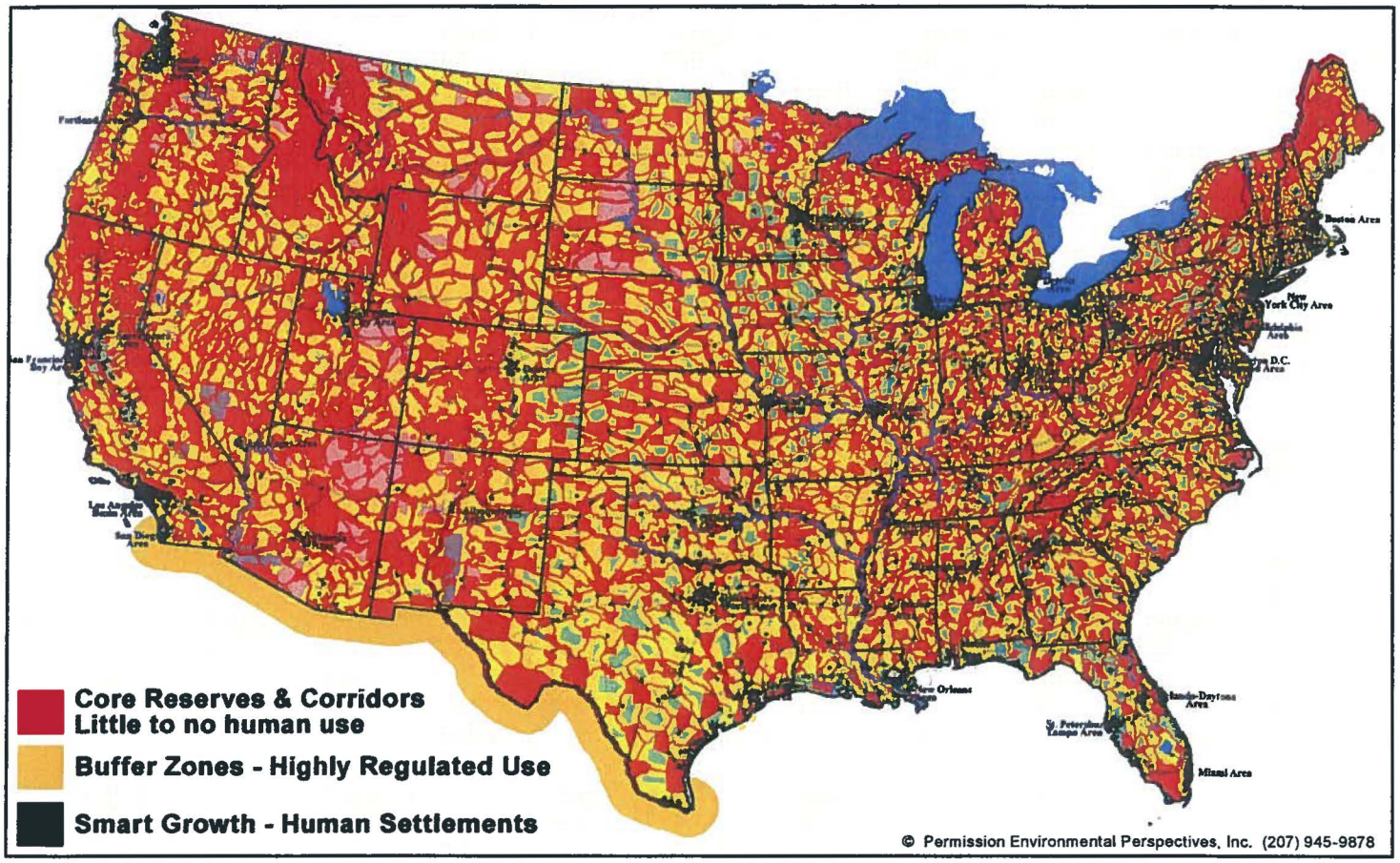
Understanding Sustainable Development

– AGENDA 21 –



For the People and their Public Officials

Prepared by

FREEDOM ADVOCATES

Recognize Unalienable Rights

www.FreedomAdvocates.org

Submitted by Mary Donke

at Board Hearing of 5-15-12

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Introduction

You may have heard people talking about Sustainable Development – in public meetings, on television and on the radio. Consultants talk about it, university professors lecture on it, and at all levels of government, it is now being mandated. But what is Sustainable Development?

That is precisely the question this guide is intended to address. In the following pages, you will read of the origins of Sustainable Development, its theoretical underpinnings, its major programs, and how it is implemented.

When you have finished reading this document, you will have the knowledge necessary to begin identifying the vast array of Sustainable Development programs that exist and continue to arise.

Please recognize this document for what it is: a unique opportunity to learn more about Sustainable Development. Then you can make a difference in your community by supporting present and future actions that restore and protect the rights and well-being of you, your family, and your fellow citizens.

More information on the nature and consequences of Sustainable Development is available from Freedom Advocates. (http://www.FreedomAdvocates.org)

What is Sustainable Development?

The most common definition of Sustainable Development given by its proponents is a statement found in the Bruntland Report, *Our Common Future,* released during the 1987 United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Historical Development and Origins

Even the term "sustainable" must be defined, since on the surface it appears to be inherently positive. In reality, Sustainable Development has become a "buzz" term that refers to a political agenda, rather than an objectively sustainable form of development. Specifically, it refers to an initiative of the United Nations (U.N.) called Sustainable Development Agenda 21. Sustainable Development Agenda 21 is a comprehensive statement of a political ideology that is being progressively infused into every level of government in America.

Known around the world simply as Agenda 21, this initiative is "a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally, and locally by organizations of the United Nations System, Governments, and Major Groups in every area in which human impacts (sic) on the environment." [1]

Agenda 21 was unveiled in 1992 during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), commonly known as the Rio Earth Summit, where more than 178 nations adopted Agenda 21, and pledged to evaluate progress made in implementing the plan every five years thereafter. President George H. W. Bush was the signatory for the United States.

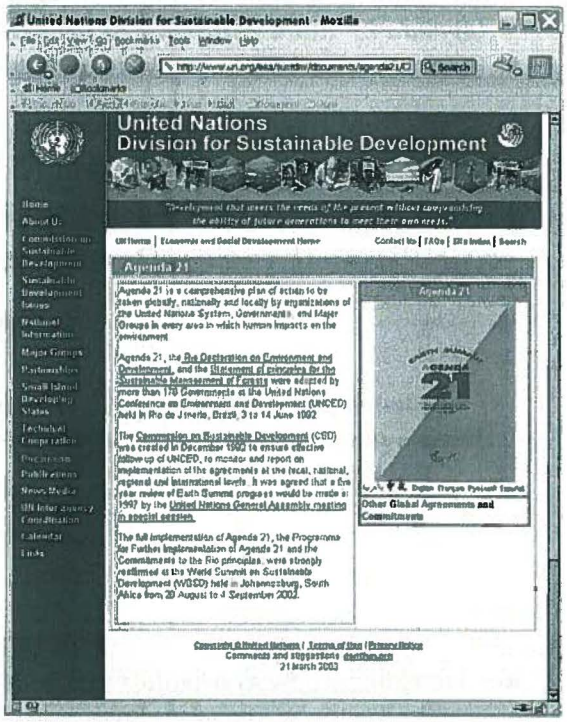


Image 1: The United Nations website clearly displays Agenda 21 documents

1. http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/index.htm

Although Congress never authorized the implementation of Agenda 21 [2] (as a soft-law policy recommendation [3] – *not* a treaty – it needs no ratification), in 1993, President Bill Clinton established, by Executive Order, the President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD) for the purpose of implementing Agenda 21 in the United States. The PCSD operated through 1999, but its actions to promote Sustainable Development have taken root, and now exert an increasing influence in communities across America.

