

California Community Indicator Projects: Taxonomy

Developed on June 8th, 1998, at the California Community Indicators Meeting hosted by Redefining Progress.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROJECT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

United Way of Santa Cruz

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Boundary:	County
Entry Point:	Public & Private Health, Human Services
Objective:	Provide credible and measurable information, Guide program planning
Style:	Collaborative, Multi-Sector
Visioning Process?	Yes. Set community goals for the year 2000, at the end of 1994.
Linkage between Indicators?	Yes
Indicator Criteria:	Measurable, Comparable across regions, Valid, Available Annually.
Methods of Communication:	Comprehensive and summary reports, Community Report Card, Speakers Bureau Consultation Team, Press Conference
Measurement Cycle:	Annual
Funding:	County Government, City Government, United Way, Community Foundations, Non-Profits, Colleges, Hospitals, Businesses

Project Summary:

In September 1994, the United Way of Santa Cruz County launched a ten-year initiative, the Community Assessment Project (CAP), to measure and improve the quality of life in Santa Cruz County. It was designed and implemented by a consortium of public and private health, education, human service and civic organizations. CAP focuses on the strengths of the community as well as their perceptions of need. Through the CAP process, a series of 143 quality of life indicators in five areas: health, education, economy, social environment, and public safety, were defined to serve as benchmarks to measure annually over a ten-year period so that institutions and other community groups can determine if their policies and programs are effective. As a part of the evaluation process, following the release of the first year's results certain quality of life indicators were revised or deleted due to obstacles in securing meaningful data for measurement of the indicators. The CAP results are highlighted in a Summary Report to the community and the detailed findings are presented in the Comprehensive Report.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC INDICATOR PROJECT FOR SILICON VALLEY

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Boundary: Regional
Entry Point: Economy, Well-Being
Objective: Advocacy, Prioritize, Measurement , Accountability, Consensus-Building, Prediction
Style: Collaborative and confrontational
Visioning Process? Yes, prior to the publication of the report
Linkage between Indicators? Yes
Indicator Criteria: Defined by the economic indicators advisory board
Methods of Communication: Report, Public Relations, Presentations
Measurement Cycle: Every 2 years
Funding: Foundations, Volunteers

Project Summary:

Working Partnerships initiated a public dialogue process to identify areas of greatest concern to community residents. The process included planning meetings with community leaders, small group workshops, and interviews with residents. Initial outreach targeted contingent workers, unions, housing activists, environmentalists, public officials, small business owners, high tech professionals, and those un-aligned with other groups. This process forms the basis for the development of a Community Economic Blueprint that identifies targets and goals towards improving the economy and community in the Silicon Valley. Their indicators report, "Growing Together or Drifting Apart: Working Families and Business in the New Economy," includes data in the following categories: The New Economy, Community and Society, Civic Life, Health, Education, Environment and Sustainability.

FUTURE COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Foundation for Community Design

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Boundary: San Luis Obispo County
Entry Point: Environment, Social, Government, Economic
Objective: Advocacy, Accountability
Style: Collaborative
Visioning Process? Yes, during the initial stage
Linkage between Indicators? Minimal
Indicator Criteria: Measurable, Critical, Reliable and Available Data
Methods of Communication: Published Report
Measurement Cycle: To be determined
Funding: Foundations

Project Summary:

The Foundation for Community Design (FCD) is a non-profit organization designed to facilitate education and encourage participation in civic activities that promote the long-term health of the communities of San

Luis Obispo County. The FCD launched The Future Communities Project 1995 and created a forum involving over 4,000 residents to discuss and define their visions and collective priorities for the future of San Luis Obispo County. The Project's mission is to ensure that future planning for San Luis Obispo County is focused on gathering the voices not only of community leaders but of those in diverse population segments and those normally not included in the public process. The Project's primary objectives serve to increase awareness of the interrelationship among environmental, economic and social elements; create a system that facilitates updating the defined vision and provides a means of ensuring ongoing community building and collaborative decision-making; and establish a strategic framework of performance indicators for monitoring the community's progress toward achieving that vision.

