

DEFINITIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY



The City of Chico Sustainability Task Force has created the following Work Plan Mission Statement, which could be incorporated into a definition of Sustainability for the City of Chico General Plan.

The Sustainability Task Force (City) shall promote a culture of stewardship within our community to enhance our natural resources, economic resources, and quality of life for present and future generations in the City of Chico by collaboratively developing programs and initiatives which will distinguish Chico as a leader in sustainability efforts.

The following definitions provide a few examples of what other jurisdictions and organizations have used as their definitions of sustainability.

- "... ensure that development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
Brundtland Report 1987
- "Sustainability secures people's quality of life within the means of nature in a way that is fair and equitable to all humanity, other species and to future generations. Sustainability recognizes the inter-relatedness of the economy, society, and environment. It requires that we not consume resources faster than they can be renewed nor produce wastes faster than they can be absorbed."
Sustainable Sonoma County
- "...continue to meet current needs – environmental, economic and social – without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same."
Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan
- Configuring civilization and human activity so that we are able to meet our needs and express our greatest potential in the present, while preserving biodiversity and natural ecosystems, and planning and acting for the ability to maintain these ideals indefinitely
Workiq.com
- "Sustainability is defined as aligning our built environment and socioeconomic activities with the natural systems that support life. In the long, sustainability means adapting human activities to the constraints and opportunities of nature. Central to this definition is meeting the needs of both the present and the future."
Marin County Countywide Plan