

Sustainable INL News

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

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Creating the social sustainability mosaic

Most of us associate sustainability with issues like global warming, a thinning ozone layer, pollution, finite natural resources and reducing our impact on the environment. Our actions on these fronts all get at the heart of sustainability: creating a world where future generations are ensured the resources they need. No sustainable society would be complete without community participation, preservation of cultural identity, diversity, tolerance, literacy, standards of integrity, laws, shared values or equal rights. This means that social sustainability – understanding that our actions make an impact on others – is a key component of creating a better world for future generations.

While these myriad issues are all encompassed in social sustainability, they can and should be addressed because they have significant motivation: the quality of human life.

Leading indicators of social sustainability include unemployment rates, poverty rates, opportunities for education and training,

health and availability of medical services, human rights and equal opportunities, crime and social disorder levels, housing provisions and quality, and access to clean drinking water. They are all pieces of the social sustainability mosaic.

interns and recruiting possibilities for the lab. Building cleanup days improve the quality of the work environment, giving employees work spaces that are more comfortable. Workshops help employees develop new skills and build confidence in their job

“Sustainable development is improvement in the quality of human life within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems.”
–World Wildlife Fund

INL addresses social sustainability through measures that support our local community. Team INL projects allow our employees to volunteer their time to support the community. The Hispanic Youth Symposium and school outreach programs provide enhanced educational opportunities. The Technical Assistance Program allows small organizations and businesses access to specific technology that can enhance their development.

INL also has programs designed to improve the work life of its employees. Our world-class internship program provides educational opportunities for

functions. Education programs allow employees to advance their education and improve their career trajectory. A commitment to a safe working environment ensures that employees are able to return home safely each day.

Social sustainability is defined by a sense of optimism. It is an investment to provide good education and meaningful life for an educated, skilled, experienced and healthy human population. Because it is renewed each generation through education, family and community relations, social sustainability is a perpetuating cycle to improve quality of life.

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