INDICATORS FOR A SUSTAINABLE SAN MATEO

Sustainable San Mateo County

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Boundary:	County-wide (20 cities)
Entry Point:	The Earth Summit's Local Agenda 21
Objective:	Measurement, Education, Advocacy
Style:	Grassroots
Visioning Process?	No
Linkage between Indicators?	Yes
Indicator Criteria:	Bellwether, Measurable
Methods of Communication:	Report, Media
Measurement Cycle:	Annual
Funding:	In-kind, Volunteer, Membership, Foundation, County and City Funds

Project Summary:

Sustainable San Mateo County (SSMC) began in 1992 and is a volunteer, non-profit, educational organization. Its purpose is to promote changes in attitude and action necessary to achieve long-term social, economic and environmental health and vitality of San Mateo County. To be most effective in achieving these goals, SSMC has engaged the entire community, including government, business, education and social services in drafting their set of indicators. A total of 32 indicators were developed to illustrate the social, economic and environmental trends that characterize San Mateo County.

JOINT VENTURE SILICON VALLEY INDEX

Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network

Collaborative Economics

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Boundary:	Economic Region (Santa Clara County, portions of San Mateo, Alameda, Santa Cruz counties)
Entry Point:	Economic Downtown; Concern for Economic Vitality and Quality of Life
Objective:	Track past and current trends; Build consensus; Meet targeted goals
Style:	Collaborative
Visioning Process?	Not originally, however, after five years of reporting, JVSN has just begun the Silicon Valley 2010 Visioning Process
Linkage between Indicators?	Minimal
Indicator Criteria:	Measurable on a frequent basis; Understandable; Appeal to media
Methods of Communication:	Web, Press, Published Report
Measurement Cycle:	Annual
Funding:	Foundations, Corporation and Public Sponsorship

Project Summary:

Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network is a non-profit organization with a vision to building a sustainable community collaborating to compete globally. Joint Venture brings people together from business, government, education and community to act on regional issues affecting economic vitality and quality of life. Joint Venture has been contracting with Collaborative Economics to produce the Joint Venture Index of Silicon Valley. The Index was developed to track progress of the Silicon Valley region towards a 21st century community, and has been released each January for the past four years. Many players have been active in the process of producing the Index including, Joint Venture's board members, staff, volunteers, an advisory board of economists, and a 400-person Leadership Council. JVSN has spent the last six years doing work aimed at creating a business-friendly environment in the Silicon Valley, sparking a renaissance in education, and improving the health of students and employees. As it continues these targeted efforts, it has convened a process, called Silicon Valley 2010, to craft a vision, goals, and progress measures for Silicon Valley. The process is being led by a team of 27 civic entrepreneurs, called the Vision Leadership Team, has conducted a series of interactive Community Forums to involve Silicon Valley residents.

METROTRENDS/ATLAS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

USC Southern California Studies Center

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Boundary:	Regional
Entry Point:	Social, Economic, Cultural
Objective:	Measurement, Consensus Building
Style:	Multi-sector
Visioning Process?	Yes, initial stage and on-going
Linkage between Indicators?	Highly linked presentation
Indicator Criteria:	Important, Measurable
Methods of Communication:	Report (Atlas), Roundtable discussions with regional leaders, Media
Measurement Cycle:	3 Year cycle for each set of indicators
Funding:	Private

Project Summary:

The Southern California Studies Center publishes a regular series of key indicators of regional well-being in Southern California. These MetroTrends indicators are summarized in a scorecard of vital regional trends on such topics as health, education, the status of children, welfare, economic development, and public art. The Atlas of Southern California builds on the MetroTrends indicators to provide an overview of the past, present and future of Southern California society, politics, economy and culture. Each Atlas is released in a major public event under the general rubric of The USC Presidential Roundtable on the State of Southern California. Extensive media coverage accompanies these Roundtables, attended by over 200 delegates from State and local governments, the private sector, academia, and foundations. The Roundtables provide an ideal forum for dialogue with expert panelists on a range of topics relevant to the region.