International organizations such as the U.N., and its accredited Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), generally consider Sustainable Development and Agenda 21 to be synonymous. Therefore, in order to avoid confusion and equivocation, Sustainable Development will be the term used throughout this document to refer to both. Agenda 21 will only be used to refer to the actual document from the Rio Earth Summit.

At times, the political agenda embodied in Sustainable Development is implemented under other names for purposes of political expediency. J. Gary Lawrence, a planner for the city of Seattle, and advisor to the President's Council on Sustainable Development, said in 1998, that, *"Participating in a U.N. advocated planning process would very likely bring out many ... who would actively work to defeat any elected official ... undertaking Local Agenda 21. So we will call our process something else, such as "comprehensive planning," "growth management," or "smart growth."* [4]

The Antithetical Foundations of Liberty and Sustainable Development

"Property must be secured, or liberty cannot exist."
– John Adams

It has long been known that liberty is tied to the institution of private property. The Decalogue codified private property in four words: "Thou shalt not steal."

"Private property and freedom are inseparable."
– George Washington

2. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) submitted a resolution (H.J. Res. 166) to the 103rd Congress on March 29, 1993 urging the President and Congress to "assume a strong leadership role in implementing the decisions made at the Earth Summit by developing a national strategy to implement Agenda 21 and other Earth Summit agreements...." Though that bill stalled in the Subcommittee on Economic Policy, Trade and Environment, its recommendations have been implemented through various actions by the President, and Congress.
3. "Soft law" policy is not binding. This is a common procedure in the U.N.'s policy development strategy. "Soft law" documents are quite often followed by treaties or covenants, which are binding international law; alternately, soft law can find immediate application through local legislation or policy without an internationally binding agreement.
4. Lawrence, J. Gary, The Future of Local Agenda 21 in the New Millennium, The Millennium Papers, UNED-UK, Issue 2, (1998), 3.

The institution of private property was understood by those who participated in the American Experiment [5] and its principles were consequently included in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.[6] The right to property as outlined in those documents is premised on an owner's determination of its use, provided that such use does not disturb the equal rights of another.

"...all Men...are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."
– The Declaration of Independence

Which Philosophy of Rights?

Nature Source	Individual Rights *U.S. Declaration of Independence*	Community Rights *U.N. Declaration of Human Rights*
Purpose of government	**Protect the natural or unalienable rights of each individual** **"That all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..."**	**Control the individual for the greater good of a global community** **"Rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations"**
In short	**You're born with rights, government exists to protect them. You and the product of your labor belong to you.**	**Government grants, restricts or withdraws your rights according to its needs. You and the product of your labor belong to the community.**

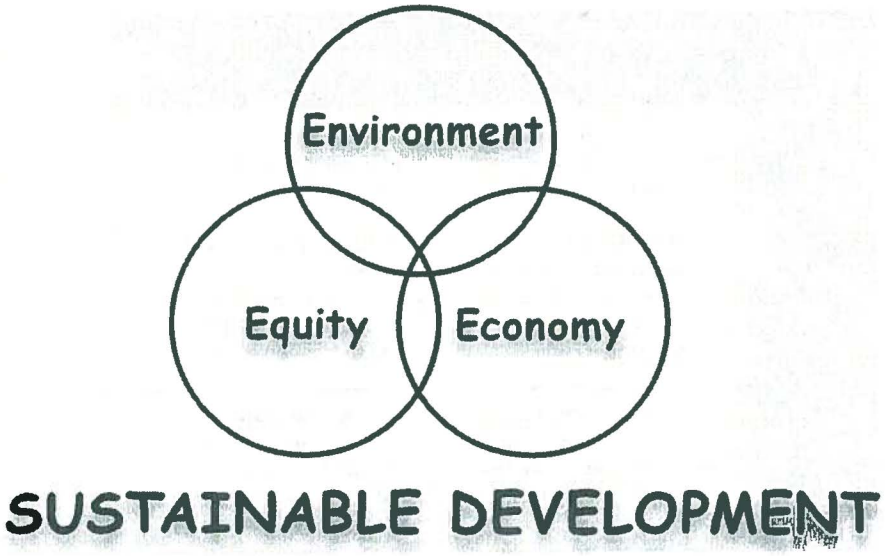
In contrast to the unalienable rights found in America's founding documents, the United Nations Charter and the Declaration of Human Rights are based on a very different idea: rights are granted and rescinded by men.

The Sustainable Development political agenda originates in the founding documents of the United Nations. This isn't surprising, since the myriad of countries represented in the drafting of Agenda 21 have widely divergent forms of government, and must have a point of agreement (a "least common denominator") to rally around – and the U.N. Charter provides that point. However, for progress to be made in implementing Sustainable Development in the United States, unalienable rights such as the right to property must be eroded, attacked, and struck down altogether. [7, 8]

5. Soapes, Emily Williams. "The American Experiment: Living with the Constitution." Prologue: Journal of the National Archives 19, no.3 (Fall 1987): 185-189.
6. See also Machan, Tibor, Private Rights & Public Illusions, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick (1995).
7. Nullification of the right to the reasonable use of one's property affects by extension the right to private action and the freedom of expression. Shaw, Michael, What is Private Property? Liberty Garden (2003).
8. Heywood, V.H. (ed.). Global Biodiversity Assessment. United Nations Environment Programme. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (1995): 767, 782. This document likewise condemns "inappropriate social structures" (p 763), golf courses (p 970), and the attitudes toward nature found in "Judeo-Christian-Islamic religions" (pp 766, 838).

Implementing Sustainable Development

The authors of Agenda 21 have said it will affect every area of life, grouped according to three objectives: Equity, Economy, and Environment (known commonly as the "3 Es"). By defining these terms vaguely, a litany of abuses have resulted. Furthermore, by rubber-stamping pre-conceived plans, using manipulative "visioning" sessions to garner the appearance of public buy-in, and acquiring grants from sources with questionable motives, the entire process of implementing Sustainable Development policies is suspect.



Equity:
Using the Law to Restructure Human Nature

The authors of the Sustainable Development action plan recognized that their environmental and economic objectives, and the corresponding transformation of the American system of equal justice to a system of "social" justice, are radically divergent from the views and objectives of the average person. Therefore, in order to achieve their objectives, they call for a shift in attitudes that can be seen in the educational programs developed by its proponents. This is the premise of Sustainable Development: That individual human wants, needs and desires are to be conformed to the views and dictates of planners. Harvey Ruvin, Vice Chair of the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), and Clerk of the Circuit and County Court in Miami-Dade County, Florida, has said that *"individual rights will have to take a back seat to the collective"* in the process of implementing Sustainable Development. [9]

9. Peros, Joan, unpublished report, UNCED Rio+10 Summit – Johannesburg, South Africa (2002).

Economy:
The International Redistribution of Wealth and the Creation of Public/Private Partnerships

"...current lifestyles and consumption patterns of the affluent middle class – involving high meat intake, use of fossil fuels, appliances, home and work air conditioning, and suburban housing are not sustainable."

– Maurice Strong,
Secretary General, U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, 1992.
(Also known as the Rio Earth Summit, where Agenda 21 was unveiled.)

