

## SUSTAINABILITY

**Sustainability** is a new, broad concept with variable definitions. The United Nations offers a leading role in defining and creating sustainable conditions for the world.

“To meet the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

- United Nations World Commission On Environment and Development (The Brundtland Commission), *Our Common Future*, 1987

“Living within the carrying capacity of the Earth’s life support systems.”

- United Nations Environment Program



Sustainability is the solution to overshoot. By monitoring our current rates of resource depletion and renewal, we can ensure that we live within the earth’s carrying capacity. The Ecological Footprint is a tool for measuring sustainability. Individuals can help decrease ecological footprints by adopting sustainable practices, and nations may contribute by enforcing policies that encourage sustainable development.