OAKLAND INDICATORS PROJECT, NATIONAL INDICATORS PARTNERSHIP

Urban Strategies Council

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Boundary: Neighborhoods/small areas within the city
Entry Point: Youth development and community building in low-income communities
Objective: Advocacy, Accountability, Priority Setting, Increase availability and relevance of local information to determine how well communities are doing
Style: Collaborative of private non-profits, university consortium
Visioning Process? Not yet
Linkage between Indicators? N/A
Indicator Criteria: Relevant, Accessible, Easily understood by community
Methods of Communication: Periodic Reports, Web
Measurement Cycle: N/A
Funding: Foundations

Project Summary:

The Oakland Indicators Project is partner in the Urban Institute's National Neighborhood Indicators Project (NNIP) which is designed to build local capacity to assess neighborhood change as a basis for strengthening distressed communities in several US cities. NNIP also provides national agencies, foundations and interest groups with a better understanding of neighborhood change and how these groups can assist local institutions in building and using neighborhood data systems to understand the dynamics of neighborhood change. To support Oakland's efforts to create healthy and vital communities, five Oakland-based organizations have initiated the Oakland Indicators Project. These organizations include: the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security (PI), Oakland Sharing the Vision (OSV), Urban Strategies Council (USC), University-Oakland Metropolitan Forum (the Forum), and Holy Names College (HNC). The Project is designed to develop a set of indicators that will make a difference in the actions of the city and community groups and will be limited to policy areas where there is need for action. This limitation will enable the community to develop shared knowledge that will lead to positive change. Shared knowledge is the product of community discussions about the meaning of that information, its accuracy, and its implications.

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX FOR PASADENA

**Pasadena Healthy Cities Project
Pasadena Public Health Department**

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Boundary:	Between Local and Regional
Entry Point:	Quality of Life, "Health" of Community
Objective:	Prediction, Strategy Development, Accountability, Consensus Building
Style:	Collaborative
Visioning Process?	Yes
Linkage between Indicators?	Yes
Indicator Criteria:	Measurable, Actionable, Critical
Methods of Communication:	Reports, Media, Video, Community Outreach
Measurement Cycle:	Annual
Funding:	Foundations, California Healthy Cities Project/Healthy Cities and Communities, Community Visions Unlimited

Project Summary:

Pasadena is a "Healthy Cities" project that has developed Quality of Life indicators as a long-range planning, priority-setting and resource allocation tool. In 1992, 150 citizens and civic professionals, comprising a cultural cross-section of the city's diverse neighborhoods, were called together by the Pasadena Public Health Department to help identify priority community health objectives. The result of their work was the Quality of Life Index for Pasadena, a tool for increasing awareness about the "healthy cities" concept and for informing the public about actions to improve quality of life in Pasadena. The Index is comprised of 53 indicators in the following 10 categories that effect community life, which include: Environment, Health, Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs, Education, Economy & Employment, Housing, Arts & Culture, Recreation & Open Spaces, Transportation, and Community Safety. The Index has assisted both the city and community agencies in establishing human services priorities, and it has guided policy development in tobacco control, alcohol availability and infant health. The project recently developed a Quality of Life Community Planning Matrix, and is now designing a Pasadena Healthy Cities Communication Strategic Plan in order to communicate the findings and usages of the planning matrix to city staff and the community as a whole.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECT

TELESIS Corporation

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Boundary: Neighborhood, Regional, County
Entry Point: Health and Safety, Economics (Government or Community)
Objective: Blueprint for Action, Accountability for specific institutions (i.e., Education, Safety, Health) Using outcomes for planning services
Style: Collaborative through a public/private partnership
Visioning Process? Yes
Linkage between Indicators? N/A
Indicator Criteria: N/A
Methods of Communication: N/A
Measurement Cycle: Annual
Funding: Government, Foundations

Project Summary:

The San Diego Quality of Life Project is a multi-agency project initiated by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, in collaboration with the Workforce Partnership. It is in the early design and development phase of determining community indicators for development of a Quality of Life strategic planning model, based on risk and protective factors for key domains. The project will integrate data from participating local agencies and also federal sources (e.g., HUD and the U.S. Census) to produce community-specific and county-wide data maps using GIS technology. Although the driving application for the Quality of Life model currently is reduction of alcohol and drug abuse, especially among youth, it will eventually incorporate other county health, criminal justice (community safety), environmental (EPA), education, cultural and economic indicators and data sets.

