American Planning Association
Policy Guide on Planning for Sustainability
Adopted by Chapter Delegate Assembly, April 16, 2000
Ratified by Board of Directors, April 17, 2000, New York, NY

#4

[Excerpts]

OBJECTIVES OF APA'S STRATEGY FOR PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Planning for sustainability requires a systematic, integrated approach that brings together environmental, economic and social goals and actions directed toward the following four objectives:

1. Reduce dependence upon fossil fuels, extracted underground metals and minerals.
Reason: Unchecked, increases of such substances in natural systems will eventually cause concentrations to reach limits – as yet unknown – at which irreversible changes for human health and the environment will occur and life as we know it may not be possible.

2. Reduce dependence on chemicals and other manufactured substances that can accumulate in Nature.
Reason: Same as before.

3. Reduce dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems.
Reason: The health and prosperity of humans, communities, and the Earth depend upon the capacity of Nature and its ecosystems to reconcentrate and restructure wastes into new resources.

4. Meet the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently.
Reason: Fair and efficient use of resources in meeting human needs is necessary to achieve social stability and achieve cooperation for achieving the goals of the first three guiding policies.

Selected Source Materials

Rees, William, and Mathis Wackernagel: *Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth.* New Society Publishers, Philadelphia, 1996.

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Wackernagel, Mathis, interview, "Leaving Smaller Footprints", *The Natural Step Newsletter,* Fall, 1998, and revised footprint estimates, 1999.

[Miguel Checa, 1-26-11]