SUSTAINABILITY

AB 2016
**What is sustainability?**

Sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.

**Sustainable living** is a lifestyle that attempts to reduce an individual's or society's use of the Earth's natural resources and personal resources.
An Introduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5r4loXPYx8
Goals of sustainability

- The end of poverty and hunger
- Better standards of education and healthcare - particularly as it pertains to water quality and better sanitation
- To achieve gender equality
- Sustainable economic growth while promoting jobs and stronger economies
- Tackling the effects of climate change, pollution and other environmental factors that can harm and do harm people's health, livelihoods and lives.
- Improve health of the land, air and ocean
Why is sustainability so important?

- As humans living on Earth, scientists estimate that we cannot sustain ourselves for longer than a few more millenia, because the Earth has only a certain amount of resources. People are consuming resources at a rate faster than the Earth can naturally reproduce them. Consumption is the root of the problem: consumption of natural resources, electricity, clean water etc. The human race is going to have to make serious changes in working towards the conservation of our planet, or humans are going to have to find a new planet to live on. Sustainability seeks to fix this problem, to teach people to live in a way that is conscious of future generations and the future health of the planet. Sustainable living is ethical, responsible, and absolutely necessary.
Consumption in America

-Although accounting for only 5 percent of the world's population, Americans consume 26 percent of the world's energy.

-America uses about 15 times more energy per person than the typical developing country.

-One American's consumption of resources is equivalent to that of 35 Indians.

-Over a lifetime, the typical American will create 13 times as much environmental damage as the average Brazilian.

-We cannot go on like this! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GorgroiggM
Tips for Living Sustainably

- Use reusable resources—use cloth towels rather than paper napkins or paper towels, and reusable dishes and utensils rather than disposable ones. Bring your own bags when shopping. Use reusable water bottles.

- Grow your own food if you can and cook from scratch. Otherwise, try to buy organic, locally grown foods as much as possible.

- Eat less meat as meat production results in more carbon emissions than any other food.

- Take shorter showers and do not leave the tap running when brushing your teeth.
Tips for Living Sustainably

- Shop at thrift stores as much as you can
- Always turn the lights off when leaving a room
- Unplug things
- Walk, bike, and carpool as often as possible
- Reduce purchases: borrow rather than buy
- Obviously: recycle!