SAN JOAQUIN COMMUNITY DATA COOPERATIVE/CHARTING THE COURSE

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Boundary: County
Entry Point: Community Health
Objective: Gather, compile and maintain data
Style: Multi-Sector
Visioning Process? Yes, initial stage
Linkage between Indicators? No
Indicator Criteria: N/A
Methods of Communication: Preliminary Report
Measurement Cycle: Quarterly and yearly
Funding: Private and Public Grants

Project Summary:

Community Health has been described differently by many communities, yet the bottom line in creating a vision of a healthy community requires setting goals and defining indicators that reveal whether the goals are being met. San Joaquin County citizens have begun to define a vision that will enable the development of a Community Health Index. Two of the predominant barriers to completing a valid community health index have been (1) agreeing on what should be measured, and (2) having access to relevant and current data. To

address these data needs, the Sierra Health Foundation, the Family Preservation/ Family Support, and the Healthier Communities Coalition took the lead in forming the San Joaquin County Data Cooperative in June, 1995. In February, 1997, over 300 community members met to begin the process of identifying what makes a healthy community. Government leaders, business leaders, public agency personnel, community based organization personnel, neighborhood groups and citizens met at the Stockton Civic Auditorium for a day of reflection and work. Local efforts in community health indexing were reviewed - Healthy Community Coalition, Vision 2000 and City of Stockton's goals. Out of this process emerged a consensus on the following eight areas that need to be addressed: Education, Housing, Economic Opportunity, Health and Human Resources, Public Safety, Infrastructure, Livability/Social, Livability/Environment.

SAN JOAQUIN HEALTHIER COMMUNITY COALITION

St. Josephs Regional Health

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Boundary:	County-wide, Regional, Community
Entry Point:	Heath (all inclusive: Economy, Education, Environment, Safety)
Objective:	Measurement, Consensus Building, Prioritize, Blueprint
Style:	Collaborative
Visioning Process?	Yes, initial stage and revised after 4 years
Linkage between Indicators?	Yes
Indicator Criteria:	Measurable, Sustainable
Methods of Communication:	Conference, Report
Measurement Cycle:	Every 3-5 years
Funding:	Private, Non-Profit, Hospitals

Project Summary:

The Healthier Community Coalition (HCC) was formed in 1993 to provide health and human service providers in San Joaquin County a forum to collaborate in addressing the broader health issues of the community. The mission of HCC is to assess and analyze community health status and provide leadership in the development and coordination of health status improvement efforts in the community. HCC has financially supported and participated in the community health needs assessment process and serves as the leader in this ongoing process. HCC is one of the sponsors of the "Charting the Course" program which produces a progress report and reviews the Community Health Index. HCC has dedicated financial support to the San Joaquin Community Data Cooperative to support development and maintenance of an integrated community database.

SANTA BARBARA SOUTH COAST COMMUNITY INDICATORS

Community Environmental Council

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Boundary: Region (Santa Barbara County)
Entry Point: Economy, Environment
Objective: Provide Information, Measure Results, Build Consensus
Style: Collaborative
Visioning Process? No
Linkage between Indicators? Minimal
Indicator Criteria: Measurable, Leading, Shared Meaning, Reliable and Available Data
Methods of Communication: Published Report, Web, Press, Community Meetings
Measurement Cycle: Annual
Funding: Foundations, Government, Business, Volunteer, In-Kind

Project Summary:

The Santa Barbara South Coast Indicators Project is an effort to involve the Santa Barbara South Coast community in developing and using social, environmental, and economic indicators that will guide decisions towards continually improving quality of life. The Community Environmental Council began a pilot project in 1994 to generate broad interest in the concept of community indicators and received strong support by the business community and social interest groups. Once the foundation of support was laid, they reviewed the pilot project, developed an organizational structure, and designed the public outreach phase of the project. This phase included eleven public meetings across the South Coast to gather input for possible indicators. The UCSB Economic Forecast Project and the CEC provided staff support on the project and the leadership and day-to-day direction was provided by the project's trustees and their steering committee.

SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABLE CITY PROGRAM

City of Santa Monica

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Boundary: City government, City-wide
Entry Point: Primarily Environmental, Secondarily Social and Economic
Objective: Advocacy, Accountability, Blueprint, Prioritize, Measurement, Consensus, Prediction
Style: Semi-Collaborative
Visioning Process? Yes, initial stage
Linkage between Indicators? No
Indicator Criteria: Tied to goals, Measurable, Actionable
Methods of Communication: Reports
Measurement Cycle: Annual
Funding: City Government

Project Summary:

The Sustainable City Program is government-driven with assistance from a City Council-appointed “Task Force on the Environment,” composed of local professionals. The program was initiated to provide a coordinated, proactive approach to implementing the city’s existing and planned environmental programs. The following four policy goals were identified in four categories and represent the focus of the Sustainable City Program: Resource Conservation, Transportation, Pollution Prevention & Health Protection, and Community & Economic Development. A total of sixteen indicators and targets were specified within these areas. Data is available for 1990 and 1993, and targets have been set for 2000.

SIERRA NEVADA WEALTH INDEX

Sierra Business Council

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- Boundary:** Region (Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Alpine, Inyo, and Mono counties)
- Entry Point:** Regional Wealth and the Economy (including social, natural, and financial assets and capital)
- Objective:** To gain an integrated understanding of the region’s wealth, To be a catalyst for leadership, action and innovation in communities throughout the region; Stimulate interest and discussion
- Style:** Collaborative
- Visioning Process?** Yes. Preceding the indicator process
- Linkage between Indicators?** Yes
- Indicator Criteria:** Measurable; Available and Objective; Measure the conditions of assets which are of material importance to the region’s wealth; Measure conditions of assets critical to active public interest
- Methods of Communication:** Published Report; Newsletter; Planning for Prosperity publication; Membership Forums
- Measurement Cycle:** Released first report in 1996, and are planning to release an interim report consisting of 6–12 indicators that are not dependent on Census data in 1999. Also, plan to release a full report in 2002 with the new Census data.
- Funding:** Foundations, Business Membership

Project Summary:

The Sierra Nevada Wealth Index was developed by the Sierra Business Council (SBC), an association of businesses working to secure the economic and environmental health of the Sierra Nevada for this and future generations. The Index, which includes 42 indicators, was developed to comprehensively assess the social, natural and financial assets that are the foundation of regional wealth. Building on the findings of the Index and addressing the challenge to accommodate new growth while preserving the natural landscape and small town appeal that gives the region a distinct advantage in today’s economy, SBC published Planning for Prosperity: Building Successful Communities in the Sierra Nevada. The report provides a valuable set of principles for economic growth and natural resource protection and makes clear that nothing will more directly and perma-

nently affect the balance sheet of local businesses, and every other shareholder in the community, than the quality of planning decisions.

SILICON VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

Silicon Valley Environmental Partnership

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Boundary: Regional
Entry Point: Environmental
Objective: Awareness-building, Measurement, Advocacy, Accountability, Prioritize, Consensus-building
Style: Collaborative
Visioning Process? Not yet
Linkage between Indicators? Attempt to link environment to economic vitality and quality of life
Indicator Criteria: Environmental, Not exclusive to available data
Methods of Communication: Reports, Internet, Publications
Measurement Cycle: Annual (as frequent as data is available)
Funding: Volunteer, In-Kind, Companies, Foundations, Government, Individual

Project Summary:

The Silicon Valley Environmental Indicators project is being initiated by the Silicon Valley Environmental Partnership (SVEP), an Initiative launched by Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network. Established in 1993, SVEP is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote environmentally sound business and community practices through facilitation, collaboration, and education. The purpose of the Silicon Valley Environmental Indicators project is to present objective, fact-based information on the trends of our region's environmental health to Silicon Valley's elected officials, industry leaders, other community leaders, and the public. In order to create more sustainable communities throughout the Silicon Valley, the indicator project will increase the understanding of local and regional environmental issues among key leaders, decision-makers, and the general public while supporting other sustainable community initiatives in the Silicon Valley by providing them with environmental information and underscoring the link between environmental health, economic vitality, and quality of life.