According to its preamble, "The developmental and environmental objectives of Agenda 21 will require a substantial flow of new and additional financial resources to developing countries." Language throughout Agenda 21 erroneously assumes that life is a zero-sum game (the wealth of the world was made at the expense of the poor, making them even poorer). This critique of economic ills denies the ingenuity of private action, individual determination, and truly free-market innovation, and leads inevitably to the conclusion that if the conditions of the poor are to be improved, wealth must be taken from the rich. Sustainable Development embodies this unjust redistribution of wealth both in theory and in implementation, effectively lowering the standard of living in America to that of the rest of the world. The Draft Covenant on Environment and Development states in Article 8: "...equity will be achieved through implementation of the international economic order ... and through transfers of resources to developing countries...." When in fact such justification covers up the real transfer of power and resources which is to the elite cabal that drives world government.

In addition to its appeal for the international redistribution of wealth, Sustainable Development is actually restructuring the economy, molding it not on private enterprise but on public/private partnerships.

Public/private partnerships bring businesses desiring the protection offered by government's legalized force together with government agents that want the power that comes with economic control. The power of economics, and the force of government, must serve as a check and balance on each other; combining the two will ultimately result in tyranny. Free enterprise is lost amid subsidies, incentives, tax-breaks, and insider privilege, and with it goes the notion that the customer is the final determiner of how resources are allocated in production. The Sustainable Development "partnerships" involve some corporations – domestic and multinational – some tax-exempt family foundations, select individuals, and collectivist politicians and their administrations. Of these participants, only elected politicians are accountable to the public for their actions.

Environment:
Nature Above Man

Americans support laws and regulations that are designated to effectively prevent pollution of the air, water, or the property of another. Yet, it is increasingly clear that Sustainable Development uses the environment simply as the means to promote a political agenda. For example, Al Gore says that Sustainable Development will bring about "a wrenching transformation" of American society. [10]

Sustainable Development is ostensibly concerned with the environment; it is more concerned with restructuring the governmental system of the world's nations so that all the people of the world will be the subjects of a global collective. Many of its proposed implementation strategies require the surrender of unalienable rights.

This fact alone casts a serious shadow of doubt on the motives of Sustainable Development planners who would discard the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and property in order to pursue dubious programs. [11] When Sustainable Development is implemented, ordinary people will be left unprotected from *de facto* decrees placing nature above man, while relegating man to the status of a "biological resource." [12]

Educating the Youth to Mold the Minds of Tomorrow

"All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth."
– Aristotle

One means that Sustainable Developers use to ensure continuing support of their anti-human programs is through molding the minds of the next generation. Chapter 25 of the U.N. Sustainable Development Agenda 21 calls for the need to "enlist and empower children and youth in reaching for sustainability."

Even a cursory look at the federally-mandated curriculum being taught in classrooms in every government school in America would show that the doctrines of Sustainable Development are finding their way into every subject. French classes are used to teach students to "save the earth;" economics classes feature lectures discouraging individual initiative in the marketplace and decrying private ownership; history classes obscure the

10. "Minor shifts in policy, marginal adjustments in ongoing programs, moderate improvements in laws and regulations, rhetoric offered in lieu of genuine change – these are all forms of appeasement, designed to satisfy the public's desire to believe that sacrifice, struggle, and a wrenching transformation of society will not be necessary." Gore, Al, Earth in the Balance. Plume (1993): 274.
11. cf. Taylor, Jerry, Sustainable Development: A Dubious Solution in Search of a Problem, Cato Institute (2002).
12. Bureau of Land Management, Internal Working Document for ecosystem management, (March 1994).

importance of America's founding documents; mandatory "service-learning" programs enlist students to work for government-approved Sustainable Development partner organizations. The list goes on and on.

While taxpayers foot the bill for the increasing costs of government education, parents are increasingly shut out of decisions crucial to the molding of their child's mind. Controversial programs designed for "values clarification" are being performed in government schools that employ "powerful behavior control techniques and peer pressure to make [a] developing child question his or her individual worth and values," and are designed to disrupt parental oversight in the upbringing of their children, according to Professor of Organizational Behavior, Brent Duncan.

Stakeholder Councils – Restructuring American Government

"I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual silent encroachments of those in power, than by violent and sudden usurpations."
– James Madison

The way that Sustainable Development is carried out in local communities around the world is particularly alarming, especially to those who seek accountability in government. Operating within a system of stakeholder councils, organized to give any third parties a "stake" in the control over property in neighborhoods, proponents of Sustainable Development systematically promote their own ideas and marginalize any local opposition, particularly those individuals who advocate the freedom to use and enjoy private property.

The product of a stakeholder council, often called a "consensus statement" or a "vision statement," is typically approved by local governments without question, requiring citizens to submit to the questionable conclusions of a non-elected regional authority that is not accountable to the voters. Stakeholder council meetings are typically arranged under the auspices of soliciting input from community members on a project. This project may be initiated by local public officials, a local non-profit organization, a national or regional non-profit organization, or an NGO. [13] It is very rare for community members to instigate the stakeholder "visioning" process.

A typical stakeholder council meeting is run by a trained facilitator. [14] It is not the facilitator's job to make sure that all views are entered into the record. His job, instead, is to guide the group to arrive at a consensus on the project. The consensus process has

13. Recall that many Non-Governmental Organizations are accredited by the U.N., making them international, or multinational in their political purpose. In this sense, they might be more appropriately called "Global Governance Organizations."
14. Professional facilitators are frequently paid thousands of dollars for only a few hours of work.

no mechanism for recording minority views. Since he is being paid by the organization responsible for the project, it is in his interest to arrive at a consensus sympathetic to the desired outcome of the project. Tactics vary between the facilitators, but consensus generally is reached by using subtle means to marginalize opposition, such as recording only the "good" ideas, and allowing criticism only for the "bad" ideas.

A Sustainable Development stakeholder meeting in Greenville, South Carolina, was adjourned with a frank admission by the paid facilitator that they had not reached the consensus that he needed to support the predetermined plans. [15]

Why all the effort to gain support for programs few citizens want? The answer to this question lies in the origin of each specific project. Sustainable Development projects are often initiated at the directive of NGOs or non-profit organizations that have – or create – fear over problems that are portrayed as a crisis: development near a riparian corridor, poor water management infrastructure, or too many cars on the freeway are common examples.

Once a problem has been identified, every NGO, non-profit, and local government body has a vast stock of Sustainable Development solutions at hand, provided by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). Indeed, ICLEI has a veritable treasure trove of boilerplate solutions for change agents, enabling them to "identify" problems with the goal of implementing predetermined outcomes that advance Sustainable Development policies. [16]

ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability
is directing policies that cause:
- **stack 'em and pack 'em housing**
- **traffic congestion**
- **inaccessible open space**
- **managed control over our lives**
- **mismanagement of water supplies**
- **prohibition on natural resource management leading to increased fire hazards and private property restrictions**

Image 2: ICLEI, aka The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives

ICLEI, launched in 1990 at the World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future, is based in Toronto, Canada, but has offices around the globe, including Oakland, California. Its stated mission is to provide policy recommendations to assist local governments in the implementation of Sustainable Development.

15. Dill, Bob, Land Use Leaders Declare Defeat; Wrong Consensus Reached, Meetings Cancelled, Times-Examiner, Greenville, South Carolina. Steven Lipe, the meeting organizer, announced that "the consensus is that we don't have enough people to make change. As far as I am concerned, our meeting is done."
16. cf. Taylor, Jerry, op cit.

ICLEI was instrumental in the development of Agenda 21, having drafted Chapter 28 in 1991 in preparation for the upcoming summit. In a recent document, ICLEI confirmed its dedication to the U.N. mandate: "Local Action 21 strategies [i.e. those formulated at the 2002 Earth Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa] will ensure the unwavering, systematic implementation of local action plans over the next decade." [17]

Essentially, Sustainable Development claims knowledge of all sustainability issues and has stock solutions that can be applied in Stockholm, Boulder, Santa Cruz – indeed, anywhere.

