

# THE BIG IDEAS of SUSTAINABILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY

SOCIAL

ECONOMIC VITALITY

#### **Community**

A group of living and non-living things sharing a common purpose or space.

# **Diversity**

All systems and places function because of variety.

#### **Systems**

Parts are connected through larger patterns.

# **Cycles**

Every organism and every system goes through different stages.

#### Interdependence

All living things are connected. Every organism, system, and place depends on others.

## Limits

Every system has a carrying capacity.

#### **Change over Time**

All organisms, places, and systems are constantly changing.

# **Place**

Natural and human communities together make up one's place.

# Fairness/Equity

Resources are shared to meet the needs of living things— across places and generations.

"Sustainability means supporting healthy, harmonious, equitable ways of life for future generations."

— TEACHER, CELF WORKSHOP, SCARSDALE, NY

# Ability to Make a Difference

Everyone has the ability to change or impact a system, community, and themselves.

Actions have effects beyond immediate reactions.

Long-Term

## **Equilibrium**

A state of balance.



#### SUSTAINABILITY

When the environmental, economic and social needs of a society are met in the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.



