

# Sustainability

## - let's get real

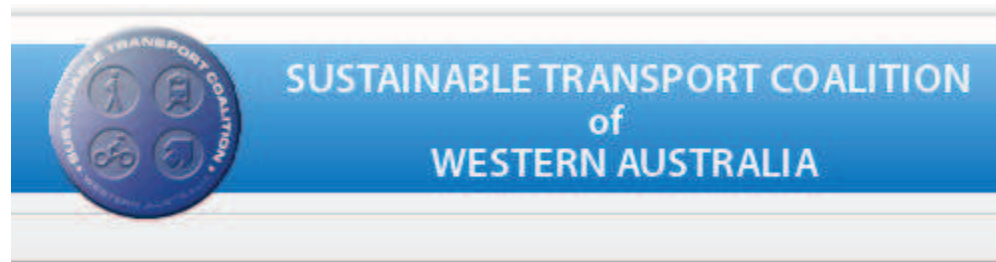
Presentation to Strategic Relationships Forum

18/12/09

by

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Sustainable Transport Coalition of WA



An advocacy group for sustainable transport,  
especially the impact of peak oil

- Run conferences eg Oil: Living with Less
- Prepare policies eg Alternative Fuels
- Issue newsletters

[www.stcwa.org.au](http://www.stcwa.org.au)

# Get real

Most of our actions are not truly sustainable

# To get real

We need:-

- a) Definition - simple, memorable
- b) Process - to get as close as possible
- c) Measure – of how close

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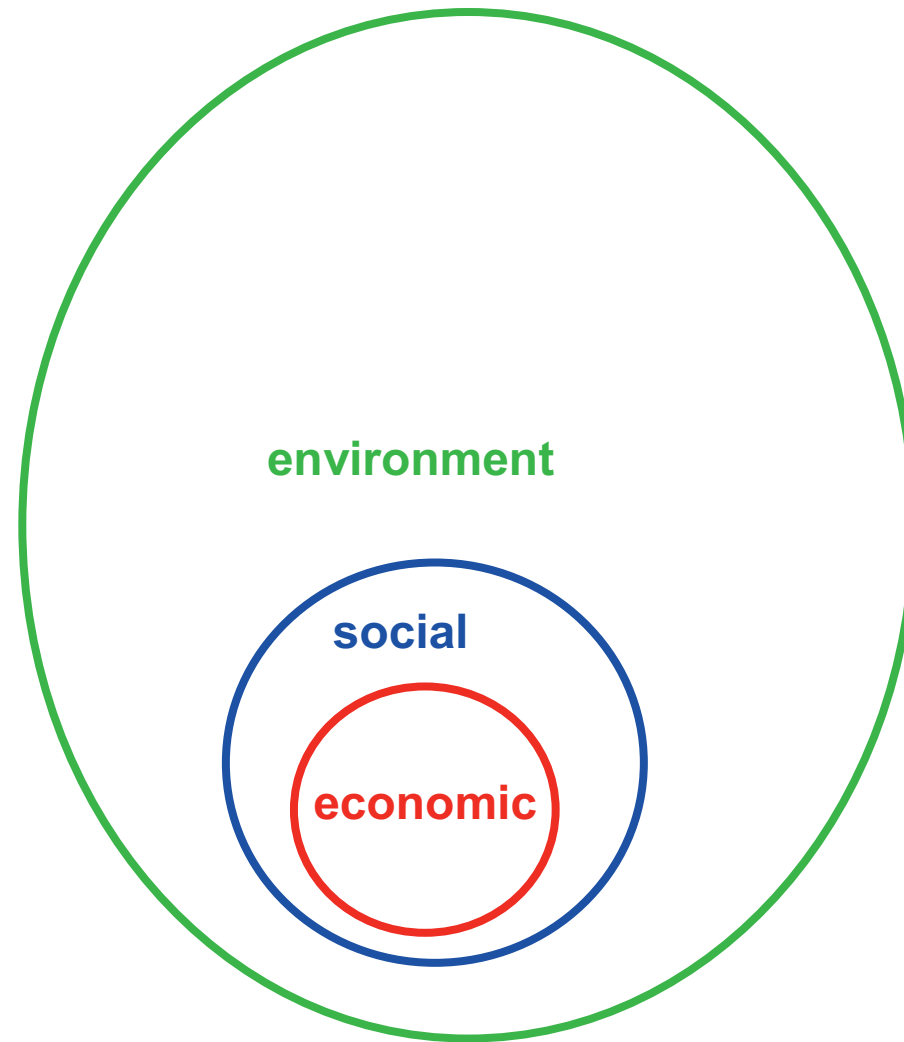
# a) Definition

