

# *Words Do Matter*

*Skepticism is the first step to Truth – D. Diderot*

Albemarle County BOS

June 4, 2014 presentation

by

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# Sustainable Definition:

*Sustainability is Doing Something  
Sustainable*

GOAL: Achieve a sustainable community that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

**ASSUMPTION: County planners know the needs and abilities of future generations**

# The Bruntland Report

United Nations



Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development

## Our Common Future



United Nations  
1987

# U.N. Official Definition of “Sustainability”

“development which meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

The 1994 Thomas Jefferson Sustainability Council...  
grew out of the 1990-92 Thomas Jefferson Study to  
Preserve and Assess the Regional Environment  
(TJSPARE).

It is a 34-member council with representatives  
from the six member localities: Albemarle,  
Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson counties,  
and the City of Charlottesville. The diverse group  
of farmers, business people, foresters,  
environmentalists, developers and elected  
officials was given the charge to “**describe a  
future where our economic, human, social, and  
environmental health are assured.**”

# Comprehensive Plan Draft Comparison of Goals, Objectives and Strategies, and other Key Information

## Chapter 3 Growth Management January 23, 2014 Draft

GOAL: By directing growth to the County's Development Areas, the County's Rural Area, with its agricultural, forestal, historic, cultural, scenic, and **natural resources will be preserved**

**\*Preserved, not conserved\***

**Preserved for what??**

# The Albemarle County 1998 Sustainability Accords:

- **Encourage and maintain strong ties between the region's urban and rural areas**

- Strive for a size and **distribute the human population** in ways that **preserve** vital resources

- Retain the natural habitat

- Ensure water quality and quantity are sufficient to support people and ecosystems

- Optimize the use and re-use of developed land and promote clustering

- Promote appropriate scale for land uses

- Retain farm and forest land

- Develop attractive and economical transportation alternatives

- Conserve energy

- Provide educational and employment opportunities

- Increase individual participation in neighborhoods and communities

# Figure 3, Comprehensive Plan Draft: Sustainability Accords

- 1. Encourage and maintain strong ties between the Region's urban and rural areas, fostering healthy economic, environmental, social, and political interactions.
- **2. Strive for a size and distribution of human population that will preserve the vital resources of the Region for future generations.**
- 3. Retain the natural habitat required to support viable plant and animal communities that make up the Region's biological diversity.
- 4. Ensure that water quality and quantity in the Region are sufficient to support the human population and ecosystems.
- 5. Optimize the use and reuse of developed land. Promote clustering in residential areas and the integration of business, industry, recreation, residential, and open space.
- 6. Promote the consideration of appropriate scale in all development and land use decisions.
- 7. Retain farmland and forest land for the future.
- 8. Broaden the use of sustainable forestry practices among loggers and landowners.
- 9. Promote the sale of locally produced farm and forest products in local, national, and international markets.
- 10. Develop attractive and economical transportation alternatives to single occupancy vehicle use.
- 11. Promote the conservation and efficient use of energy resources.
- 12. Provide, at all levels, educational opportunities open to every member of the community.
- **13. Ensure that every member of the community is able to obtain employment that provides just compensation, mobility, and fulfillment.**
- 14. Increase individual participation in neighborhood and community organizations.
- 15. Encourage greater understanding of sustainability issues as they affect individuals and the Region, using formal and informal education and local media coverage.

**NO mention of private property rights or cost-effectiveness as criteria**



# Comprehensive Plan Draft, Chapter 4: Natural Resources

- The Natural Resources chapter provides information on the importance of:
- Protecting surface and groundwater (pages 4.5 – 4.20)
- Protecting air quality (pages 4.20 – 4.21)
- **Preserving mineral resources while recognizing economic benefits** (pages 4.21 – 4.22)

# 2014 Comprehensive Plan Draft

- Bloated beyond VA State definition of “general”
- Inconsistent terminology
- Disregard of private property rights in name of amorphous “Albemarle County” aims
- No consideration of cost-effectiveness
- Based upon utopian wish-list of a 34 member group in a 130,000+/- population area