STATE OF THE REGION

Southern California Association of Governments

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Boundary: Regional
Entry Point: Economy, Quality of Life
Objective: Accountability, Advocacy, To develop performance indicators for the Regional Plan

Style: Collaborative, Multi-sector
Visioning Process? Yes, initial stage
Linkage between Indicators? Yes
Indicator Criteria: Measurable, Actionable, Targets being considered
Methods of Communication: Annual Report, Web
Measurement Cycle: Annual, Funding: Agency budget (will diversify)

Project Summary:

State of the Region, the first of what will be regular yearly reports, has been prepared to provide an overview of the Southern California Region, its economy, its environment, and its quality of life. It provides information which can be used to identify trends within the region as well as to make comparisons with other areas. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has selected 34 indicators which provide a cross section of life in this vast region. They reflect the leading concerns of the region, focusing on the economy, transportation, and the environment. The report is intended to provide an indication of what is going well for the region and warnings on those aspects which are not. The report includes 16 indicators using comparable data from the Bureau of the Census and other federal agencies.

SUSTAINABLE BAKERSFIELD PARTNERSHIP

Bakersfield Community College

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Boundary: County, Region
Entry Point: Economic Development, Social (Quality of Life, Environment, Health and Safety)
Objective: Resource Management/Measurement, Blueprint for Action, Consensus Building, Prioritize, Accountability, Advocacy, Prediction
Style: Multi-Sector Collaboration
Visioning Process? N/A
Linkage between Indicators? N/A
Indicator Criteria: N/A
Methods of Communication: Print, Electronic Media
Measurement Cycle: N/A
Funding: Government, Public, Private

Project Summary:

With economic growth in pursuit, and the agricultural and oil industry in jeopardy, Bakersfield is currently at a crossroad. To ensure a sustainable community for the next one hundred years, the Center for Professional Development of Bakersfield College in conjunction with the Behavioral Science Research Center of Bakersfield College and the Bakersfield Community has developed a proposal with very specific goals for creating an economically vital community for Bakersfield without further degrading its natural and human resources. If funded, SBP will develop indicators that will be used as planning tools for local agencies and stakeholders to better direct and manage economic and workforce development activities, along with Community Development

Block Grant funds. SBP has received an enormous amount of support from diverse stakeholders to develop a comprehensive set of community indicators.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES CONSORTIUM

University of California, Davis

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Boundary: Neighborhood, District, City, County, Region
Entry Point: Political, Economic, Community Planning, Environmental Impacts
Objective: Test, Predict, Implement
Style: Collaborative
Visioning Process: Yes
Linkage between Indicators? Yes
Indicator Criteria: Measurable, Quantifiable, Generated by the community
Methods of Communication: Forums, Meetings, Web Site, Newsletters, Papers
Measurement Cycle:
Funding: College Funds, Research Grants, Program Grants
Project Summary:

Funded by the UC Davis Environmental Initiative, the Sustainable Communities Consortium (SCC) draws upon campus programs and resources in areas of community and landscape design, environmental planning, and management and policy to create a national center of excellence in sustainable community development. Over the next two years, the SCC will conduct sustainable development research, process and disseminate information, and work together with California communities to develop sustainable development practices and processes. In partnership with agencies, communities, and foundations the SCC will be extending its initial two-year funding period to address California's problems with long-term solutions and strategies. SCC is collecting, organizing, mapping and assessing sustainable community data from the Greater Sacramento Valley region. Community information includes success stories, site specific models, policies, and programs, as well as local visions for sustainable futures. Through workshops, focus groups, speaking engagements, and institutes, SCC is involving community participants throughout the region. As information and outreach is translated into policies, programs, and activities, SCC will integrate university resources and knowledge from community experiences into strategies for sustainable futures.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Claremont Graduate University

