



A new psychology
for the Middle-East and the world.

The Paradise Earth Accord
creates a new paradigm
for sustainable peace.

Dedicate to Robert Muller

Dr. Robert Muller (1923-2010) was an international civil servant with the United Nations. Assistant Secretary-General for 40 years, his ideas about world peace and spirituality led to the increased representation of religions in the UN.

He was known by some as *the philosopher of the United Nations* or the *UN Optimist*. Robert Muller and Rodrigo Carazo Odio founded the *United Nations University for Peace* in demilitarized Costa Rica around the time Robert retired from the United Nations. Dr. Muller began his active retirement as the first Chancellor of the University for Peace.

He was the recipient of multiple awards and honors including the *Albert Schweitzer International Prize for the Humanities* and the *Eleanor Roosevelt Man of Vision Award*.

In addition to his duties at the *University for Peace*, he devoted time to his writings and was an internationally acclaimed, multilingual speaker and author of fourteen books published in various languages. One of his major writings came from writing one idea-dream each day to nurture a better world. His goal was to have written 2000 ideas and dreams by the beginning of the new millennium. He achieved this and went on to write over 7000 ideas and dreams. In his speeches, he spoke of these idea-dreams and over the years noted that many of these ideas were being worked on and some had been completed.

At the prompting of many of his friends, admirers, and non-governmental organizations, Robert Muller was a candidate as a global citizen in 1996 for the post of *Secretary General of the United Nations*. He was also nominated multiple times for the *Nobel Peace Prize*.

Robert's last writings were on *Paradise Earth ~ Ideas & Dreams for Nurturing Our Home*.

The Paradise Earth Accord is dedicated to this great being of vision and peace. Robert was a mentor and friend for 30 years.

~ Sandy Hinden

THE PARADISE EARTH ACCORD

1. We acknowledge that when people are disrespectful of each other they provoke anger in each other, generating conflict.
2. We agree to be **MUTUALLY RESPECTFUL** of each other.
3. As Arab Nations, we Agree that Palestinians that Israelis have a right to exist peacefully.
4. As the Israeli Nation, we Agree to the creation of a peaceful and prosperous Palestinian Nation.
5. We Agree to co-creating the *Mid-East Council on Eco-villages & Sustainable Communities* to balance population, work, education, housing, transportation, food, water, sanitation, and access to material goods, and health and human services.
6. We Agree to be **COMPASSIONATE** of all parties in the Middle East.
7. We Agree to use and teach methods of *Compassionate Communication, Appreciative Inquiry, Generative Questions* and *Wisdom Circles* to seek wisdom and sustainable solutions that can be developed.



PARADISE EARTH ~ METHODS

- **Compassionate Communication** helps people develop a vocabulary for communicating about:
 - *Sharing Non-judgmental Observations* (what you see and hear).
 - *Sharing Feelings* (using a vocabulary of feelings - sad, hurt; scared, fearful, worried, tense; mad, angry, resentful; peaceful, serene; compassionate, loving; glad, happy, appreciative, grateful) and other words and phrases to describe feelings.
 - *Sharing Values & Needs* (using a vocabulary of values and needs - physical, financial, emotional, social, intellectual, spiritual, cultural).
 - *Making Reasonable Requests* (to ask someone for what you would like. They may say “yes” or “no.” You can then *Consciously Choose* what to constructively do next.
- **Generative Questions** open up new ways of thinking about feelings, needs, concerns, problems, and issues.
- **Appreciative Inquiry** inquires about co-creating greater possibilities based on using our assets, gifts, and talents to create what we most want and need.
- **Wisdom Circles** are a process of asking better questions and patiently listening to the Wisdom of others and yourself. *Wisdom Circles* transform our conversations, families, and the way we organize life in the family, community, nation and on planet Earth to be more meaningful and more sustainable.
- **Ecovillages** are intentional communities with the goal of becoming more socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable. Some aim for a population of 50–150 individuals. Larger ecovillages of up to 2,000 individuals exist as networks of smaller subcommunities to create an ecovillage model that allows for social networks within a broader foundation of support. Certain ecovillages have grown by the nearby addition of others, not necessarily members, settling on the periphery of the ecovillage and effectively participating in the ecovillage community.