Around the world, ICLEI is responsible for communicating with local special interests to translate international policy objectives into local and regional legislation. [18] Every county in America now has Sustainable Development directives guided by federal agencies, NGOs, and/or ICLEI.

Funding Sources

The list of money sources for the implementation of Sustainable Development is impressive. American taxes fund the federal agencies' present focus: implementing Sustainable Development. Over two thousand NGOs are accredited by the United Nations for the purpose of implementing Sustainable Development in America, and are given massive tax advantages. Some of these NGOs are the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, the National Audubon Society, the American Planning Association, the National Teachers Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Farm Bureau.

After government and non-profit funding schemes, the third "leg" of the Sustainable Development financial insiders is a group of tax-exempt family foundations. These include the Rockefeller Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, the Turner Foundation, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, the McArthur Foundation, and local community foundations.

Political Support

When George H. W. Bush signed the Rio Accords at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, he pledged the United States' support for Agenda 21. A year later, when Bill Clinton created the President's Council for Sustainable Development by Executive Order, he laid the foundation for a proliferation of intermediate and local "stakeholder" councils that would set out to reinvent the structure of United States' government.

As Sustainable Development policies permeate every county in America, it has become apparent that the conflict is not a dynamic of Republican vs. Democrat, liberal vs. conservative, or left vs. right. In fact, the implementation of Sustainable Development is occurring on a bi-partisan basis.

17. Otto-Zimmerman, Konrad, Local Action 21: Motto, Mandate, Movement, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, Toronto (2003):
2. See ICLEI's website for more information: http://www.iclei.org.
18. Note that ICLEI's objectives presuppose the notion that the goal of improving the conditions of the world can only be achieved through legislation, denigrating the intelligence and ingenuity of individuals in facing their particular circumstances, and placing them under the increasing oversight of government planners.

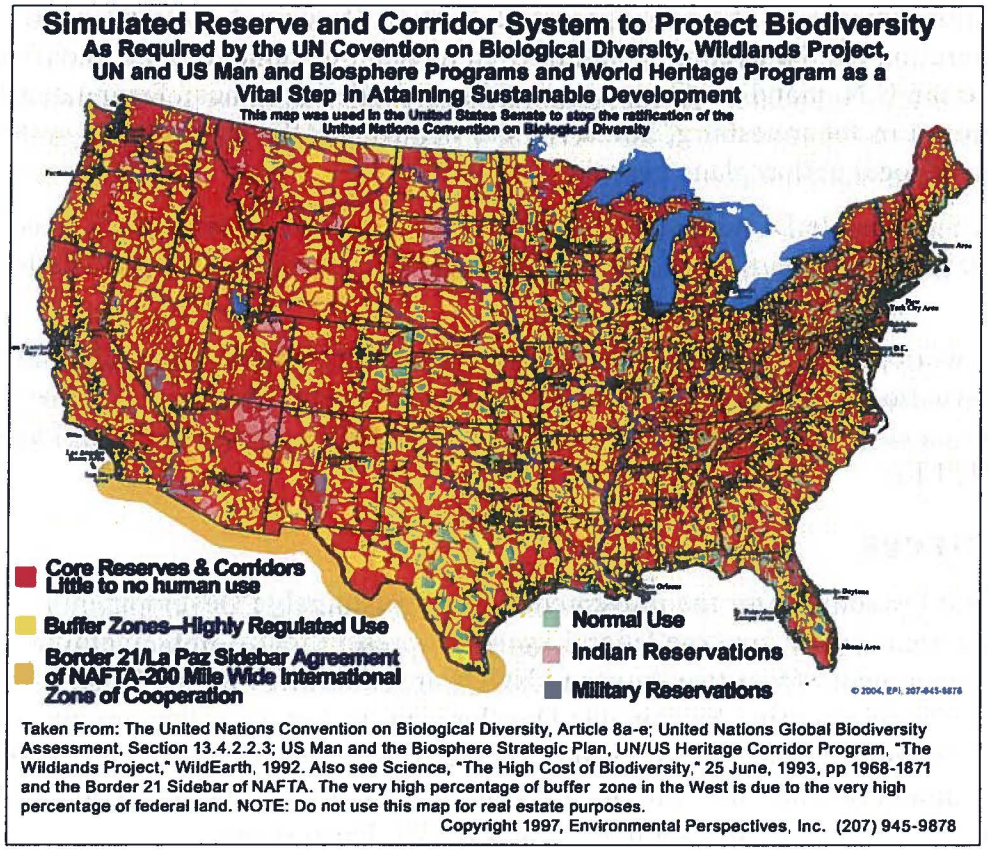


Image 3: Prepared by Dr. Michael Coffman, Environmental Perspectives, Inc.

Sustainable Development Land Use Programs

Sustainable Development is a plan for global control including the restriction of land-use and resource extraction. The land use element of Sustainable Development calls for the implementation of two action plans designed to abolish private property: the Wildlands Network and Smart Growth. Upon final implementation of these plans all human action is subject to control.

Since all things ultimately come from natural resources on rural lands, the transfer of the landscape from citizen control to government control will make it easy for government and its partners – NGOs, certain foundations and certain corporations – to control what we have, what we do, and where we go. The transformation of free societies into collectivized societies through Sustainable Development ensures the dominance of a ruling elite which, by definition, excludes all but a very select few.

The Wildlands Network

The Wildlands Network (aka Wildlands Project) is the plan to eliminate human presence on "at least" 50 percent of the American landscape,[19] and to heavily control human activity on most of the rest of American land. Examples of the piece-by-piece implementation of the Wildlands Network include road closings, the policy of breaching dams and the adoption of United Nations World Heritage Sites – which are systematically being closed to use.

"Conservation biologists now agree that protecting isolated pockets of habitat isn't enough to protect our bears, jaguars, beavers, birds and other wildlife – the only way to protect them is to practice conservation on a continental scale," announced Wildlands Project Executive Director, Leanne Klyza Linck, at the Society of Environmental Journalists Conference on September 12, 2003.

The most significant tools of the Wildlands Network is the rapidly expanding imposition of habitat "protection" provisions under the Endangered Species Act, the adoption of "conservation easements" and direct land acquisitions from battered "willing sellers."

The Wildlands Network seeks to collectivize *all* natural resources (e.g., water) and centralize all use decisions under government direction, often implemented through public/ private partnerships.

Smart Growth

The rural land-use plan embodied in the Wildlands Network is inextricably tied to its urban counterpart, Smart Growth. As human beings are barred from rural land, there will be a concentration of human activity in urban areas. Through Smart Growth, the infrastructure is being created for a post-private property era in which human action is subject to centralized government control. With the combined implementation of Smart Growth and the Wildlands Network, humans will be caged and the animals will run free.

Sometimes called "comprehensive planning" or "growth management," [20] Smart Growth is the centralized control of every aspect of urban life: energy and water use, housing stock and allocation, population levels and control, public health and dietary regimens, resources and recycling, "social justice" and education, toxic technology and waste management, transportation modes and mobility restrictions, business and economic activity including capping and trading energy.

19. Reed Noss, who made this assertion in 1992, reiterated his commitment in a recent interview: "Fifty percent is an estimate I made years ago of the proportion of an average region that would need to be managed for conservation in order to meet well-accepted conservation goals ... [It] turns out I was pretty much on the mark ..." (Range Magazine, Fall 2003, p42) Noss has been the Science Editor for Wild Earth, the quarterly publication of the Wildlands Project.
20. "...we call our [U.N. advocated planning] processes something else, such as comprehensive planning, growth management, or smart growth." Lawrence, J. Gary, op cit.

