Unit One
Defining Sustainability
What does Sustainability mean?
Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet future needs.

World Commission on Environment and Development
Basic Human Needs

What are people’s basic needs?

Do all people have the same needs?

Will a person living 100 years from now have the same needs as you do today?

“Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet future needs”

World Commission on Environment and Development
Our basic needs fall into three categories.

- **Environment**
  - Clean Air
  - Clean Water
  - Healthy Soil
  - Nutritious Food

- **Society**
  - Safety
  - Health
  - Community
  - Education

- **Economy**
  - Good Jobs
  - Fair Wages
  - Fair Prices
  - Opportunity
Sustainability rests on Three Pillars:

- **Environment**
  - Clean Air
  - Clean Water
  - Healthy Soil
  - Nutritious Food

- **Society**
  - Safety
  - Health
  - Community
  - Education

- **Economy**
  - Good Jobs
  - Fair Wages
  - Fair Prices

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**Economy**

**Society**

**Environment**
Present and Future

How can our present actions affect our future?

Give one example of how something you do today can make the future better.

Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet future needs.

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What do you want your future To be like?
Your Vision

How would you improve this vacant lot to help achieve the future you want?

At your table discuss:
• How will this space be used?
• How will it support the needs of the community now and in the future?
• How will it promote the economy, environment, and society?

Use a whiteboard to draw out your plan for this vacant lot. Make sure your plan includes each of the Three Pillars of Sustainability.