## Sustainable INL News

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

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## What is Sustainability?

n 1890, Idaho became a state and adopted the motto "Esto perpetua," a Latin phrase meaning "to be perpetual." Nearly 120 years later, Idaho, like the rest of the earth, is on an unsustainable path, and consequently does not have the potential to be perpetual. This condition, however, can be remedied by adhering to and acting upon the principles and policies of sustainability.

Today sustainability is often confused with being "green," but sustainability actually encompasses three equally balanced priorities: the environment, economy and society. As the most ubiquitous slogan of sustainability aptly states, sustainability is the simultaneous consideration for "people, planet and prosperity."

The concept of sustainability emphasizes making decisions and meeting our needs today without compromising options for the future. It is a guiding tool for making everyday decisions that affect operations, the environment, employees, families and the community. The decisions vary from using advanced technologies to simply turning lights off when leaving a room, to recycling and purchasing environmentally friendly products.

INL strives towards sustainable practices and spreading the message to Earth Day events. Everyone at INL can participate in achieving this goal. By doing so, we can also

"Sustainability is here to stay or we may not be."

- Niall Fitzgerald, UK CEO, Unilever

The economic, environmental and social policies endorsed today will directly impact future generations. In 2007, President George W. Bush endorsed the Executive Order 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, **Energy and Transportation** Management." The order sets goals in the areas of energy efficiency, acquisition, renewable energy, toxics reductions, recycling, sustainable buildings, electronics stewardship, fleets and water conservation.

sustainability by embracing the community, such as at

## Sustainable INL **Program**

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We're on the Web! https://inlportal.inl. gov/sustainable

benefit personally and improve our communities. The task may seem insurmountable, but by simultaneously pursuing economic, social and environmental goals, INL can be a sustainable laboratory for generations.



