



## What is sustainability? And Why is it Important?

The terms “sustainability” and “green” have enjoyed increasing popularity over the last few years and are now common buzzwords. Despite its popularity, sustainability can be a very difficult term to define.

Merriam-Webster defines sustainable as: “the ability to be used without being completely used up or destroyed” or “able to last or continue for a long time”. The U.S. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) defines sustainability as, “creating and maintaining conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations”. Finally, the World Commission on Environment and Development defines sustainable development in Our Common Future as, “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

**What do these definitions have in common?** They all place the future on the same playing field as the present. The essence of sustainability is balancing current decision making with future impacts. Another way to think about this concept is to imagine that we are borrowing our current resources from a future generation. Our planet has a finite, fixed set of resources and an ever growing, developing population. Therefore, we should strive to act in such a way as to ensure that the resources we use to sustain our vibrant way of life today are still available for those, both human and non-human, that have yet to exist. This type of action requires personal reflection, planning and the willingness to act, but is not a challenge that we cannot meet!

# Green Initiatives Program Overview

## Overview

The Green Initiatives Program provides sustainability related information and programs to the residents and employees of Hallandale Beach. Focus areas include natural resource conservation, sustainability assessment and planning, internal improvements, as well as public education and participation. The Green Initiatives Program strives to engage in a two-way discussion with residents in order to create and provide programs that will be truly meaningful and impactful and thus provide an avenue for residents and employees to reduce their impact on their community.

## Mission

The mission of the Green Initiatives Program is to provide the residents, visitors and employees of the City of Hallandale Beach with the programs, knowledge and understanding that will enable them to make proactive choices regarding their use of natural resources and will inspire them to think critically about their actions and in doing so, commit to making positive behavioral change and lessening their impact on the community.

## Welcome!

Welcome to the Green Initiatives Program! This program is included within the Department of Public Works and its day-to-day operations are conducted by our Green Initiatives Coordinator. We look forward to working together to create impactful programs that resonate with residents and City employees and truly make a positive impact on our daily activities – both presently and in the future!

## Vision

To ensure that all residents and employees of Hallandale Beach understand and take responsibility for their day-to-day actions in a way that lessens their overall impact on the planet.



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Take a few minutes and answer these questions critically:

**What does sustainability mean to you? and In what ways can you make changes in your life to promote sustainability?** Remember that nothing exists in a vacuum! We all live in a shared space and our actions impact others in ways that we may not be able to see. Strive to create a personal definition for sustainability, commit to learning new and exciting ways to lessen your impact and share what you learn with those around you! But remember, the best way to instill a sense of curiosity and foster behavior change is by arming someone with information, the tools to analyze this information and then allowing them to make up their own mind.

This section of the City website hopes to introduce you to a wide variety of green programs that the City offers and to serve as an information source so you can learn new things and discover how to **Be Present but Think Future!**

