

	<b>EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS</b>		<b>EL-03e</b>
	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY</b>		
	Latest Revision	Proposed January, 2004	<b>Rev. 02</b>
	Original Creation	October 18, 1997	

## **POLICY**

*World Accord will incorporate environmentally sustainable considerations into all projects and promote an awareness of the relationships among development, the environment and the health of the community. World Accord's environmental policy encourages the sustainable use of a community's resources through awareness of and regard for ecosystems and biodiversity. Striving to incorporate such factors into WA projects can result in a balanced position on development that advances the well being of our partners, maintains the dynamic balance of their environment and provides a framework for developmental education efforts.*

## **POLICY DETAILS**

To the extent possible within our limited resources and as appropriate given the wide range of projects, World Accord shall:

1. Support our partners in developing environmentally sound programs such as sustainable agriculture, as opportunities arise;
2. Endeavor to ensure that environmental implications are assessed in keeping with the scope of the project when considering any project;
3. Endeavor, within the scope of the project, to build into projects the capacity to assess and monitor the likely impacts of a project at a local (or infrequently regional) scale;
4. Promote education and awareness among Canadians and in developing countries of the importance of environmentally sustainable approaches to development and the relationships among development, the environment and the health of the community.

## **POLICY BACKGROUND**

A tension has often existed between development and ecological concerns. A landmark effort to address these concerns was the UN's 1987 report, Our Common Future. It coined the term "sustainable development": development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The concept of sustainable development has not entirely resolved the problem. This is partly due to our incomplete understanding of the complex systems involved in any ecosystem, let alone the entire planetary ecosystem. But it is also partly due to the other interrelationships that exist - true sustainability not only needs environmental sustainability, but also economic, political, social and cultural sustainability. And finally, there are issues surrounding the meaning of the term itself. Some indigenous people fear that from their perspective the term "sustainable development" really means "sustainable exploitation."

Thus World Accord prefers to use the notion of a "sustainable community" as the overall rubric under which comes the environmental policy. That is, we want the basic gauge to be the overall health of the community. If it is healthy over the long term then all other goals are more likely to be achieved.

World Accord's environmental policy encourages the sustainable use of a community's resources through awareness of and regard for the following factors:

- a. Ecosystems: An ecosystem is a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit. To sustain such a complex, its dynamic balance must be maintained and its capacity limits must not be exceeded.
- b. Biodiversity: The biological diversity of an area is both what maintains an ecosystem's balance and is what maximizes an area's ability to respond to changing or unhealthy situations.

Striving to incorporate such factors into our projects can result in a balanced position on development that advances the well being of our partners and maintains the dynamic balance of their environment.