# STC<sup>3</sup>

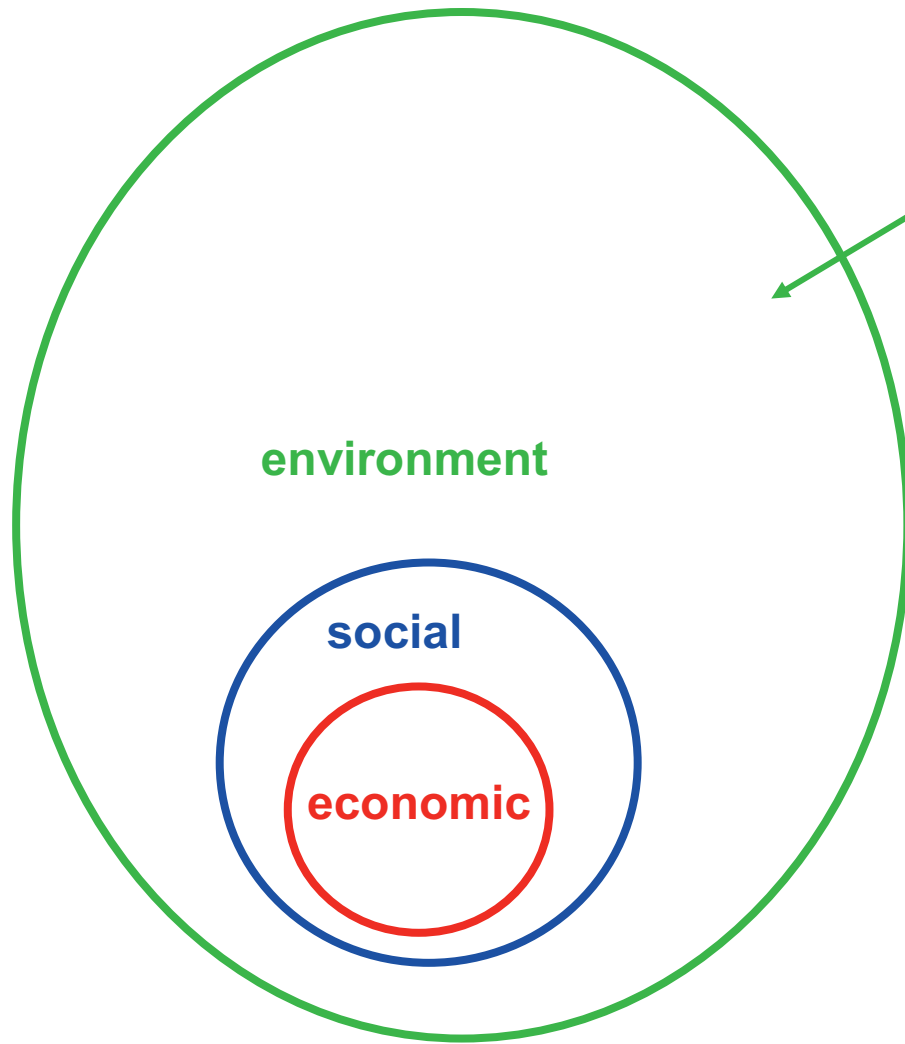
Definition of sustainability is **the social, environmental and economic impacts of an action are all positive; now and for the next seven generations**

