

Definition of Environmental Sustainability

We tend to almost always connect the word “environmental” with some kind of human impact on natural systems. This distinguishes it from the word “ecological” which is characterized more by a concept of interdependence of elements within a system. The basic understanding of the term “Environmental Sustainability” that we wish to set forth in is essentially the expansion of the understanding of human environmental activity so as to connect it with the ecological concept of interdependence. Environmental sustainability would then become a subset of ecological sustainability and somewhat of an expansion of concepts like industrial symbiosis. And, while this concept of environmental sustainability can serve as a potent goal for environmental managers, it also is bigger than that with broader applicability and importance.