



THE SUSTAINABILITY MATRIX

The Sustainability Matrix has the core sustainability issues on one axis (a deeper evaluation beyond social, economic and environmental) and the specific areas where we can take action in an urban setting on the other axis.

The first innovation Mark created in this field in the mid 1990s was the Sustainability Matrix, while working at the City of Vancouver. Mark brought his education in urban systems and design to the discussion on global sustainability issues and observed immediately that there were some core issues that were the cause of “unsustainability” globally, but that effective responses to them were complex, interacting with every aspect of cities and the economy.

Mark became critical of the oversimplistic social, economic and environmental 3-legged stool and how was being applied by many organizations. His training and experience in the challenging details of urban planning and design drove him to create a new framework that was more applicable to cities.



**GLOBAL
SUSTAINABILITY
ISSUES AXIS:**

- Air and climate emissions
- Energy supply systems
- Water management
- Materials and waste management
- Food supply
- Social capacity and basic needs supply
- Economic opportunity and sufficiency

**COMMUNITY URBAN
SYSTEMS ISSUES AXIS:**

- Land use patterns
- Transportation systems
- Building design
- Landscape design and management
- Infrastructure systems
- Regional and urban food systems
- Community social services and facilities
- Employment, businesses and investment

By exploring the issues for each cell in the matrix and identifying optimum strategic responses in the context of the unique issues of any project, any community or project can customize a customized and pragmatic assessment and response plan to achieve sustainability objectives.