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Boundary: Local, Regional, Global — “GLOCAL”
Entry Point: Environmental, Social, Economic
Objective: Education, Provide Information, Private/public action leading towards sustainability
Style: Collaborative
Visioning Process? Yes, with students, however, not community-wide
Linkage between Indicators? Yes
Indicator Criteria: Developing Criteria
Methods of Communication: Published Report
Measurement Cycle: Annual, depending on the indicator data
Funding: Foundations, Non-profit organizations

Project Summary:

The Sustainable Communities Program has five major project components: (1) development and spatial analysis of social, environmental, and economic sustainability indicators appropriate for diverse communities in California and elsewhere; (2) analysis of growth management issues in relation to infrastructure needs (e.g., transportation systems, water availability), fiscal needs, and environmental concerns (e.g., habitat conservation, air and water quality, solid waste management); (3) investigation of public policy responses to unsustainable community practices, designs, and development trends; (4) joint government, business, and academic metropolitan governance project, focusing on the Los Angeles region; and (5) leadership training, based on the findings and insights derived from research in each of the other projects. The Claremont Graduate University will play the central role in management and coordination; researchers and faculty members from outside Claremont will be major participants in the program, along with metropolitan leaders from business, government, and civic organizations. Dissemination of project findings and reports will be assisted by members of the League of Women Voters.

SUSTAINABLE NORTH BAY

County of Marin

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Boundary: Progressive from single county to 3 county (regional)
Entry Point: Economic, Social, & Environmental
Objective: Educate the organization, Educate the region, Advocacy
Style: Collaborative
Visioning Process? Yes
Linkage between Indicators?
Indicator Criteria: Measurable
Methods of Communication: Media, Internet
Measurement Cycle: Annual
Funding: Government, Foundations, Memberships

Project Summary:

Sustainable North Bay is a partnership of local governments, business leaders, community groups and non-profit organizations striving to enhance sustainability awareness in the counties of Marin, Sonoma and Napa. The group will be working toward defining community wide indicators, instituting processes for public education and input on sustainability, and implementing special initiatives across all sectors of the community which create sensitivity and support for sustainability. Identifying indicators will be important as indicators are the means by which sustainability and the overall general health of the community can be measured. Public education will include activities such as community outreach meetings and a conference centered on the concept of sustainable community. Selected initiatives would focus on a singular activity such as local use of energy per capita, use of water, or recycling of specific materials. SNB has also developed a report titled "Marin Profile 1997: A Survey of Economic and Social Indicators." This report provides facts by which local economic sustainability can be measured and can be found on their website.

SUSTAINABLE SAN FRANCISCO**Sustainable City**

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 Sustainable City
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Boundary:	City
Entry Point:	Primarily environmental with equity and economic considerations
Objective:	Blueprint for action, Educational tool
Style:	Representative, Collaborative
Visioning Process?	Yes
Linkage between Indicators?	Yes
Indicator Criteria:	Actionable, Measurable
Methods of Communication:	Annual Report
Measurement Cycle:	Annual
Funding:	Foundations, Volunteers, In-Kind, Membership

Project Summary:

In 1993, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors established the Commission on San Francisco's Environment which was charged with, among other things, drafting and implementing a sustainability action plan for the City of San Francisco. Aware that the process would only be legitimate with public participation, several commissioners and other citizens formed Sustainable San Francisco — a collaboration of more than 350 individuals representing city agencies and local organizations who volunteered to develop a plan for the city's future. The Sustainability Plan for the City of San Francisco establishes broad goals, sustainability objectives, and specific actions to achieve the objectives. A number of sustainability indicators are included in the plan. In July 1997, the S.F. Board of Supervisors endorsed the plan, encouraging city agencies to implement the plan where feasible.

