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From today's featured article

Fairfax Harrison (1869–1938) was an American lawyer, businessman, and writer. The son of the secretary to the

In the news

- Serbia and Kosovo reach an EU-brokered deal towards normalising bilateral relations.
- A manhunt across the Boston area results in the death of one suspect and the capture of a second in the Boston
Sustainable development (SD) refers to a mode of human development in which resource use aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for generations to come. The term 'sustainable development' was used by the Brundtland Commission which coined what has become the most often-quoted definition of sustainable development: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Solar power towers utilize the natural resource of the Sun, and are a renewable energy source. From left: PS10 and PS20 solar towers.
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Sustainable development ties together concern for the carrying capacity of natural systems with the social challenges faced by humanity. As early as the 1970s, "sustainability" was employed to describe an economy "in equilibrium with basic ecological support systems."[3] Ecologists have pointed to The Limits to Growth,[4] and presented the alternative of a "steady state economy"[5] in order to address environmental concerns.

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The concept of sustainable development has in the past most often been broken out into three constituent parts: environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and sociopolitical sustainability. More recently, it has been suggested that a more consistent analytical breakdown is to distinguish four domains of economic, ecological, political and cultural sustainability. This is consistent with the UCLG move to make 'culture' the fourth domain of sustainability.[6] (See below under Culture.)
Sustainability

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Sustainability is the capacity to endure. In ecology the word describes how biological systems remain diverse and productive over time. Long-lived and healthy wetlands and forests are examples of sustainable biological systems. For humans, sustainability is the potential for long-term maintenance of well being, which has ecological, economic, political and cultural dimensions.

Healthy ecosystems and environments are necessary to the survival and flourishing of humans and other organisms. There are a number of major ways of reducing negative human impact. The first of these is environmental management. This approach is based largely on information gained from earth science, environmental science and conservation biology. The second approach is management of human consumption of resources, which is based largely on information gained from economics. A third more recent approach adds cultural and political concerns into the sustainability matrix.

Sustainability interfaces with economics through the social and environmental consequences of economic activity. Sustainability economics involves ecological economics where social aspects including cultural, health-related and monetary/financial aspects are integrated. Moving towards sustainability is also a social challenge that entails international and national law, urban planning and transport, local and individual lifestyles and ethical consumerism. Ways of living more sustainably can
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Sustainability interfaces with economics through the social and environmental consequences of economic activity. Sustainability economics involves ecological economics where social aspects including cultural, health-related and monetary/financial aspects are integrated. Moving towards sustainability is also a social challenge that entails international and national law, urban planning and transport, local and individual lifestyles and ethical consumerism. Ways of living more sustainably can take many forms from reorganising living conditions (e.g., ecovillages, eco-municipalities and sustainable cities), reappraising economic sectors (permaculture, green building, sustainable agriculture), or work practices (sustainable architecture), using science to develop new technologies (green technologies, renewable energy and sustainable Fission and Fusion power), to adjustments in individual lifestyles that conserve natural resources.
The word sustainability is derived from the Latin sustinere (tenere, to hold; sus, up\textsuperscript{[verification needed]}). Dictionaries provide more than ten meanings for sustain, the main ones being to "maintain", "support", or "endure".\textsuperscript{[3][4]} However, since the 1980s, sustainability has been used more in the sense of human sustainability on planet Earth and this has resulted in the most widely quoted definition of sustainability as a part of the concept \textit{sustainable development}, that of the Brundtland Commission of the United Nations on March 20, 1987: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."\textsuperscript{[5][6]}

At the \textit{2005 World Summit on Social Development} it was noted that this requires the reconciliation of environmental, social equity and economic demands - the "three pillars" of sustainability or (the 3 Es).\textsuperscript{[7]} This view has been expressed as an illustration using three overlapping ellipses indicating that the three pillars of sustainability are not mutually exclusive and can be mutually reinforcing.\textsuperscript{[8]} The three pillars have served as a common ground for numerous sustainability standards and certification systems in recent years, in particular in the food industry.\textsuperscript{[9][10]} Standards which today explicitly refer to the triple bottom line include Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade and UTZ Certified.\textsuperscript{[11][12]} The triple bottom line is also recognized by the ISEAL Alliance - the global association for social and environmental standards.

Sustainable development as defined by the UN is not universally accepted and has undergone various interpretations.\textsuperscript{[13][14][15]} What sustainability is, what its goals should be, and how these goals are to be achieved are all open to interpretation.\textsuperscript{[16]} For many environmentalists 'sustainable development' is an
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