



Policy Type: Board

Category: Sustainability

Policy Name: Sustainability - Board Policy 8.1

[← Previous Policy Manual Section](#)

[Next Policy Manual Section →](#)

8.1 SUSTAINABILITY

The County of Santa Clara is committed to building and maintaining a healthy and safe community for current and future generations through preserving natural resources and the environment, fostering a healthy economy and meeting the basic needs of all residents with respect and cultural awareness.

Three elements help define sustainability, which will allow the County, its businesses and its residents to meet the needs of today while not compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The County develops public policy and programs that will support each of these:

Vibrant Economy

Businesses thrive, residents are employed, innovation flourishes, and services needed to attract new green businesses and develop and train a future workforce are readily available.

Healthy Environment

The use of natural resources, necessary for sustaining life, is in balance with nature's ability to replenish them. The community has access to and protects natural habitats and parks, clean air and water, and ecological



diversity. The built environment is well-planned to respect the natural environment and to promote public health, safety and recreation.

Social Equity

The County provides an inclusive environment that supports the diversity of our community and encourages civic engagement. All neighborhoods are safe from crime and violence and residents have access to the basic needs of education, health services, housing and food.

Providing Balance

The interrelationships among the three elements are more important than any one element. In Santa Clara County, public policy and programs shall pursue a thoughtful, balanced approach when interests compete and focus new programs and policies primarily on shared interests, whenever possible. The process of thinking sustainably and utilizing, when appropriate, an inclusive collaborative process will produce visionary decisions today that will ensure a viable and thriving community for the future.

There are three aspects to fully integrating the commitment to sustainability within the County:

- (A) A focus on serving the community, enhancing the economy, protecting local environmental resources and establishing a vision of sustainability for all programs and policies that the County will adopt, and
- (B) Actions to build a sustainable governmental agency with a sound financial foundation, a diverse, innovative, productive workforce and a light environmental footprint.



County of Santa Clara

Policy Name: Sustainability - Board Policy 8.1

Page 3 of 3

- (C) Leadership in the community and the region with elected officials and staff working collaboratively with other counties, cities, agencies and organizations to develop solutions that provide wide-reaching benefits, and by setting an example of thoughtful, innovative, balanced approaches to policy and programs.

This commitment of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors to a sustainable future shall be reflected in decisions of public policy, programs and services, and in a workplace that encourages continuous improvement for existing programs; values and maximizes employee assets; and stimulates an atmosphere of innovation, collaboration, productivity, pride and personal commitment to sustainability.

All present and future County elected officials, administration and employees will recognize and respect the connections between economic, environment, social and health systems in meeting their explicit and implied responsibilities to current and future generations.

Related Policies

None.

Related Forms and Information

None.

History

Date	Changes Made
2/11/2014	Policy Uploaded. (Kyle Larson)
4/27/2010	Policy Adopted. View legislative file.