

Principles of Sustainability

Ms. Larsh

There are 3 **Scientific** Principles of Sustainability

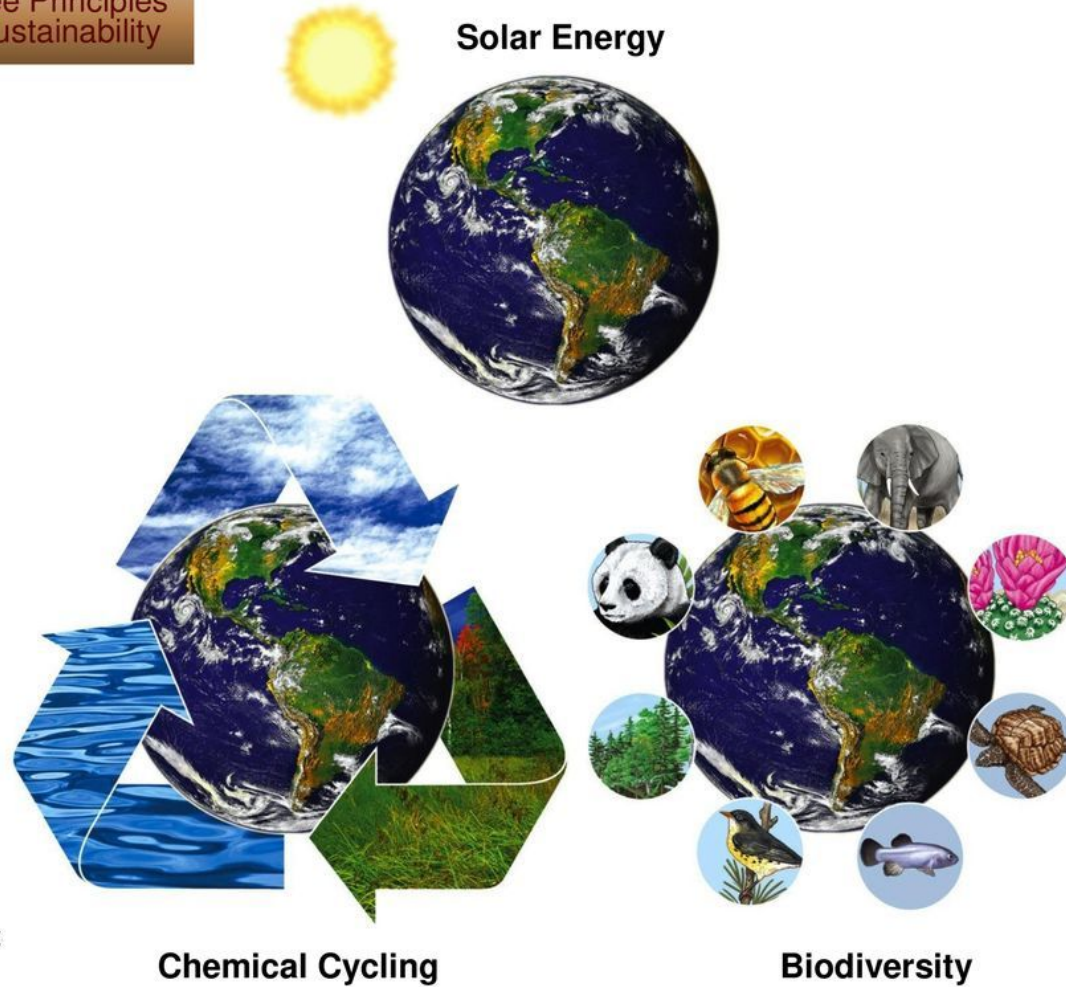
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Another 3 **Social Science** Principles of
Sustainability

What is Sustainability?

Is the capacity of the Earth's natural systems and human cultural systems to survive, flourish, and adapt to changing environmental conditions into the very long-term future.

Three Principles of Sustainability



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Fig. 1-3, p.

Three Principles of Sustainability



1. Solar Energy
2. Chemical Cycling
3. Biodiversity

We derive these three interconnected principles of sustainability from learning how nature has sustained a huge variety of life on the earth for at least 3.5 billion years, despite drastic changes in environmental conditions

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Fig. 1-5, p. 9

We can bring about a sustainability revolution during your lifetime

- Time for an environmental or sustainability revolution.
- Three social science principles of sustainability:
 - Full-cost pricing (from economics): in working toward this goal, we would find ways to include in market prices the harmful environmental and health costs of producing and using goods and services.
 - Win-win solutions (from political science): by focusing on solutions that will benefit the largest possible number of people, as well as the environment, we might learn to work together consistently in dealing with environmental problems.
 - A responsibility to future generations (from ethics): through this principle, we would accept our responsibility to leave the planet's life-support systems in at least as good a shape as what we now enjoy, for all future generations.