

Rosa de Graaf
30 Inkpen Way
Orelia 6167
29.4.02

Sustainability is a worthwhile pursuit because it will ensure future further use of natural resources, employment, and natural environments e.g., Shore Pines, wetlands, natural bushland and forests which people in a responsible manner will be able to enjoy.

With our knowledge, experience and technology – here and other parts of the world combined, we should be able to resolve many of our environmental, social, employment and energy problems, and create new business and employment/carer opportunities.

Governments should take responsibility for and make future laws pertaining to energy-efficient design buildings, i.e:

1. houses etc facing north;
2. rainwater tanks at homes and buildings to supply at least clean drinking water (OUR WATER ODES LEAVE A LOT TO BE DESIRED!);
3. Solar hot water and heating systems installed and;
4. bio toilets.

Encourage planting of -suitable to there area- native trees in their gardens encouraging local bees, birds, butterflies, etc to their areas.

Selective clearing of land, tree felling instead of bulldozing whole areas, destroying all life in its path! Trees should not be pruned or cut down at springtime i.e. nesting season. Planting more trees for timber.

Encourage Agroforestry – use the land for suitable (flowers, fruit, nuts) trees and incorporate livestock. Saving the land from degradation, excessive fertilizers- stock will fertilize land and have suitable shelter.

Govt outlets for purchasing – at low cost (and even lower for large quantities for farmers) suitable trees for their land. Information also to be freely available.

Encourage production of macadamias, avocados, mangoes i.e. more trees rather than animals as a lot of degradation is caused by our domestic livestock.

Organic farming is another wonderful way to obtain natural undefiled produce – more and more people are looking for organic ‘safe’ and ‘free range’ products.

Again this will help to keep a clean environment – above and within and below the earth. Tis along with crop rotation – will save our environment from salinity, pollution form pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, hormones and concentrated amounts of animal manures. We all will be better off i.e. –healthier - not only us and our children, but the whole ecosystem including our valuable water resources.

Govts to encourage businesses to be environmentally minded – offer say – yearly awards for the most encouraging environmental achievements. Include Schools etc.

Very high fines for those businesses which are careless, have accidents i.e. explosions, oil spills – air pollution etc. Make them clean up their mess, pay for all the costs p incl. Care of sick and injured wildlife which have to suffer from their carelessness.

Local Govt could do similar with local residents – the most outstanding native garden of the year for e.g.

Clam down on businesses and local Shires/Govt which abuse our water ban system, or let water run down (waste) the roads due to faulty or wrongly adjusted sprinklers. They also should not water longer than necessary.

Encourage Shires to plant more suitable trees- instead of having so much lawn.

Bring back a decent incentive for people to convert their car to gas - and lower the price of gas. Incentives to develop a cleaner vehicle –award-reward.

For every problem there is a solution, in fact – there are really only solutions.

That does not mean that the solution has to be at someone elses expenxe or detriment. There is a medium/alternative e.g. I WANT a green lawn, so I'll use everyone elses water.

Solution: Find a happy medium – and have them use less water.

How: Whatever you do – to solve or implement the solutions, make them exiting realistic and rewarding – e.g. encourage planting of cheap (for garden) or free (for verge) native trees. Shires could have such a horticultural nursery going. Help and advice freely given.

The unemployed could also be helping – say one day a fortnight or so – just don't call it 'work for the Dole!' Give a choice to single parents, pensioners t register for volunteer projects – many might just volunteer.

Sires could have a horticulturist/land rehabilitation/manager employed and use some volunteers to plant up their Shires and help those in the Shire that need help. All will benefit from these projects. Imagine- a real helpful Sire/Govt!

(Perhaps assist in setting up local rehab groups)

Many will learn various skills in the process – whether they are young or old, and most importantly – the people involved will gain self-esteem, a sense of an important achievement iwht combined effort. Wouldn't this not also aid in creating a more sociable and stable community- maybe less – violence, theft and destruction?

Whenever or where-ever you want to get the message across- let the people know that they are all needed and let their work for society and environment be recognized in some way.

Education: - many more Schools are becoming more involved in environmental activities and awareness. But not enough as yet. It should begin at – pre-primary - simple ecology-“you treat the environment and all the creatures in it with respect – give animals, creatures their space and interfere as little as possible – but observe as much as you can”. In return, the environment will sustain our needs!

Schools could help each other out – team efforts- bus trip for one School – to a School which is in desperate need of rehabilitating their grounds. Local Shire could supply the expert.

This would also give children/young adults –a sense of togetherness – achievement, gain respect/ knowledge a sense of morality and responsibility. May be some students will discuss these matters rather than where to hang out and what mischief (damage?) they would get into. May be give a yearly tropine? Such as a....nice bonsai tree? Just a thought.

Lastly – I am also concerned about the threatened 1,700 (some 400 yr old) Tuart trees at Busselton – which Cable Sands- want to destroy (+5000 peppermint trees). Included in that destruction would be all native plants and animals, insects, lizards. No amount of money or even rehabilitation can save the (or replace) lives of all that lives in, and depend on that area- that's their HOME.

In 1976 the State Govt, endorsed all recommendations made by the Conservation through Reserves Committee, which said that the area should be conserved and that mining should be barred.

We really must stop exploiting and plundering the land and do more to look after it and educate everybody else to do the same, and we will make progress. Please help- I know I will!

Thank you for your time

God bless

Rosa de Graaf

P.S. At the moment I am studying Land Management – Ecology, Water Management and rehabilitation. Through this I have become aware of the many long term problems we have to resolve.