Smart Growth policies include:

Transportation plans that reduce the freedom of mobility, forcing people to live near where they work, and transforming communities into heavily-regulated but "self-sufficient" feudalistic "transit villages."

Plans to herd citizens into tax-subsidized, government controlled, mixed-use developments,[21] called "human settlements." These settlements are sometimes distinguished from one another by how productive or useful the citizens are for society.[22]

Heavy restrictions on development in most areas, and the promotion of extremely dense development, constructed and managed by government "partners," in other selected areas.

Rations on public services, such as health care, drinking water [23] and energy resources (and sources).

A typical day in the Orwellian society created by Smart Growth would consist of an individual waking up in his government-provided housing unit, eating a ration of government-subsidized foods purchased at a government-sanctioned grocery store, walking his children (if he has any) to the government-run child care center, boarding government-subsidized public transit to go to his government job, then returning to his quarters later that evening.

21. The lure of paying as little as $150 per year in taxes on properties valued at $1.5 million has led to high occupancy in some developments in Portland, Oregon, for example.
22. The Smart Growth plan for Richland County, South Carolina, for example, distinguishes between "employment-based villages," and "non-employment-based villages," with special gated communities set aside for the wealthy individuals responsible for the plan. Most of the "non-employment-based villages" are slated to be built in areas currently populated by the descendants of liberated slaves.
23. Reasonable access to water in urban areas is defined as "the availability of 20 litres per capita per day at a distance no longer than 1,000 metres." Global Water Supply and Assessment Report 2000.

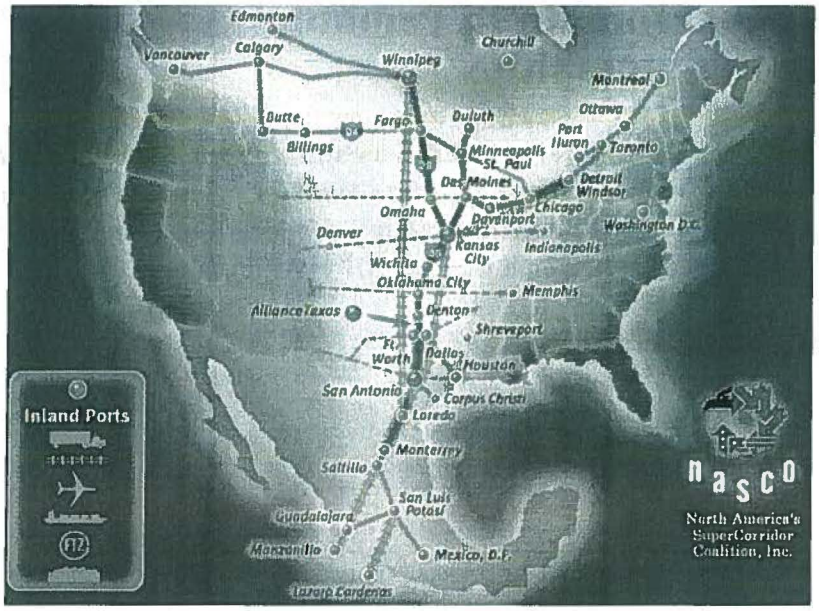


Image 4: The Trans-Texas Corridor as originally displayed on the North America's SuperCorridor Coalition (NASCO) website, http://www.nascocorridor.com/

The North American Union and the Trans-Texas Corridor

The Trans-Texas Corridor is a major component in the creation of a North American Union (NAU). The Corridor facilitates the political-economic equalization of Mexico, Canada and the United States through the establishment of trade routes, toll roads, utility lines and inland "ports." These systems are to be developed, managed and owned by various multi-national corporations working in "public/private partnership" with government(s). [24, 25]

In order to meet the global equalization objectives of the economic 'E' (see page 8), the Sustainable Development system requires global management of trade directed by the World Trade Organization (WTO) pursuant to policy created by the World Bank.

This system of managed trade necessitates bringing down American production and middle class standards of living to a "sustainable" level. Similar to the European Union, the North American Union calls for an eventual merger of countries (Canada, Mexico, and the United States). By design, this leads to regional governance that sacrifices our unalienable rights and national sovereignty. [26]

24. Corsi, Jerome R., The Late Great USA - The Coming Merger with Mexico and Canada (Chapter 6), World Ahead Media, Los Angeles, CA (2007).
25. Texans Uniting for Reform & Freedom: http://www.TexasTurf.org
26. Henry Lamb's DVDs contain information on the North American Union and the Trans-Texas Corridor: https://secure.freedom.org/eco/nauboth.dyn

Abusing Eminent Domain to Promote Public/Private Partnerships

The anti-private property Supreme Court decision, *Kelo v. City of New London,* [27] enables projects like the Trans-Texas Corridor to transfer private property and/or public infrastructure to private entities including foreign corporations. The Kelo decision neutralized the "public use" requirement of the Fifth Amendment. [28]

America is being transformed.

27. Kelo v. City of New London, 545 U.S. 469 (2005); 125 S. Ct. 2655.
28. Institute for Justice: http://www.ij.org/

What You Can Do

"Once again a majority of this court has proved that if enough people get together and act in concert, they can take something and not pay for it. ... But theft is still theft. Theft is theft even when the government approves of the thievery... Turning a democracy into a kleptocracy does not enhance the stature of the thieves; it only diminishes the legitimacy of the government."

– Justice Janice Brown,
dissenting opinion,
San Remo Hotel v. City and County of San Francisco[29]

Sustainable Development is restructuring our lives and is targeting our children through an educational regime that seeks to develop collectivist attitudes, values and beliefs. Sustainable Development documents call for the abolishment of private property[30] and the freedom that private property supports. It supplants long-standing State laws and causes irreparable harm to our economy and our society. If individual members of our society do nothing, the continuing loss of liberty will result in increasing social confusion and discord, rising resource shortages, financial decay and a dimming future for us and our posterity.

The looming battle of ideas should be recognized as a classic – and perhaps ultimate – battle between Liberty and Tyranny. The social, economic, and political transformations Sustainable Development requires will mean the suppression of unalienable rights for all people.[31]

If Americans, with your help, come to a timely understanding of the threat and face the challenge squarely, the deceptive fraud of Sustainable Development will quickly come to light. Together, we will rise to restore Liberty through a renewal of reason and respect for the dignity of individual determination. The future of the freedom once taken for granted in America depends on us recognizing and countering the threats of Sustainable Development.

29. No. S091757., SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA, 27 Cal. 4th 643; 41 P.3d 87, March 8, 2002
30. Heywood, V.H. (ed.). op cit.
31. For a more comprehensive discussion of this topic, see the Freedom 21 Alternative to the U.N.'s Agenda 21 Program for Sustainable Development. http://www.freedom21.org/alternative/preface.shtml

6 Practical Steps to Restore and Protect Liberty

1. Recognize and resist the trend to replace political boundaries with "regional governance." Recognize that this form of government leads to a breakdown of accountability to the citizenry.

2. Refuse local government receipt of federal or state money for new Sustainable Development programs because they breach the American system of federalism and raid the treasury. Withdraw from established Sustainable Development programs.

3. Avoid local government partnerships with the federal government, NGOs, foundations and corporations that advance the anti-liberty Sustainable Development agenda. Do not surrender your town or county to the insider privilege of Sustainable Developers and their monied interests.

4. Understand and enforce the role of public officials in your community to administer government in a manner that protects individual liberty and ensures equal justice.

5. Know and understand the Constitution, to which elected officials swore an oath with particular attention to Article 1, Section 8, the 9th and 10th Amendments, which address the limitations on federal power, and the 14th Amendment, which limits the states' police power.