- **Healthy Community Self-Inventory** Members of a community can identify how well the community is doing in each area by putting a rating 1-10 (10 being well-functioning). Set up a committee for each area to do research, seek more understanding and develop expertise for the community. Each committee can seek to make improvements in each area.

ITEM	AREA	RATING
1	POPULATION The community has enough work, housing, open space, schools, and medical facilities for the population.	
2	TRANSPORTATION The community has enough public transportation for all who need it, at an affordable rate.	
3	EDUCATION The community has effective schools for all.	
4	WORK, EMPLOYMENT The community has enough job opportunities for all who need work.	
5	RENEWABLE ENERGY The community has effective means for providing access to energy sources for all.	
6	HEALTHY FOOD, GARDENING The community has sufficient access to healthy food, grown locally as much as possible.	
7	WATER AND SANITATION The community has adequate supplies of clean water and sanitation facilities.	
8	HEALTHCARE The community has enough health care providers and high-standard facilities for delivering it. There is adequate health education, especially in preventative measures.	
9	GOOD GOVERNMENT The community has well-established guidelines for a system of government that provides checks and balances as well as methods for ensuring accountability.	
10	RELATIONSHIP TO PEOPLE People of different races, religions, nationalities, and walks of life are welcomed and free to associate with whomever they want.	
11	RELATIONSHIP TO NATURE The community provides education for teaching a respectful approach to nature in schools, as well as sustainable business practices, and develops standards for ensuring those guidelines are met.	
12	VOLUNTEERISM BY MANY / MOST / ALL The community provides opportunities for all to assess their skills and encourages its members to participate generously.	
13	GENEROSITY AND CONTRIBUTION OF TIME, TALENT, KNOWLEDGE The educated, successful, financially fortunate people in the community participate in contributing time, talent, knowledge, and financial resources to causes in the community.	
14	APPRECIATION FOR ART, CREATIVITY, SCIENCE, NATURE, WONDER, THE SACRED, THE HOLY (WITHIN AND BETWEEN ALL FAITHS) The community provides opportunities for creativity and faith-sharing and encourages its members to participate in deepening their spiritual-ethical-creative lives, within and outside of formal religions.	
15	PEACE, TRANSCENDENCE, ALIGNMENT WITH POSITIVE ENERGY The community encourages non-violent methods of communication and provides educational opportunities for learning to develop these skills as well as offering incentives for implementing non-violent communication skills in schools and businesses.	

- **Sustainable Communities**

Action Planning and the Sustainable Community <http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/sustain.htm>

"If our development strategies aren't sustainable they will be terminal".

The Economic Renewal Guide - The Rocky Mountain Institute

The action planning process will lead to the development of a community that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable. Several definitions of a sustainable community.

A "sustainable community" seeks to maintain and improve the economic, environmental and social characteristics of an area so its members can continue to lead healthy, productive, enjoyable lives.

Maureen Hart, "Guide to Sustainable Community Indicators"

In a sustainable community, resource consumption is balanced by resources assimilated by the ecosystem. The sustainability of a community is largely determined by the web of resources providing its food, fiber, water, and energy needs and by the ability of natural systems to process its wastes. A community is unsustainable if it consumes resources faster than they can be renewed, produces more wastes than natural systems can process or relies upon distant sources for its basic needs.

Sustainable Community Roundtable, Olympia, Washington

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

UN World Commission on the Environment and Development

Sustainable is the long-term, cultural, economic, and environmental health and vitality with an emphasis on long-term, together with the importance of linking our social, financial, and environmental well-being.

