Social Justice and Sustainability: Shared Root Problems and Interconnected Solutions

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What is social justice?
Social Justice-y Words

- Diversity
- Pluralism
- Equity
- Inclusion
- Solidarity
- Affirmation
What is sustainability?
What is Sustainability?

- An integrated understanding that ecology, sociology, and economy are inextricably and dialectically linked.

- A critical examination of root values and mindsets. Root mindsets form relationships and practices along a spectrum of sustainability.

3-5 degrees Celsius increase by 2100
Is this social justice? 

Is this sustainability?
How are social justice and sustainability connected?

Is there a frame that links them together?
Sustainability Framework

Environment
* Prevent crossing over irreversible tipping points
* Humans support the Earth in replenishing itself within a human generation on global and local scales

Social/Culture
* Human/nature connection critically analyzed
* Solidarity - affirmation - critique of power
* Working towards peace (non-violent conflict resolution)
* Health, wellness, and happiness

Economy
* Strong local economies and responsible global commerce
* Reintegration of the cultural commons
Sustainability is Not...

- Exclusively about the environment
- Just focused on carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- Just focused on the burning of fossil fuels
- Separate from issues of racism, sexism, genderism, poverty, extreme wealth, religionism, or colonization
- Be careful with “sustainable development” (can be a cooptation by business)
What is Sustainability Education?

- The outcomes of sustainability education contrast current education reforms, movements, and missions that promote “global competitiveness.”
  - Current US Dept of Education Mission Statement (since President Obama):
    - Promote student achievement and preparation for **global competitiveness** by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.
  - “College and career-ready”
  - 21st Century Learners
  - Corporate-based STEM initiatives
Principles & Outcomes of Sustainability Education

● Social justice and environmental justice are inextricably tied together.
  ○ Critical examination
  ○ Critical self reflection
  ○ Deep content knowledge in contexts and relationships
  ○ Self and communities (class, school, locality, state, nation, global, nature) analysis
  ○ Solidarity, affirmation, and critique of power

● Restoration and regeneration

● Preparing students to become adults who can identify problems, utilize high quality social skill sets (systems thinking, communication, multicultural solidarity, and critique) with full-view cost analysis skills, and critical democratic community membership.
Are there shared solutions?
Social Justice & Sustainability Interconnections

Humane Production
  - Universal Prosperity
  - Empower Democracy
  - Fair Trade

Woman’s Equality
  - Woman as Equal

Sexuality Equality
  - LGBTQ as Equal

Transgender Equality
  - TIIQ as Equal

Religious Freedom
  - Spiritual Resonance

Feminism
  - Decolonization
  - Empowerment

Reverse Global Warming
  - Avoid Irreversible Tipping Points
  - Reduce Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide to Below 350 ppm

Work/Leisure Balance
  - Purposeful Production
  - Localize Distribution

Localization & Responsible Globalization
  - Regulated Pollution
  - Carbon Negative Policies & Practices

Restorative Climate Change
  - Marine Restoration
  - Less Intense Storms
  - Char & Soil Restoration

Sociocultural Affirmation
  - Deep, Meaningful Happiness
  - Holistic Development of Self & Community

Greatest Contribution
  - Responsibility to Each Other

Conscious Consumerism
  - Techno-aware

Reciprocity
  - I-Thou

Solidarity
  - Systemic Democracy
  - Inclusionary Leadership

Critiquing Power
  - Peaceful, Nonviolent Conflict Resolution

Avoided 6th Extinction
  - Effective monitoring of true costs to labor and nature

Promotion of Social Justice
  - Political Cooperation

Liberation from Historical Violence
  - Peaceful, Nonviolent Conflict Resolution