<sup>3</sup> Sustainable Transport Coalition of WA, 2009

# Mind map:-

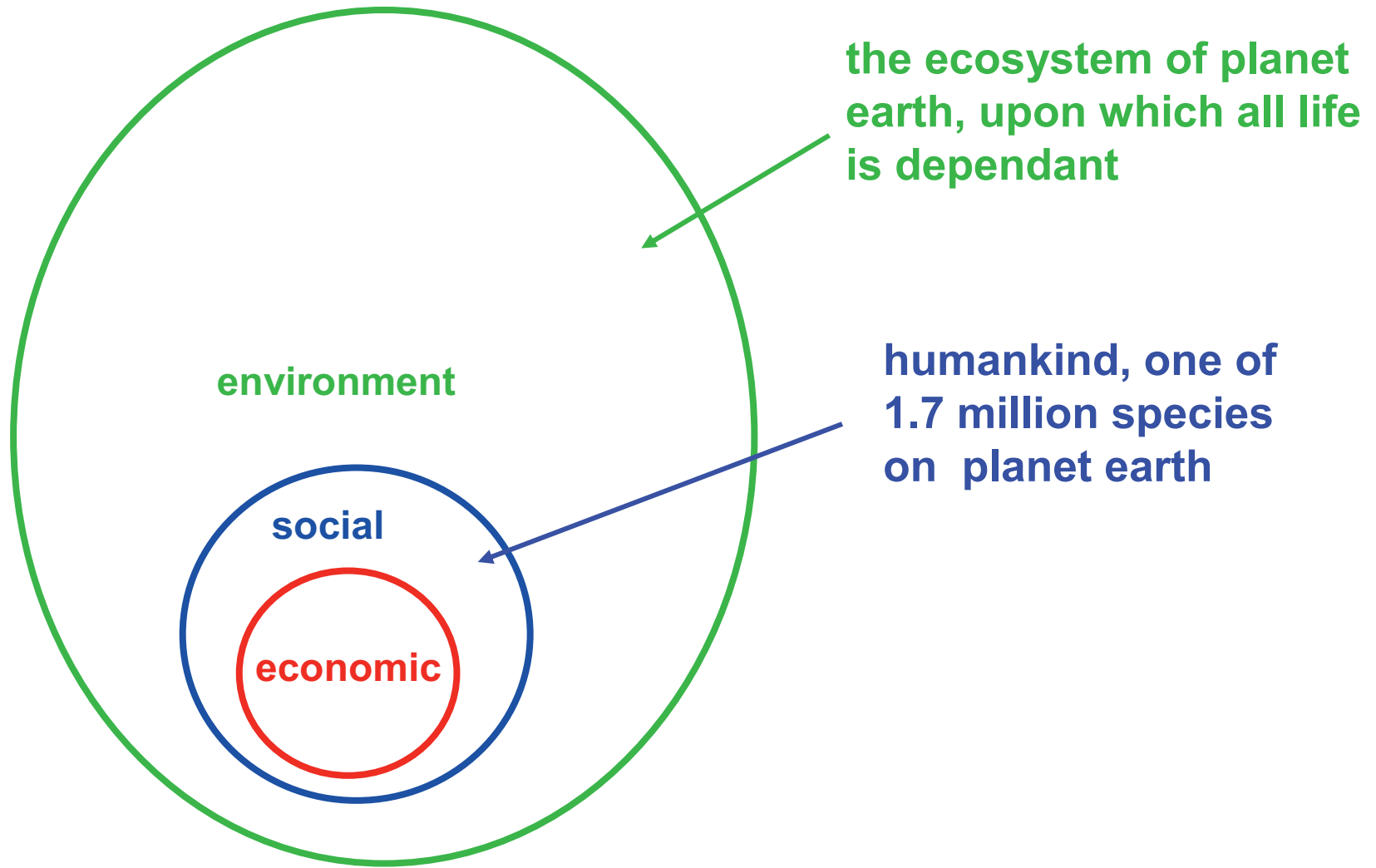


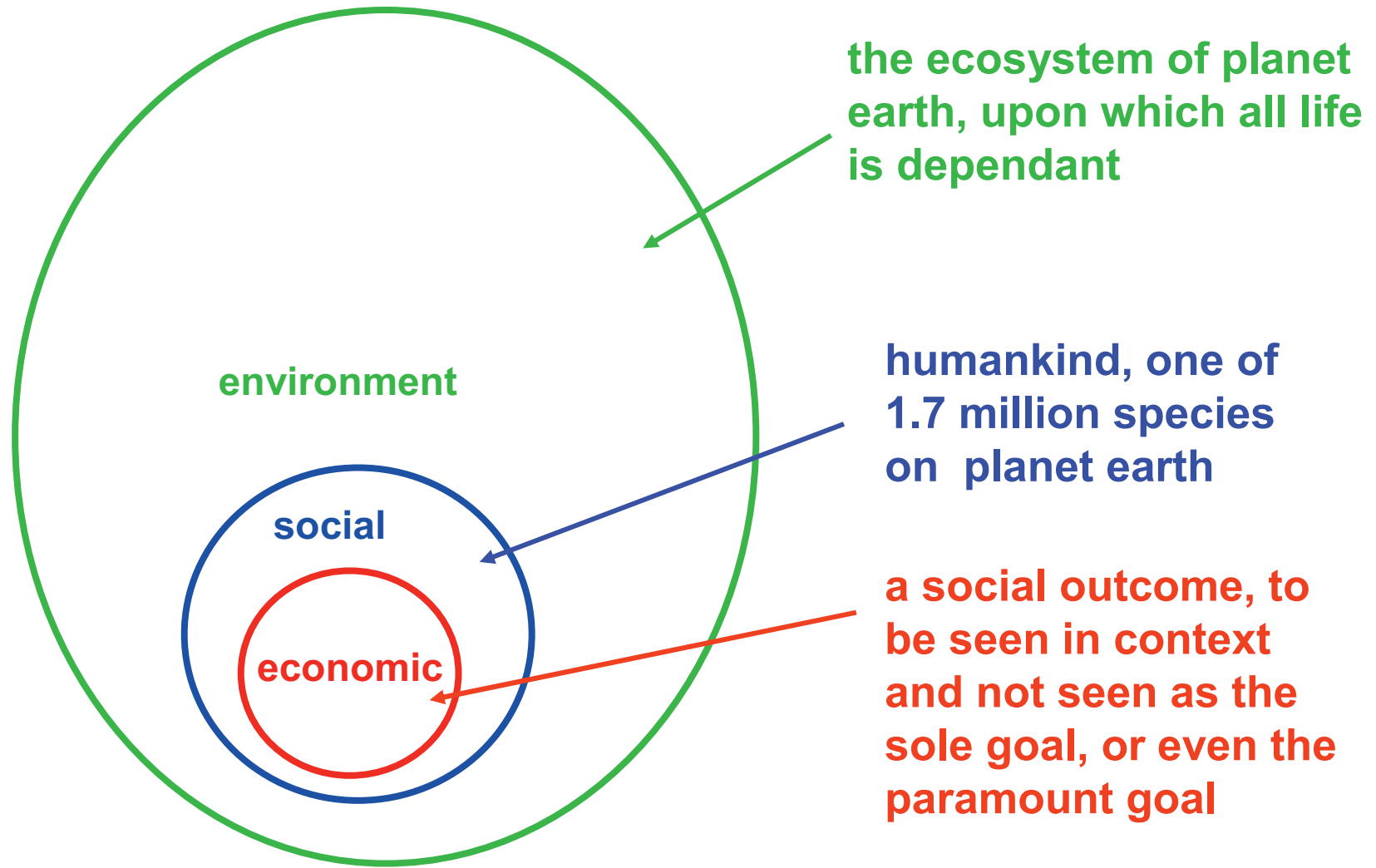




**the ecosystem of planet earth, upon which all life is dependant**







# Economic

Typical economic impacts:-

- Benefit Cost Ratios
- Tourism
- Resource development
- Local business
- Agriculture

# Social

Typical social impacts:-

- Community access
- Displacement of people
- Heritage
- Vibration
- Noise
- Traffic crashes
- Personal security
- Visual quality
- Dangerous goods

# Environmental

Impacts on the natural bio-physical environment

'Social' and 'economic' cover impacts on humans

Typical environmental impacts:-

- Air pollution
- Water pollution
- Flora/fauna
- Wetlands
- Soil loss

## b) Process

With community involvement:-

Review: see if objectives can be met another way  
eg TDM rather than road construction

Modify to avoid negative impacts  
eg divert the road around the houses

Remediation is added  
eg build a noise wall

Offsets are developed  
eg provide equivalent vegetation elsewhere

## c) Measure



Our definition that the social, environmental and economic impacts of an action are all positive; now and for the next seven generations is aspirational

A cliché?

# Or a goal?

We need to define 'true sustainability' otherwise we won't recognise our goal

But 'true sustainability' remains a cliché unless we get real by using .....

