

# **The Fundamentals of Sustainability and Green Building**

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Not Just Another “Green” Workshop  
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Holly Hill, LEED® AP, Assoc. AIA  
Sustainable Design Manager

**HMC**  
Architects

**What is sustainability vs.  
high performance vs.  
green building?**

## Sustainability...



### **definition of “sustainable”:**

Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 1987 United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development

**definition of “high performance building”:**

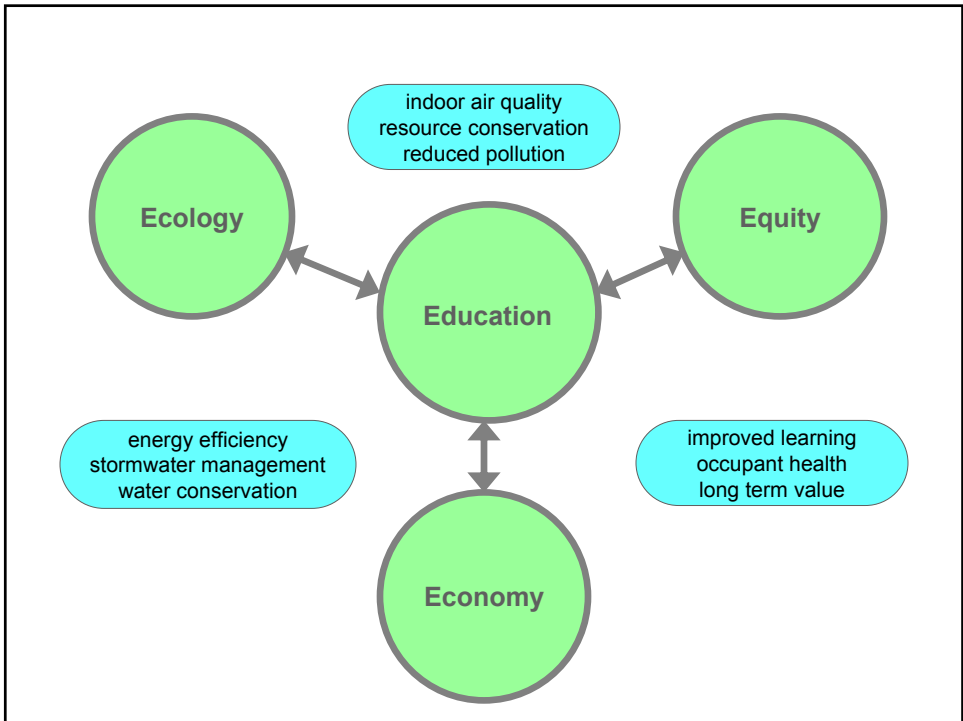
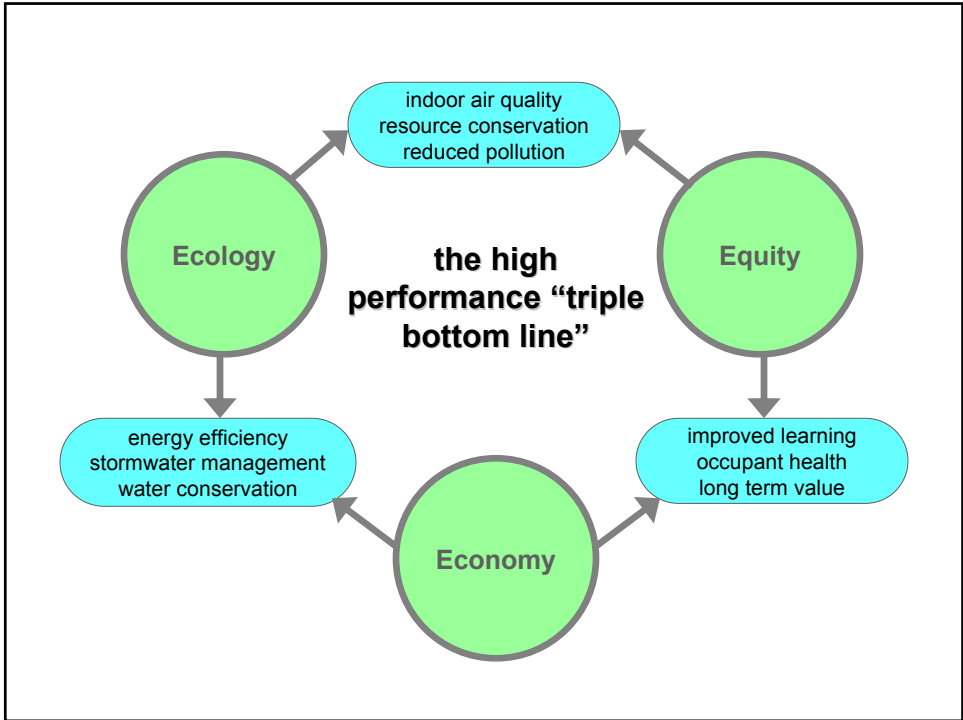
High-performance buildings deliver superior energy, economic, and environmental performance to their occupants and owners.

- Guidelines for Creating Green Buildings Pennsylvania  
Department of Environmental Protection, 1999

**definition of “green building”:**

Green building incorporates site planning, water management, energy, material use and indoor environmental quality to mitigate the negative impacts of buildings on their occupants and the environment.

- U.S. Green Building Council



## **Bottom Lines...**

- Sustainability ≠ High Performance
- High Performance is not solely energy efficiency.
- Green Building is a design strategy to achieve a high performance building.

## **Top 10 Green Building Strategies**

1. Start Planning Early
2. Select an Experienced Project Team
3. Involve All Stakeholders
4. Set Clear Goals
5. Identify Constraints
6. Participate in the Process
7. Demand Data
8. Consider Life Cycle Cost
9. Specify Carefully
10. Evaluate the Process



## Top 10 Green Building Pitfalls

1. Procrastinate
2. Preconceive
3. Withhold Communication
4. Stop at Design
5. Spectate
6. Stop at First Cost
7. Not Educating or Communicating with Contractors
8. Compartmentalize
9. Chase Points
10. Rely on a Single “Green Guy/Gal”



## Tools

### ▪ LEED for Schools

- U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Schools
- 79 points possible
- 95 Certified schools and 813 Registered schools  
(as of June 2008)

### ▪ CHPS

- Collaborative for High Performance Schools
- 85 points possible (2006 Edition, New Construction)
- Over 30 CHPS schools opened; over 300 underway in 8 states