Sustainable Seattle

The sustainable community should establish goals and a vision by developing more efficient and effective ways in which to live and grow. It also will involve the participation of the entire community in creating a vision of the community's future that balances economic, environmental, and social needs.

Principles of Sustainability

Now that we have defined sustainability we need to look at some general principles which are sensitive to the principles of sustainability and can be used by the community as a basis for selecting and developing action plans. The Provincial Government of Ontario, Canada has created the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy which has developed six guiding principles for sustainable development. It is useful to review these principles prior to commencing the task of developing action plans for the community.

- **Anticipation and prevention of potential environmental degradation.** The response of the past -- "react and cure" -- has proven to be economically, socially and environmentally expensive. We have had to fix problems after they occur through pollution control and regulation. We need to shift to a philosophy which "anticipates and prevents" environmental degradation at the planning stages of our development projects and when we make consumption decisions. We need to prevent pollution before it happens.
- **Full cost accounting.** Our natural assets -- air, water, land, soils, forests, wilderness and wildlife -- are the underlying base of all our economic activity. To prevent over-use and exploitation, all prices ideally should reflect full environmental and resource costs. For example, health costs and crop damage resulting from pollutants like acid rain would be included in the price of products whose manufacturing process

contributes to acid rain. Applying this principle in all areas will provide economic incentives for wise resource use.

- **Informed decision-making (environment-economy integration).** Sustainable development requires the integration of environmental and economic considerations in decision-making. Consideration must be given to both the short and long-term consequences of these decisions. In addition, the decisions must be based on sound information. And those who make economic decisions must be responsible for the environmental consequences of those decisions.
- **Living off the interest (doing better with less).** This principle treats our limited natural resources as part of our capital wealth. Such "natural capital" must be replaced as it is depleted, or else be reused or recycled. If not, we will bankrupt ourselves just as if we had spent all our financial resources.
- **Quality over quantity.** Creating a sustainable society will require changes in lifestyles, attitudes, expectations, behaviors and values. An increasing focus on quality of economic development will result in smarter production and consumption patterns -- such as improved product durability and energy efficiency in the production and marketing of goods and services.
- **Respect for nature and the rights of future generations.** Our economy depends not only on the continued flow of resources but also on the protection and enhancement of ecosystems and habitats. The decision-making process must consider not only today's needs, but the needs of future generations by ensuring that a long enough horizon is used in the evaluation process.

Sustainability at the Local Level

What can you do at the local level to create a sustainable community? The Citizen Planner's Project of Ventura County has developed several ideas for application at the local level, which you may wish to use in your community.

- **Protect, preserve and restore the natural environment.** Acknowledge that undisturbed natural beauty enriches and that the natural environment is basic for a healthy world, a healthy economy and a healthy society.
- **Establish true-cost pricing economics.** Establish true-cost pricing as the basis for economic viability. Utilize whole-system thinking to recognize the true long-term costs and benefits of actions from an economic, environmental and social standpoint.
- **Support local agriculture and local business products and services.** Use community products and services for the cycling of economic wealth in the community.
- **Develop clustered, mixed-use pedestrian oriented eco-communities.** Clustering reduces infrastructure costs and pays for the reclamation of open space within the urban and suburban community and protects open space in the rural community. Clustering also encourages walking, bicycling and public transit use.
- **Utilize advanced transport, communication and production systems.** Reduce automobile dependence, traffic congestion, air and noise pollution, and operating and maintenance costs, by establishing rail centered transportation. Utilize advanced communication systems to move information in preference to people and material. Employ advanced production technologies to reduce costs, increase quality and production, and reduce pollution and energy use.
- **Maximize conservation and develop local renewable resources.** Maximize the use of conservation technology and practices, reduce the use of non-renewable resources, and develop local renewable energy, water and material resources.
- **Establish recycling programs and recycled materials industries.** Expand recycling technology and establish extensive recycling and composting programs.
- **Support education for participation governance.** Build educational awareness and public consensus for ecological planning and policy issues through broad-based citizen participation.