high quality social skill sets (systems thinking, communication, multicultural solidarity, and critique) with full-view cost analysis skills, and critical democratic community membership.

Are there shared solutions?

