

# Unraveling the "Sustainability" Paradox

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The word "sustainability" flashes images of fresh air, clean water and revitalized resources. Yet, Americans are discovering it also means lost property rights and value, reduced mobility and the surrender of family land. Because of "sustainable development":

- Mike Sackett faces \$100s of thousands in EPA fines for building his dream home on his own ID property.
- Planners in Carver County, MA force citizens to accept solar farms few want.
- In Dade County, Florida, the local government is forcing 1500 homeowners from their property.
- In King County, WA, 17,000 residents filed court complaints attempting to win back lost property rights.

## Here is why a good idea like sustainability has such destructive outcomes:

Locally, most see sustainable development (SD) as a reasonable way to protect the environment. Globally, SD is much different. *It is a social, political and economic action plan that forces boilerplate solutions for real or perceived environmental crises on willing and unwilling participants.*

## Most citizens and public officials are not aware their local sustainable plan derives from the coercive global one. Here is how it happened:

- The term Sustainable Development came from a 1987 UN report called "Our Common Future" which concluded that developed nations, such as the US, were responsible for global warming and poverty, which in turn created an unsustainable planet. The solution was to limit property ownership and growth in the US, and transfer consumer wealth to developing nations. (Read, "Our Common Future" - Amazon)
- The 1992 UN Rio Earth Summit in Brazil codified the report, created an action plan called Agenda 21, and was signed onto by 178 nations including the US. (Search: "UN Agenda 21 Rio," "Rio Declaration")
- A 1993 executive order bypassed Congress to create the President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD) whose stated purpose was to "implement UN Agenda 21 in the US" via regulatory agencies. (Search: EO 12852; State Dep't. submission to the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, April 1997)
- In 1998, J. Gary Lawrence, an advisor to the PCSD, recommended the term Agenda 21 and UN references be dropped to more easily implement SD in the US. Agencies and planners changed their terminology to Smart Growth and other environmentally friendly terms. (Search: "The Future of Local Agenda 21 in the New Millennium" p.5)
- By 2001, Sustainable Development/Smart Growth was part of the regulatory makeup of every federal agency and signed onto by the US Conference of Mayors, The National Governor's Association and several Leagues of Municipalities. It is now in your hometown. (Search: your town, state, and sustainable development)
- In 2002, HUD and other federal agencies funded the American Planning Association's, [Growing Smart Legislative Guidebook 2](#) to incorporate Agenda 21 principles. This is now the standard planning apparatus throughout US communities. (Search for guidebook by name)



## Now you know the problem. For solutions read, "The Sustainability Dilemma."

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