

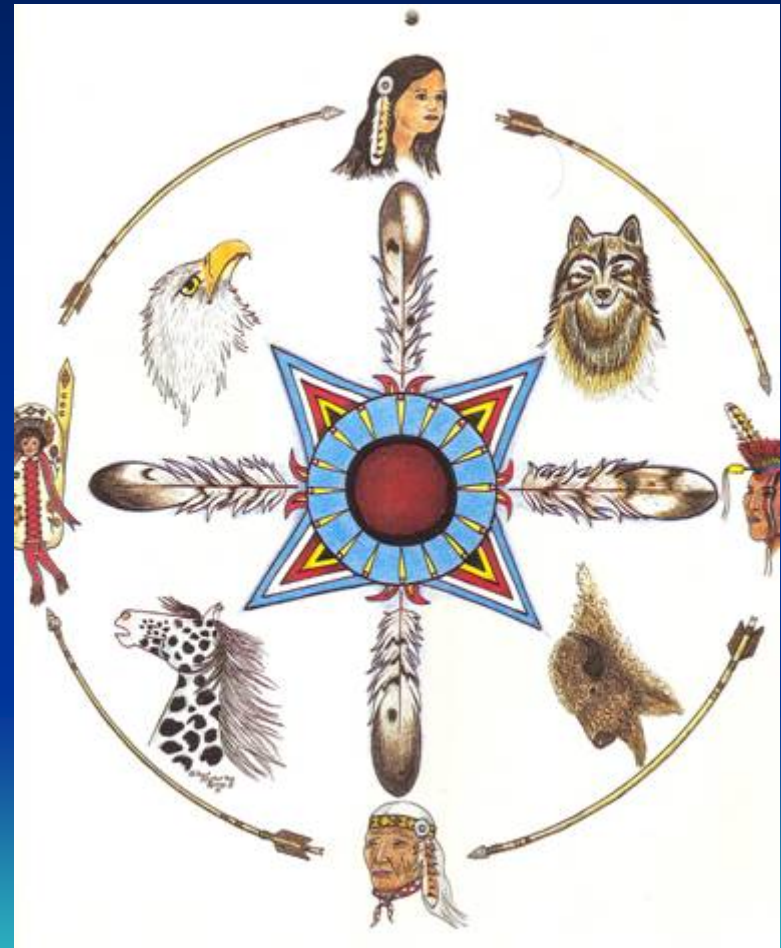
What is Sustainable?

- Meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs
- In Native American tradition we are supposed to consider seven generations
- “Developed countries”: integrates economic growth and social development with environmental protection



Contrasting Worldviews

- Western Philosophical Tradition
 - Temporally Oriented: sees current place in history in relation primarily to time
 - Views history as linear and progressive
- Indigenous Philosophical Traditions
 - Spatially Oriented: sees current place in history in relation to local places
 - Views history as non-linear



What Makes up a Worldview?

- Yupiaq scholar Oscar Kawagley

Understand the concept of worldview by answering the following questions:

- 1) What is real? (metaphysics)
- 2) What can we understand? (epistemology)
- 3) How should we behave? (ethics)
- 4) What is pleasing to the senses? (aesthetics)
- 5) What are the patterns upon which we can rely?
(logic)

Compare between Western and Indigenous Traditions



A Sense of Responsibility

- One thing often left out of contemporary concepts of sustainability is the very real sense of responsibility for future generations
- This was built into rituals and ceremonies that constituted much of the spiritual realm of Indigenous peoples



Placating Nature

- Both the size of Indigenous Populations and length of time they spent interacting with particular places are underestimated
 - More people lived in Western Kansas 200 years ago than live there today
 - Resource shortages were always possible



Development of Rituals

- Respect for nature does not mean lives cannot be taken
- Livelihood dependent on taking lives
- Must recognize and honor the sacrifice
- Apologize and give thanks



Conservation Must be Personal and Emotional

- Recognition that the Natural World is providing for you and your family
- All Things are Connected: By consuming the plant or animal you prove that you and it are connected and related
 - Made of the same materials
 - Products of the same creative process



Relatedness and Sustainability

- Accept Relatedness among life forms
 - Caring for them as part of your community means allowing their lives to continue
 - Sustainability becomes personal



Connectedness and Sustainability

- Improper Impact on the system can cause long-term problems
- This is because all elements of the system are connected
- Polluting or wasting can damage system resulting in failure of sustainability



Sustainability and Spirituality

- Only by caring for the earth and natural systems can we really sustain them
- Economic interests must not prevail over the needs of future generations
- There is only One Earth



Does Not Preclude Change

- Nature is constantly changing
- There is no Stable point or equilibrium
- Must ensure that change does not mean destruction
- All of NA has been impacted by humans