# Five star rating

	Economic	Social	Environmental	Longevity	Alternative	(total) RATING
<b>Sustainable</b>	★	★	★	★	★	★★★★★★
<b>Nearly sustainable</b>	total 4 to almost 5 stars					★★★★★ ★★★★★ to
<b>Moderately unsustainable</b>	total 2 to almost 4 stars					★★★★★ ★★★ to
<b>Very unsustainable</b>	total 1 to almost 2 stars					★★★ ★ to
<b>Grossly unsustainable</b>	total less than 1 star					★ or less

# Five star rating

Towards sustainability ↑

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# Five headings

**Environmental**

**Social**

**Economic**



fairly standard

# Longevity

Iroquois Indians kept in mind the needs of the seventh generation to come

Seven generations: say 140 years

Long time frame necessary, many actions have impacts for decades

Assessed by asking 'Is the action economically, socially, and environmentally benign for the next 140 or so years?'

# Alternative

Assessed by asking 'Is there an alternative that is better economically, socially, and/or environmentally that could reasonably be used?'

Theoretically not needed: added as a practical consideration

# Examples

Walk, short and not carrying load - 5 star - **sustainable**

Cycling, short to medium and not carrying load - 5 star -  
**sustainable**

Public transport, inner area, in peak – say 4 star - **nearly sustainable**

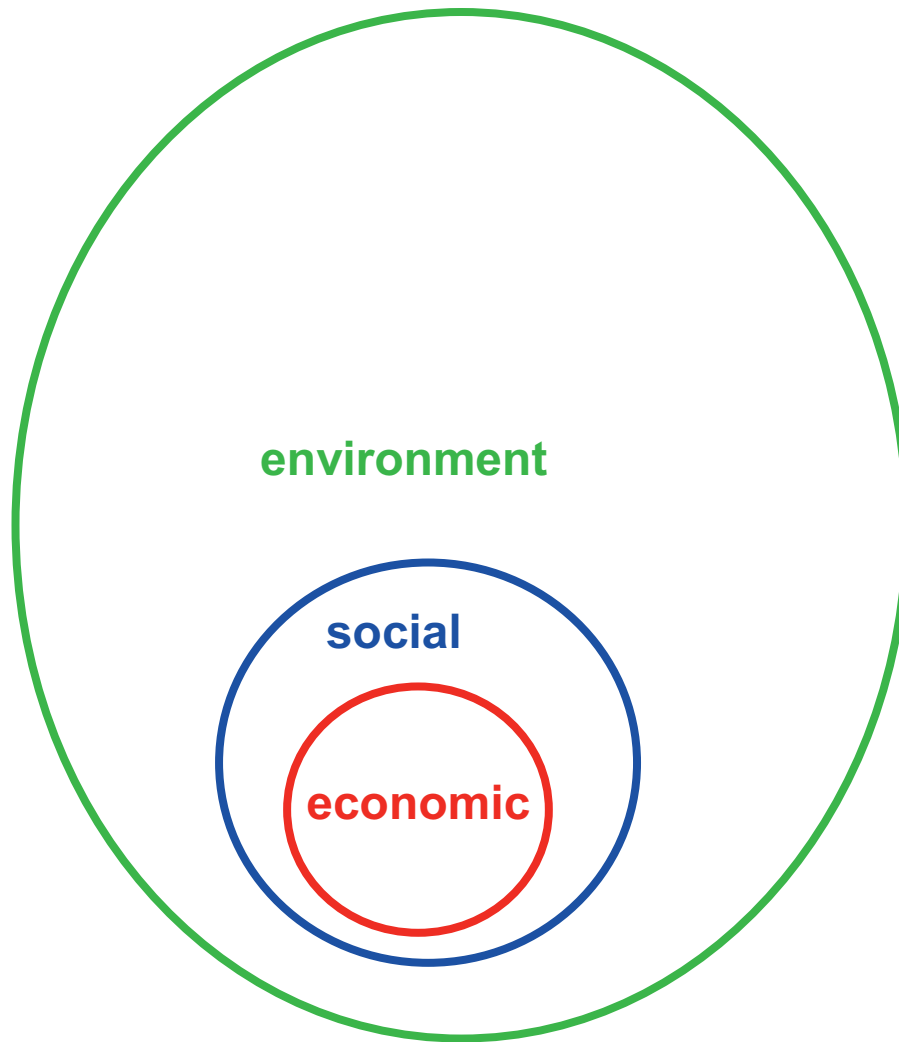
Public transport, inner area, off peak – say 2 star -  
**moderately unsustainable**

Public transport, outer area, off peak – say 1½ star -  
**very unsustainable**

4WD urban trip, driver only – less than 1 star - **grossly unsustainable**



# Can you remember this?



All positive: now  
and for seven  
generations

Otherwise use  
star ratings  
towards  
sustainability