

FACT SHEET # 3: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND GREEN JOBS

The labour and social justice movements see sustainability in terms of *sustainable communities*.

The idea of a *sustainable community* is threefold:

- a *sustainable environment* requires that a community regulate and consume materials, energy and natural resources in a manner that provides for both present and future generations. It also maintains the *ecology* and biodiversity of the region and supports human health. It protects air, water and soil and preserves animal and plant life;
- a *sustainable economy* requires that all citizens of the community have a *standard of life* that provides for good food, shelter, health care, education and *community infrastructures*. Such an economy will increasingly provide *green, quality jobs* that enhance environmental sustainability;
- *social justice*: community social justice requires the right to *full employment*, free education, health care, and the right to affordable shelter and food. The costs and benefits of economic activity must be shared fairly.

Green, quality jobs are an integral part of sustainable communities. They are jobs in the production of both *goods and services*; they are jobs in both public and private sectors, with all jobs that properly belong to the public sector returned to their rightful place - the community. The key to the production of goods and services that serves sustainable communities lies in the idea of *sustainable production*.

Sustainable production is non-polluting, conserving of natural resources, safe, healthy and stress-free for workers, neighbours and consumers, and truly satisfying for employees and the public. Sustainable production, like nature, goes in a *cycle* in which renewable inputs are made into products (and byproducts) that can be reused, recycled and remanufactured - instead *linear* production, with non-renewable inputs, energy-intensive processes and throw-away products. *Pollution Prevention, risk reduction and cleaner technologies* all contribute to more sustainable production.