



Join Binghamton's Sustainability Movement!
Be a part of advancing the common good today while meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

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Building Local Living Communities ...for Today and Tomorrow Common Wealth and Common Health

Building a brighter future is a fun and rewarding experience. BRSC offers a unique opportunity to become involved and to make your special contribution to the vision of a revitalized Binghamton region. We welcome your support and interest. Please visit us on [Facebook](#) or at: www.binghamtonsustainability.org or e-mail us at: info@binghamtonsustainability.org

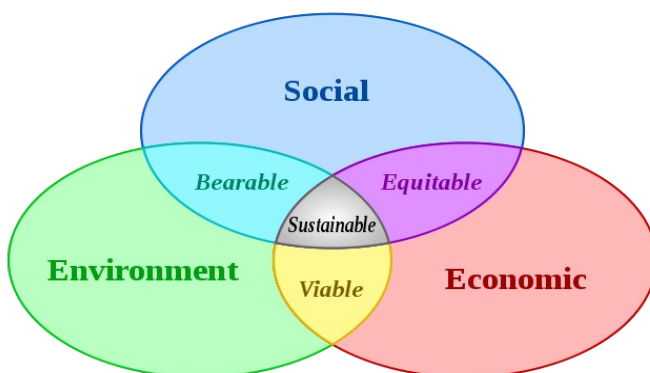
About Us

The Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition (BRSC) was formed in mid 2008 out of a series of community forums on sustainability and a community visioning session. Hosting monthly meetings and frequent educational forums, BRSC currently connects with countless local organizations and with approximately 600 individuals through its events, list serve and Facebook.

BRSC is working to become a regional information clearinghouse to promote new and existing sustainability efforts, a source for sustainability training and education, a center for networking and coordination and an advocacy group that builds community support for public policies that further sustainability in the region. BRSC has established itself as a resource for information about gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale and the potential impacts on our community's environment, economy, and health. BRSC is also building coalitions with anchor institutions and businesses as part of a broad based approach to revitalizing the local economy, as an incubator for a local foods movement, and as a leader in promoting Smart Growth and sustainable community development.

What is "Sustainability"?

The Three Pillars of Sustainability



Definitions of sustainability often refer to the "three pillars" of social, environmental and economic sustainability.

This view expressed, as an illustration using three overlapping ellipses, indicates that the three pillars of sustainability are not mutually exclusive and can be mutually reinforcing.

Eight Fields of Work:

1. Green Energy

- **Marcellus Shale and Gas Drilling:** Critical role in public education; prime advocate for safe, responsible, accountable drilling; reached over 3,000 residents through Speaker's Bureau, numerous public events, fairs, tabling, and internet; the Press Sun Bulletin recognized BRSC as a "Key Player" in this important community dialogue
- **Climate Change:** BRSC is Co-Chair of the City of Binghamton's Climate Action Advisory Committee charged with developing a plan to reduce our carbon emissions
- **Energy Retrofits:** Working with various partners to develop effective strategies for home energy retrofit programs

2. Zero Waste

- **Community Thrift Store Collaboration:** a partnership with a local recycler that is already reducing the local waste stream by approximately 70,000 lbs per month
- **Zero Waste Committee:** forming in summer of 2010 to develop community strategies to move our region toward zero waste (long term)

3. Building Stakeholder Capital

- **Community Development Partnership:** BRSC partners with two Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) to offer financial stability education and savings programs through Individual Development Accounts and micro-enterprise development and lending to under served communities (starting in 2010/11) ...breaking the bonds of generational poverty
- **Community Development Fund (CDF):** based on the Cleveland Evergreen Cooperatives model, establish a CDF capitalized with \$2M to \$5M with a long-term goal of creating 2,000 to 5,000 jobs
- **Stimulating Local Investment Opportunities:** coalition to develop innovative vehicles for small business investment (Local Stock Exchange, Local Loan/Investment Network, etc...)

4. Food Systems

- **Food Coop and Neighborhood Grocery Network:** providing improved access to healthy and local foods; currently incubating a local retail food cooperative
- **Regional Food Hub:** in the early stage of a collaborative effort to make Binghamton a Regional Food Hub to serve the NYC, NY and Philadelphia food sheds (long term)
- **Artisanal Foods:** expanding the co-op model to build an artisanal food movement

5. Artisan Economy

- **Task Force:** currently establishing a task force to build a thriving traditional and 21st century artisan driven economy through policy, collaboration, financing, promotion, etc.
- **Marketplace:** co-op marketplace – physical and virtual - for artisans

6. Business Network

- **BRSC-Net:** based on the BALLE model (www.livingeconomies.org), this network connects independent businesses to promote and strengthen locally owned enterprises; a critical initiative of BRSC to build a vibrant local living economy – applications accepted now!

7. Vitality & Health

- **Common Health:** all activities of BRSC have a health-building component; collaborating with the Strategic Alliance on Health

8. Community Building

- **Networking:** regular community meetings since 2008 (4th Thursdays of the month at the Broome County Library); Website and Facebook, Sustainable Binghamton Radio Show
- **Smart Growth and Sustainable Development Alliance & Conferences:** BRSC is a lead partner in the initiative to establish a platform for the adoption of community development strategies based on the principles of Smart Growth and Livability; providing support and coordination for this network and for the realization of an ongoing series of summits and conferences (starting October 2010)