



Watershed Indicators of Sustainability

What are Indicators of Sustainability? An indicator is statistical data that measures one element of a community's vitality (e.g., economic, environment, or community) and is used, in conjunction with other indicators to evaluate a community's overall health. Indicators of sustainability are indicators which measure a community's ability to meet today's needs without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

What does this mean to me? Communities across the United States have found that a succinct 'report card' of indicators of sustainability help them to identify areas where links among the economy, environment and community are weak. Once areas for improvement are identified, an appropriate case can be made to effect necessary change within the community. The proposed process will develop indicators of sustainability to help identify the strength of community linkages and identify themes underrepresented in present Lake Tahoe Basin dialogue.

Project Goal: To design and implement a set of indicators of sustainability that can be monitored and analyzed to help shape public and private sector policy and community awareness to integrate a healthy environment, economy and community in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The focus of this project is to develop agreement on a set of indicators designed to measure economic and community sustainability. These indicators would complement the set of environmental sustainability indicators maintained by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA).

Project Sponsors/Organizers: This project was initiated by a broad consortium of community interests including representatives of business, social services, education, health care, public safety, public services, and government. The primary sponsors include the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce. Local funding support for the project is being developed and coordinated through the primary sponsors for disbursement by the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation. Technical assistance is being provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Next Steps/Project Timeline: This effort has already begun. It is anticipated that an initial set of indicators can be developed and ready for initial monitoring and analysis by the fall of 2007. Discussion level indicators are expected by the end of June.

How can I get Involved? Project meetings are open to the public. While the ad hoc work group includes a board range of representatives, your voice is welcome. Equally important is for you to communicate your support for this project to basin elected officials and policy makers.

For more Information: Visit www.northlaketahoechamber.com or email Steve Teshara at stevet@puretahoenorth.com, Betty "B" Gorman at bgorman@tahoechamber.org or Phil Brozek at phillip.f.brozek@usace.army.mil.