SUSTAINABLE SONOMA COUNTY

Sonoma, CA

Ann Hancock
Facilitator
Sustainable Sonoma County
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Boundary: County linked with Region
Entry Point: Sustainability
Objective: To achieve a sustainable environment, economy, and society by 2040
Style: Collaborative
Visioning Process? Unsure
Linkage between Indicators? N/A
Indicator Criteria: The Natural Step, Ecological Footprint
Methods of Communication: N/A
Measurement Cycle: N/A
Funding: Seed money from Sustainable North Bay, Volunteers

Project Summary:

For the past year Sustainable Sonoma County has researched indicator projects and is still studying the best way to construct an indicator project. We are currently working with other indicator projects in the county, such as Community Action Program, coordinated by the United Way and the Sonoma County Community Foundation, and the Sonoma County Economic Indicators Project, which is a combination of the Economic Vitality Project and Good Will Industries.

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS FOR THE CITY OF SAN JOSE

City of San Jose

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Boundary: City
Entry Point: Environmental Quality
Objective: Resource Management, Blueprint, Accountability, Prioritize, Consensus Building, Prediction, Advocacy
Style: Goal is to be collaborative
Visioning Process? Yes, part of the General Plan (though the process was not completed)
Linkage between Indicators? To be determined
Indicator Criteria: To be determined

Methods of Communication: To be determined
Measurement Cycle: Preferably Annual
Funding: Government

Project Summary:

This project was initiated by the Sustainability Indicators Team of the Policy and Planning Division of the City of San Jose's Environmental Services Department (ESD). Policy and Planning spent roughly four months researching sustainability and drafting an initial list of indicators. In May 1995, the Sustainability Indicator Team began to evaluate and develop quantifiable and relevant indicators of sustainability, based on preliminary findings. ESD culled the list down to 52 indicators, in the following nine categories, as a step toward the creation of a centralized, coordinated environmental data system for performance measurement and public information: Population & Housing, Economics, Land Use, Water Use, Water Quality, Waste Management, Energy, Transportation, and Air Quality. All indicators are tracked over time.

VALLEY INFORMATION PROJECT

Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley

Robert Scott
Executive Vice Chair
Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley
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scott@civiccenter.com

Boundary: Geographic Sub-Region (Alliance of five cities and part of a county)
Entry Point: Economic, Government
Objective: Advocacy, Accountability, Prioritize, Prediction, Blueprint for Action, Measurement
Style: Representative, Collaborative
Visioning Process? Yes
Linkage between Indicators? Undecided as to degree
Indicator Criteria: Measurable, Actionable
Methods of Communication: Web, Print Publication, Media
Measurement Cycle: Annual
Funding: Public, In-kind, Private Corporation/Grant

Project Summary:

This project will establish a primary information base specifically for the geographic San Fernando Valley. The base will include benchmark comparisons with other jurisdictions, and will be designed to allow annual updates and trend analysis. The specified data and information will support efforts to retain and attract businesses, will provide a basis for education of the public, and will aid in establishing a dialog for the evolution of regulatory reform. To the extent possible, the information base will rely upon identifying and extracting material from existing and regularly updated sources. Limited primary research will be conducted. Further protocols and formats for additional research and analysis will be established. As needs arise and additional resources and technologies are identified, the model is expected to evolve to include additional data.

The following are additional projects that did not participate in the California Community Indicator Meeting on June 8th, 1998:

Balance Issues: Measures and Goals

Nevada County Business Association (NCBA)

Paul Norsell
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Grass Valley, CA 95945
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pnorsell@ix.netcom.com
ncba@nccn.net

Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development – Indicators Working Group

Bay Area Council

Donna Liu
Natural Resources Defense Council
71 Stevenson Street #1825
San Francisco, CA 94105
Ph: 415-777-0220 Fax: 415-495-5996

Working Families

Children Now

Heidi Taam
1212 Broadway, 5th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Ph: 510-763-2444x112 Fax: 510-763-1974
children@childrennow.org
<http://www.childrennow.org>

Goals and Success: Indicators for Healthy and Self-Sufficient Communities

Northern California Council for the Community

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50 California
Suite 200
San Francisco, CA 94111
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Sonoma County Economic Indicators Project (Just Initiated)

Goodwill Industries of the Redwood Empire

Cathleen Barnier
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State of the Local Environment & Economy

Southern California Council on Environment and Development

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<http://www.scced.org>

Tellus/Diganos Project

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**Nevada County Community Assessment Program
United Way**

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