6. Kick ICLEI out of your town.

Reference ICLEI Primer at: www.FreedomAdvocates.org

www.freedomadvocates.org PO Box 3330 Freedom, CA 95919 *Voice* (831) 684-2232 *Fax* (831) 685-1472 info@freedomadvocates.org

Further Resources – Be Informed!

The following is a "starter" list. You will encounter many other sites as you continue to educate yourself about AGENDA 21.

Sovereignty International, http://www.sovereignty.net/

Freedom Advocates, http://www.freedomadvocates.org/

Democrats Against AGENDA 21, http://www.democratsagainstunagenda21.com/

Catholic Investigative Agency, http://www.realcatholictv.com/cia/

Michael Shaw, http://www.newswithviews.com/Shaw/michaelA.htm

Defend Rural America, http://www.defendruralamerica.com/DRA/Home.html

What is Agenda 21?, http://teapartyfire.com/article1002.php

Henry Lamb, www.freedom21.org

This a national yahoo group, agenda21fighters@yahoo.com

East Bay Tea Party (an extremely active group), www.theEastBayTeaParty.com

Citizens Alliance for Property Rights (San Francisco) http://capr.us/SFBAYAREA/

Other Sources:

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AGENDA 21 IN ONE EASY LESSON

Awareness of Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development is racing across the nation as citizens in community after community are learning what their city planners are actually up to. As awareness grows, I am receiving more and more calls for tools to help activists fight back. Many complain that elected officials just won't read detailed reports or watch long videos. "Can you give us something that is quick, and easy to read that we can hand out," I'm asked.

So here it is. A one page, quick description of Agenda 21 that fits on one page. I've also included for the back side of your hand out a list of quotes for the perpetrators of Agenda 21 that should back up my brief descriptions.

A word of caution, use this as a starter kit, but do not allow it to be your only knowledge of this very complex subject. To kill it you have to know the facts. Research, know your details; discover the NGO players in your community; identify who is victimized by the policies and recruit them to your fight; and then kill Agenda 21. That's how it must be done. The information below is only your first step. Happy hunting.

What is Sustainable Development?

According to its authors, the objective of sustainable development is to integrate economic, social and environmental policies in order to achieve reduced consumption, social equity, and the preservation and restoration of biodiversity. Sustainablists insist that every societal decision be based on environmental impact, focusing on three components; global land use, global education, and global population control and reduction.

Social Equity (Social injustice)

Social justice is described as the right and opportunity of all people "to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment." Redistribution of wealth. Private property is a social injustice since not everyone can build wealth from it. National sovereignty is a social injustice. Universal health care is a social injustice. All part of Agenda 21 policy.

Economic Prosperity

Public Private Partnerships (PPP). Special dealings between government and certain, chosen corporations which get tax breaks, grants and the government's power of Eminent Domain to implement sustainable policy. Government-sanctioned monopolies.

Local Sustainable Development policies

Smart Growth, Wildlands Project, Resilient Cities, Regional Visioning Projects, STAR Sustainable Communities, Green jobs, Green Building Codes, "Going Green," Alternative Energy, Local Visioning, facilitators, regional planning, historic preservation, conservation easements, development rights, sustainable farming, comprehensive planning, growth management, consensus.

Who is behind it?

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (formally, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives). Communities pay ICLEI dues to provide "local" community plans, software, training, etc. Additional groups include American Planning Council, The Renaissance Planning Group.

International City/ County Management Group, aided by US Mayors Conference, National Governors Association, National League of Cities, National Association of County Administrators and many more private organizations and official government agencies. Foundation and government grants drive the process.

Where did it originate?

The term Sustainable Development was first introduced to the world in the pages a 1987 report (Our Common Future) produced by the United Nations World Commission on Environmental and Development, authored by Gro Harlem Brundtland, VP of the World Socialist Party. The term was first offered as official UN policy in 1992, in a document called UN Sustainable Development Agenda 21, issued at the UN's Earth Summit, today referred to simply as Agenda 21.

What gives Agenda 21 Ruling Authority?

More than 178 nations adopted Agenda 21 as official policy during a signing ceremony at the Earth Summit. US president George H.W. Bush signed the document for the US. In signing, each nation pledge to adopt the goals of Agenda 21. In 1995, President Bill Clinton, in compliance with Agenda 21, signed Executive Order #12858 to create the President's Council on Sustainable Development in order to "harmonize" US environmental policy with UN directives as outlined in Agenda 21. The EO directed all agencies of the Federal Government to work with state and local community governments in a joint effort to "reinvent" government using the guidelines outlined in Agenda 21. As a result, with the assistance of groups like ICLEI, Sustainable Development is now emerging as government policy in every town, county and state in the nation.

Revealing Quotes From the Planners

"Agenda 21 proposes an array of actions which are intended to be implemented by EVERY person on Earth...it calls for specific changes in the activities of ALL people... Effective execution of Agenda 21 will REQUIRE a profound reorientation of ALL humans, unlike anything the world has ever experienced - " *Agenda 21: The Earth Summit Strategy to Save Our Planet (Earthpress, 1993).*

"The realities of life on our planet dictate that continued economic development as we know it cannot be sustained...Sustainable development, therefore is a program of action for local and global economic reform – a program that has yet to be fully defined."
- The Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide, published by ICLEI, 1996.

"No one fully understands how or even, if, sustainable development can be achieved; however, there is growing consensus that it must be accomplished at the local level if it is ever to be achieved on a global basis." *- The Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide, published by ICLEI, 1996.*

Agenda 21 and Private Property

"Land...cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market. Private land ownership is also a principal instrument of accumulation and concentration of wealth, therefore contributes to social injustice."
- From the report from the 1976 UN's Habitat I Conference.

"Private land use decisions are often driven by strong economic incentives that result in several ecological and aesthetic consequences...The key to overcoming it is through public policy...
- " Report from the President's Council on Sustainable Development, page 112.

"Current lifestyles and consumption patterns of the affluent middle class – involving high meat intake, use of fossil fuels, appliances, home and work air conditioning, and suburban housing are not sustainable." *- Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the UN's Earth Summit, 1992.*

Reinvention of Government

"We need a new collaborative decision process that leads to better decisions, more rapid change, and more sensible use of human, natural and financial resources in achieving our goals."
- Report from the President's Council on Sustainable Development

"Individual rights will have to take a back seat to the collective."
- Harvey Ruvin, Vice Chairman, ICLEI. The Wildlands Project

"We must make this place an insecure and inhospitable place for Capitalists and their projects – we must reclaim the roads and plowed lands, halt dam construction, tear down existing dams, free shackled rivers and return to wilderness millions of tens of millions of acres or presently settled land."
- Dave Foreman, Earth First.

What is not sustainable?

Ski runs, grazing of livestock, plowing of soil, building fences, industry, single family homes, paved and tarred roads, logging activities, dams and reservoirs, power line construction, and economic systems that fail to set proper value on the environment." *- UN's Biodiversity Assessment Report.*

Hide Agenda 21's UN roots from the people

"Participating in a UN advocated planning process would very likely bring out many of the conspiracy-fixated groups and individuals in our society... This segment of our society who fear 'one-world government' and a UN invasion of the United States through which our individual freedom would be stripped away would actively work to defeat any elected official who joined 'the conspiracy' by undertaking LA21. So we call our process something else, such as comprehensive planning, growth management or smart growth."
- *J. Gary Lawrence, advisor to President Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development.*

Agenda 21: Conspiracy Theory or Real Threat?

