

The Relationship Between Environmental and Economic Dimensions of Sustainability on the Island of Montreal

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Sustainability's growing popularity amongst the literature, institutions and individuals since the coining of the term in the context of the Brundtland conference (WCED, 1987), contrasts with its blurry connotations triggering endless semantic debates. In spite of its characterization as "ill-defined and diffuse area of study" (Leal Filho, 2000; Robinson, 2004; Whitley, 1984), the literature has reached a consensus on sustainability's "Triple Bottom Line" (Elkington, 1994) as inscribed into environmental, economic and social dynamics. Scholars have adopted different perspectives on the direction of the relationship between environmental and economic spheres, which explains the stance of this research toward inquiring the strength of this association at the Montreal scale. Twelve indicators of sustainability were confronted to correlation, regression and factor analyses, evidencing a linear negative relationship between sustainable practices and economic status on the island of Montreal, contrasting with the global findings and closing a literature gap at the local level.

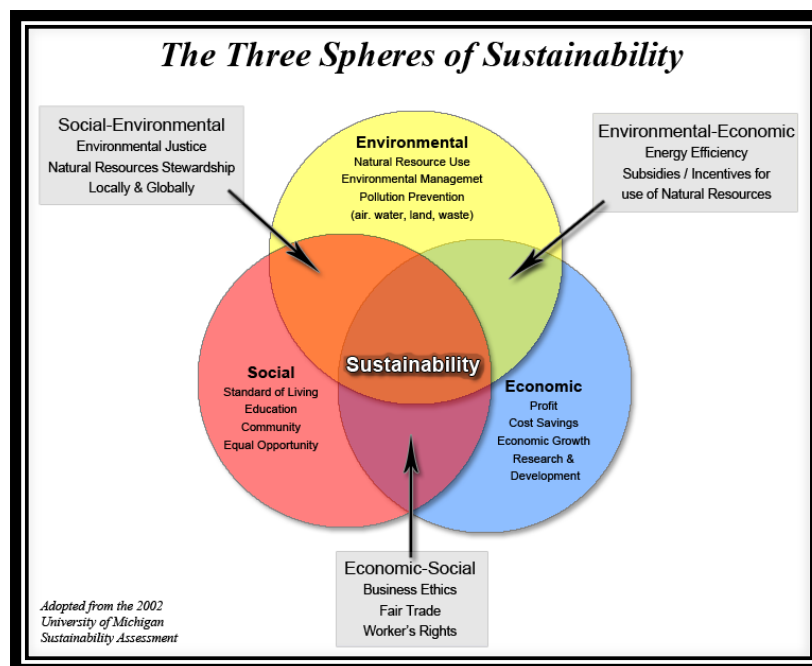


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