Sustainable Development: Global Applications and the Effect on Community

A Case Study Report

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Environmental Engineering
How does one implement and define sustainable development?

Sustainable Development does not have one single definition and must be adopted in a community centric way throughout the world. It does not just require meeting our needs but reorienting our thinking on how we consume our limited resources and damage our environment. Sustainable development is as much about behavioral shifts as it is about technological shifts. Through seven country case studies, a number of strategies were identified that could be universally applied to improve sustainable development from a community centric approach, the most prominent of which was a cooperative structure. Through cooperatives in both developed and developing nations, community members are able to control their own actions and are often more incentivized to improve their lifestyles. Whether through local heating and energy cooperatives or sustainable food cooperatives; people in any country, of any economic status, and of any social background can begin to alter the environmental impact of their own lifestyles and the lifestyles of those around them.