Americans are so focused on Congress and Obama at the federal level of government right now that most are overlooking the socialism creeping in at the local level through Agenda 21. It is easy to overlook local government since people are saturated with too much information in the internet age. Compounding this is the fact that **Agenda 21**[1] is a dull topic, and it becomes understandable how it has been able to fly mostly under the radar since 1992, slowly working its way into our cities and counties.

Agenda 21, which means an agenda for the 21st century, is a United Nations program launched in 1992 for the vague purpose of achieving global "sustainable development." Congress never approved Agenda 21, although Presidents Obama, Clinton and George H.W. Bush have all signed Executive Orders implementing it. 178 other world leaders agreed to it in 1992 at the Rio Summit. Since then, the U.N. has mostly bypassed national governments, using Agenda 21's International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives ("ICLEI") to make agreements directly with local governments. ICLEI's U.S. presence has grown to include agreements with over 600 cities, towns and counties here, which are now copying the **land use plans**[2] prescribed in Agenda 21.

Some conservatives are trying to attract attention to Agenda 21 by labeling it a secret conspiracy to create a one world government. While that will wake some people up, it will turn off others. It does not matter whether it is a conspiracy or not. There are people on the left side of the political spectrum - who may even believe they have good intentions - working together to spread their vision for society worldwide. Whether they meet in dark rooms or openly in public meetings is irrelevant; they are having great success convincing local governments in the U.S. to adopt their socialist and extreme environmentalist programs under the guise of feel-good buzz words. Left wing billionaire George Soros's Open Society has provided $2,147,415 to ICLEI. Van Jones' Green for All and the Tides Foundations' Apollo Alliance are also reportedly ICLEI contributors.

Agenda 21 ostensibly seeks to promote "sustainability" (the latest revisionist word for "environmentalism," since Americans have learned too many negative things about environmentalism). "Sustainability" is an amorphous concept that can be interpreted to an extreme degree that would regulate and restrict many parts of our lives. When will the level of carbon emissions be low enough? How much must we reduce our consumption of fossil fuels? Preserving the environment is a dubious science, and what steps are really necessary to protect the environment are anyone's guess.

Agenda 21 promotes European socialist goals that will erode our freedoms and liberties. Most of its vague, lofty sounding phrases cause the average person's eyes to glaze over, making it easier to sneak into our communities. The environmentalist goals include atmospheric protection, combating pollution, protecting fragile environments, and conserving biological diversity. Agenda 21 goes well beyond environmentalism. Other broad goals include combating poverty, changing consumption patterns, promoting health, and **reducing private property ownership**[3], single-family homes, private car ownership, and privately owned farms. It seeks to cram people into small livable areas and institute population control. There is a plan for "social justice" that will redistribute wealth.

Once these vague, overly broad goals are adopted, they are being interpreted to allow massive amounts of new, overreaching regulations. Joyce Morrison from Eco-logic Powerhouse says Agenda 21 is so broad it will affect the way we **"live, eat, learn and communicate."** [4] Berit Kjos, author of Brave New Schools, warns that Agenda 21 "regulation would severely limit water, electricity, and transportation - even deny human access to our most treasured wilderness areas, it would monitor all lands and people. No one would be free from the watchful eye of the new global tracking and information system." Even one of the authors of Agenda 21 has admitted that it "...calls for specific changes in the activities of all people..." These steps are already being enacted little by little at the local levels.

Since the U.S. is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, and uses more energy than any other country, it stands to lose the most from environmental regulations. The goal of "sustainability," which comes down to using government to heavy-handedly accomplish vague goals of caring for the earth, goes contrary to our free market capitalism. Even more unfair, struggling third world countries and communist countries that cannot financially afford to comply with the onerous environmental regulations will continue their high levels of fossil fuel consumption, and the U.S. will be forced by U.N. regulators to conserve even more to make up for those countries.

Obama signed **Executive Order 13575** [5] June 9, 2011, establishing a "White House Rural Council" prescribed by Agenda 21. The amount of government Obama has directed to administer this is staggering. Obama committed thousands of federal employees in 25 federal agencies to promote sustainability in rural areas, completely bypassing Congressional approval. Some of these agencies are unrelated to rural areas. The agencies will entice local communities into adopting Agenda 21 programs by providing them millions of dollars in grants. Dr. Ileana Johnson Paugh writing for Canada Free Press analyzed the order and wrote, "it establishes unchecked federal control into rural America in education, food supply, land use, water use, recreation, property, energy, and the lives of 16% of the U.S. population."

It will be difficult to defeat Agenda 21 because it requires changing the attitudes of over 600 separate localities across the U.S. For now, local activists must champion this issue by speaking out at public meetings, educating local boards and commissions and serving on them.

Agenda 21 is a tedious and overwhelming topic, and until it can be explained in an easy-to-understand way that interests the average American, it will be tough to beat back.

Corresponding Handouts

[1] Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development (*Handout #1*)

[2] Land use plans (*Handout #2*)

[3] Reducing private property ownership (*Handout #3*)

[4] Affecting how we live, eat, learn and communicate. (*Handout #4*)

[5] Executive Order 13575 : White House Rural Council
http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-14/html/2011-14919.htm

(HANDOUT #1)

HUMAN SETTLEMENT OBJECTIVE

SOURCE:http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/res_agenda21_07.shtml

From the U.N.'s AGENDA 21 website.....in their own words:

"The overall human settlement objective is to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people, in particular the urban and rural poor. Such improvement should be based on technical cooperation activities, partnerships among the public, private and community sectors and participation in the decision-making process by community groups and special interest groups such as women, indigenous people, the elderly and the disabled. These approaches should form the core principles of national settlement strategies. Furthermore, countries should make appropriate provision to monitor the impact of their strategies on marginalized and disenfranchised groups, with particular reference to the needs of women."

The program areas included in this chapter are:

(a) Providing adequate shelter for all;

(b) Improving human settlement management;

(c) Promoting sustainable land-use planning and management;

(d) Promoting the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste management;

(e) Promoting sustainable energy and transport systems in human settlements;

(f) Promoting human settlement planning and management in disaster-prone areas;

(g) Promoting sustainable construction industry activities;

(h) Promoting human resource development and capacity-building for human settlement development.

(Handout #2) LAND USE PLANS

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/res_agenda21_07.shtml *(excerpts)*

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LAND-USE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

BASIS FOR ACTION

Access to land resources is an essential component of sustainable low-impact lifestyles. Land resources are the basis for (human) living systems and provide soil, energy, water and the opportunity for all human activity. In rapidly growing urban areas, access to land is rendered increasingly difficult by the conflicting demands of industry, housing, commerce, agriculture, land tenure structures and the need for open spaces. Furthermore, the rising costs of urban land prevent the poor from gaining access to suitable land.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to provide for the land requirements of human settlement development through environmentally sound physical planning and land use so as to ensure access to land to all households and, where appropriate, the encouragement of communally and collectively owned and managed land. Particular attention should be paid to the needs of women and indigenous people for economic and cultural reasons.

ACTIVITIES

All countries should consider, as appropriate, undertaking a comprehensive national inventory of their land resources in order to establish a land information system in which land resources will be classified according to their most appropriate uses and environmentally fragile or disaster-prone areas will be identified for special protection measures.

