Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts: the concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.

### COMPARISON OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THREE COUNTRIES

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#### United States
- **Status**: Leads the world in oil, natural gas, and electricity consumption. Largest emitter of CO2 emissions from fuel consumption. Imported oil accounts for 55% of US consumption.
- **Economy**: Poverty Rate: 13.5%. Gross Domestic Product: $54,800. Common jobs are in the retail industry, food industry, or healthcare.
- **Energy Sources**: Oil, natural gas, petroleum.
- **Issues**: Air pollution, water pollution, deforestation.
- **Progress**: Energy Star labeled products have increased in use. Development of fluorescent and LED light bulbs uses less energy. Developed the Clean Air Amendment of 1970.
- **Future Plans**: New pipeline is under construction that connects Flint to Lake Herron. Old pipes and infrastructure have been replaced and repaired to lower the lead levels in Flint.

#### Brazil
- **Status**: 5th largest country. 12th largest oil producer. 12th largest information technology.
- **Energy Sources**: Oil, petroleum.
- **Issues**: Pollution threatens the drinking water supply. Tiete River filled with sewage from 33,000 factories and 13 million people. Deforestation causing erosion and flooding.
- **Progress**: 55% of sewage now treated. New water treatment plants and sewage pipes. US EPA working with Brazil on environmental management and risk reduction for mutual benefit.
- **Future Plans**: 85% of sewage will be treated by 2018. Continued partnership with the US to train local leaders on recycling and a sustainable urban infrastructure.

#### Taiwan
- **Status**: 5th largest economy in Asia. Partner of the Global Value Chains of Electronic Industry. Largest metal stock exchange in the world.
- **Economy**: Poverty Rate: Less than 1%. Gross Domestic Product: $31,900. Country has advanced foreign technology with lower cost to be produced and sold abroad.
- **Energy Sources**: Good delivery point for primary aluminum, aluminum alloy, copper, lead, nickel, tin, and zinc.
- **Issues**: Air pollution and water pollution from industrial emissions and contaminated drinking water.
- **Progress**: Taiwan Healthy Air Action Alliance working to develop ways to improve the air quality. The EPA determined that the PM10 levels have decreased over past years. Taipei's tallest building is highly energy efficient and received LEED Platinum Certification in 2012.
- **Future Plans**: The EPA determined that the PM10 levels have decreased over past years. Taipei’s tallest building is highly energy efficient and received LEED Platinum Certification in 2012.