Benefits of Sustainability - what grows (what you can see) (I have added some common language because people get confused by what sustainable means)

This is the 'Beauty'

- Less costs or saves money
- Open space you can see and enjoy the farms where your food is raised.
- Sustainable non-earth damaging agriculture means that the land is in equal or better shape after farming than before farming it.
- Sustainability non-animal damaging agriculture means that an animal that is used for food is in equal or better health than an animal that isn't used for food.
- Healthier ecosystems (meaning that the trees and the bees are healthy. The water and the air are clean. Eco-systems mean that **all** systems benefits, not just **one** system.
- Cleaner air (this is why we love plants!)
- Sustainable resources (things don't run out or become extinct.)

Roots - what nourishes the tree

The ACTION is our steps to promote sustainability and listed separately as 18 steps.

## 6 roots:

- 1. pollution control
  - Animal
    - Action: local or know farmer
  - Nutrient
    - Action: local or know farmer
- 2. Food Production
  - Decrease energy and transportation cost to make food because less processed food requires less energy, less additives and less preservatives.
    - Action: less processed food
    - Action: less intensive processing
    - Action: less additive
    - Action:less preservatives.
- 3. Farming practices
  - impacting animals
    - Action:Know your farmer
    - Action:Local
    - Action:Home grown
    - Action:organic
  - Impact existing ecosystems [How some farming practices impact soil/water conservations and native animal populations]
    - Action:Know your farmer -
      - Farmer's markets
      - CSA (Community Support Agriculture) or Farm Shares
      - Markets that choose to carry locally produced products
      - Grown some of your own food

- Action: Does my markets that evaluate this step?
- Depleting existing ecosystems [How some farming practices remove existing nutrients from the soil, deplete/divert water sources downstream, harm native animal populations (pesticides and clear cutting practices.)
  - Action:Know your farmer
  - Action:Shop at markets that evaluate this step.
- 4. Biodiversity[Preserving ecosystems by encouraging biodiversity of plants and animals.]
  - Action: Purchase if possible Fair trade and other economic plans to support sustainable farming.
  - Preserving the diversity of plants
    - Action:Businesses purchasing local sourced food
    - Action:Farmers markets/CSA
  - Preserving the diversity of animals
    - Action:Businesses purchasing local sourced food
    - Action:Farmers markets/CSA
- 5. Energy/Resources used
  - Energy to grow food
    - Action:Local
    - Action:In season
  - Transportation of food
    - Action:Local
  - Water use to grow food
    - Action:Local varieties that support available resources.
- 6. Waste [steps to reduce solid waste]
  - Food
    - Action:Composting
    - Action:Resource recovery:
      - Soup kitchens
      - Repurposing food (making it into juice, frozen meals, or other foods that can be consumed vs going into a landfill)
    - Supporting business that have food waste recovery plans
  - Packaging
    - Action:co-ops
    - Action:Bulk
    - Action:CSA/Community Supported Agriculture
    - Action:Farmer's Markets
    - Action:Recycle packaged material
    - Action:Purchase items with less packaging
- 7. Including Plant Based Protein Sources
  - Food
    - Including Plant Based Proteins in diet
    - Action: Beans, Tofu, Nuts, High protein grains and seeds

■ Action: Choosing Meat Alternatives - Soy products

## The action steps outline are:

- 1. Action: local or know farmer
- 2. Action: select foods that have been less processed
- 3. Action: select foods that have less additive
- 4. Action: serving meatless or meat alternative meals
- 5. Action: select foods that have less preservatives.
- 6. Action: grow food at home
- 7. Action: purchase organically grown foods when able
- 8. Action: shop at markets that evaluate how food is grown.
- 9. Action: purchase if possible Fair Trade and other economic plans to support sustainable farming.
- 10. Action: support businesses purchasing local sourced food
- 11. Action: purchase food from farmers markets
- 12. Action: buy food in season
- 13. Action: consider composting
- 14. Action: support business that have food waste recovery plans
- 15. Action: purchase food from bulk vs individually packaged items.
- 16. Action: join a Community Supported Agriculture, CSA
- 17. Action: recycle packaged material of items purchased
- 18. Action: purchase items with less packaging
- 19. Action: use non-plastic bags.