Subsequently, all countries should consider developing national land-resource management plans and, to that end, should:

(a) Establish, as appropriate, national legislation to guide the implementation of public policies for environmentally sound urban development, land utilization, housing and for the improved management of urban expansion;

(b) Create, where appropriate, efficient and accessible land markets that meet community development needs by improving land registry systems and streamlining procedures in land transactions;

(c) Develop fiscal incentives and land-use control measures, including land-use planning solutions for a more rational and environmentally sound use of limited land resources;

(d) Encourage partnerships among the public, private and community sectors in managing land resources for human settlements development;

(g) Accelerate efforts to promote access to land by the urban and rural poor, including credit schemes for the purchase of land and for building/acquiring or improving safe and healthy shelter and infrastructure services;

(i) Promote understanding among policy makers of the adverse consequences of unplanned settlements in environmentally vulnerable areas and of the appropriate national and local land-use and settlements policies required for this purpose.

(*Handout #3*) **REDUCING PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERSHIP**

Source: http://www.theblaze.com/stories/is-the-soros-sponsored-agenda-21-a-hidden-plan-for- world-government-yes-only-it-is-not-hidden/

At risk from Agenda 21;

Private Property ownership
Single-Family homes
Private car ownership and individual travel choices
Privately owned farms

The Agenda 21 plan openly targets private property. For over thirty-five years the UN has made their stance very clear on the issue of individuals owning land;

"Land… cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market. Private land ownership is also a principal instrument of accumulation and concentration of wealth and therefore contributes to social injustice; if unchecked, it may become a major obstacle in the planning and implementation of development schemes. The provision of decent dwellings and healthy conditions for the people can only be achieved if land is used in the interest of society as a whole."

Source: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I),Vancouver, BC, May 31 – June 11, 1976. Preamble to Agenda Item 10 of the Conference Report.

Think about it……..

1. Why is the Obama administration pushing for home ownership for those that cannot afford the homes thereby having the banks take them over and why all of these foreclosures?

2. How about the "reverse mortgage" program that buys homes from the elderly so their kids don't inherit the property? That didn't make sense to me at all until I learned about Agenda 21.

3. What better way to confiscate land, Legally. Foreclosure's and Reverse Mortgages.

4. What about the "mitigation" required when a new development is built. It requires that an equal or greater amount of land be taken out of private hands to be used ONLY for open space or wildlife habitat. No timber production, no cattle raising, no individual rights to access.

(Handout #4) AFFECTING HOW WE LIVE, EAT, LEARN AND COMMUNICATE

Maurice Strong, Secretary-general of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro said,

> *"...[C]urrent lifestyles and consumption patterns of the affluent middle class - involving high meat consumption and large amounts of frozen and convenience foods, use of fossil fuels, appliances, home and workplace air-conditioning, and suburban housing are not sustainable. "*

Agenda 21 is certainly not a secret. The internet is full of how Agenda 21 has been fulfilled through Smart Growth planning, land use, sustainable development and extreme environmentalism. **The so-called agenda is grant driven to your city council or county board** in terms of sustainable, visioning, partners, tourism and stakeholders, along with consensus and other terms with the intent to make you believe we are running out of all our resources and we must do our part and "save for tomorrow.

It has nothing to do about "saving anything" – it has everything to do with "control." Sadly, very few congressmen even know Agenda 21 is actually running our country when they are voting to send grant money back home. Agenda 21 is incentive driven as the planners know that greed in the heart of man will be his downfall.

A Word About ICLEI (International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives) .....

This type of global plan could not be implemented without a large and well-funded group pushing through its priorities. For that, Agenda 21 has the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), and ICLEI is deeply entrenched in America;

> *"ICLEI USA was launched in 1995 and has grown from a handful of local governments participating in a pilot project to a solid network of more than 600 cities, towns and counties actively striving to achieve tangible reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and create more sustainable communities. ICLEI USA is the domestic leader on climate protection and adaptation, and sustainable development at the local government level."*

NOTE: In 1997, George Soros's Open Society gave ICLEI a $2,147,415 grant to support its Local Agenda 21 Project

Over six hundred cities, towns and counties in America are members of ICLEI. *Do you support your local government agreeing to rules and regulations set up by a UN-based organization that wants private property transferred to government control?*

***NOTE*: Recently, the City of Placerville, CA agreed to accept ICLEI's free software and workshops for the City Council members to 'facilitate' Placerville's compliance in reduction of carbon emissions.**

Further Resources – Be Informed!

The following is a "starter" list. You will encounter many other sites as you continue to educate yourself about AGENDA 21.

Sovereignty International, http://www.sovereignty.net/

Freedom Advocates, http://www.freedomadvocates.org/

Democrats Against AGENDA 21, http://www.democratsagainstunagenda21.com/

Catholic Investigative Agency, http://www.realcatholictv.com/cia/

Michael Shaw, http://www.newswithviews.com/Shaw/michaelA.htm

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Obama's Executive Order 13575 of June 9, 2011
http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-14/html/2011-14919.htm
More information
http://bearwitness.info/AGENDA21OBAMASRURALCOUNCIL.aspx

Obama Creates White House Rural Council **From Judicial Watch**

On June 9, 2011, an Executive Order established the White House Rural Council with 25 executive branch departments including Defense, Justice, Homeland Security, National Drug Control, Environmental Quality, Labor, Commerce, Interior, EPA, Housing, Health, Education to name just a few.

The order covers 16% of the American population who live in rural counties because they "supply our food, fiber, and energy, safeguard our natural resources, and are essential in the development of science and innovation."

It ensures Rural America will participate in Agenda 21 goals of Globalization. The ICLEI non-governmental UN organization gets a partner to reach into Rural America.

SUMMARY OF THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER:

1. Federal Control of Rural American Resources (Food, Health, Energy, Education/ Schools, Property, Water and Lives).

2. Increased Federal Regulation through Executive Order (Legislation from the Oval Office).

3. More Regulation of Food production.

4. More Regulation of Land use.

5. Agenda 21 implementation accelerates in Rural America.

6. Implementation of Cap and Trade.

7. No definitions of what "Rural America" is. Matter of fact, no definitions at all.

8. More Lawmaking through Regulation (State and Local levels).

9. More State/County Control over our city/town due to grant money distribution.

10. Less Local participation due to Regionalization.

11. More Federal Jobs funded at Tax Payer Expense.

12. Rights Issues: Your Voice. You can not "Unelect" appointed committee.

Rural Council: It's about control (from freedom21.org ,..Henry Lamb)

August 13, 2011

In his never-ending expansion of government, President Barack Obama has created the first-ever White House Rural Council to promote economic prosperity and quality of life for the poor.

Created by executive order this month, the new council will help low-income residents in rural communities access public funds for "economic growth" and will "promote innovation" and improve access to health care and education.

It will also focus on job creation in those areas, bringing access to credit, creating "digital and physical networks," expanding "ecosystem markets" and developing "renewable energy projects." The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide the taxpayer money and administrative support for the new committee.

Obama's Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack, will chair the rural council and the heads of all major federal agencies will serve as members and key advisors. Among them are the secretaries of the Treasury, Defense, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Education and Energy. Attorney General Eric Holder will also serve on the new panel.

Their job will be to coordinate programs across government and "increase the impact of federal dollars" to "improve the quality of life in rural America." The entire country will benefit from this federal investment because "strong rural communities are key to a stronger America," according to the president.

This new USDA venture comes on the heels of several other like-minded and costly Obama initiatives at the agency. In the last few months the USDA has doled out tens of millions of dollars to bring healthy foods to the inner city, recruit more food-stamp recipients and track what minority public school children eat for lunch.

Just a few days ago the agency dropped $10 million on a Farmers Market Promotion Program that will bring fresh and healthy cuisine to low-income neighborhoods ("food deserts") across the country. Last month the USDA launched a sophisticated internet-based mapping tool (Food Desert Locator) that identifies areas with "limited access to affordable and nutritious foods."

Obama's Executive Order 13575 of June 9, 2011
http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-14/html/2011-14919.htm
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