

"Our Principles of Sustainability"

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The following statements reflect the attitude, values, and approach we attempt to use in our work at the Macoskey Center.

Shared basic sustainability values

- The continued existence of the natural world is inherently good and also self-serving.
- All living things should be treated with respect and care (including future generations).
- Sustainability is a necessity: i.e. optimizing within sustainable use rates amidst shrinking resources.
- Qualitative improvement is preferred to quantitative growth.
- Freedom is to some extent a function of slack between carrying capacity and the actual load.
- Cultural (identity and vitality) stability is valued.
- Addressing causes is preferred to addressing symptoms (shallow vs. deep sustainability).

Practicing humility in the development and operation of the facility

- Embrace the human role as part of the ecosystem, not apart from it.
- An adaptive management approach is preferred to command and control.
- Recognize that all humans are global citizens, and promote social equity.
- Promote and support communication and participation of all stakeholders.
- Respect indigenous wisdom - detailed local knowledge of ecosystem characteristics and socio-cultural constraints and opportunities.
- Admit that uncertainty exists and use the precautionary principle.
- Recognize limits in the system (carrying capacity, non renewables, space, time, capital, etc...).

The facility will reflect natural systems function and structure

- It will be fundamentally contextual (specific to the place).
- It will use renewable resources (human time-scale) and operate from current solar income.
- It will build (not degrade) natural capital.
- The project will be designed to be capable of accommodating flux/change to ensure longevity.
- Diversity and interdependence will be encouraged to ensure resilience and adaptation capacity.
- The project will have multiple feedback systems with mutually reinforcing relationships.
- The facility will practice a waste = food ethic and strive to be a zero waste operation.
- Material, energy, and human resources will be used efficiently and effectively.

Determining system successes

- Qualitative improvement is preferred to quantitative growth.
- Productivity (process) will be stressed instead of production (yield).
- Dollars will be counted; but so will embodied energy, life cycle costs, and ecological impacts.
- Human and animal happiness, health, and wellness will be tracked.
- Client satisfaction and educational goals/objectives will be regularly assessed.
- Localized ecosystem health/integrity will be assessed via indicators such as soil loss and biodiversity.