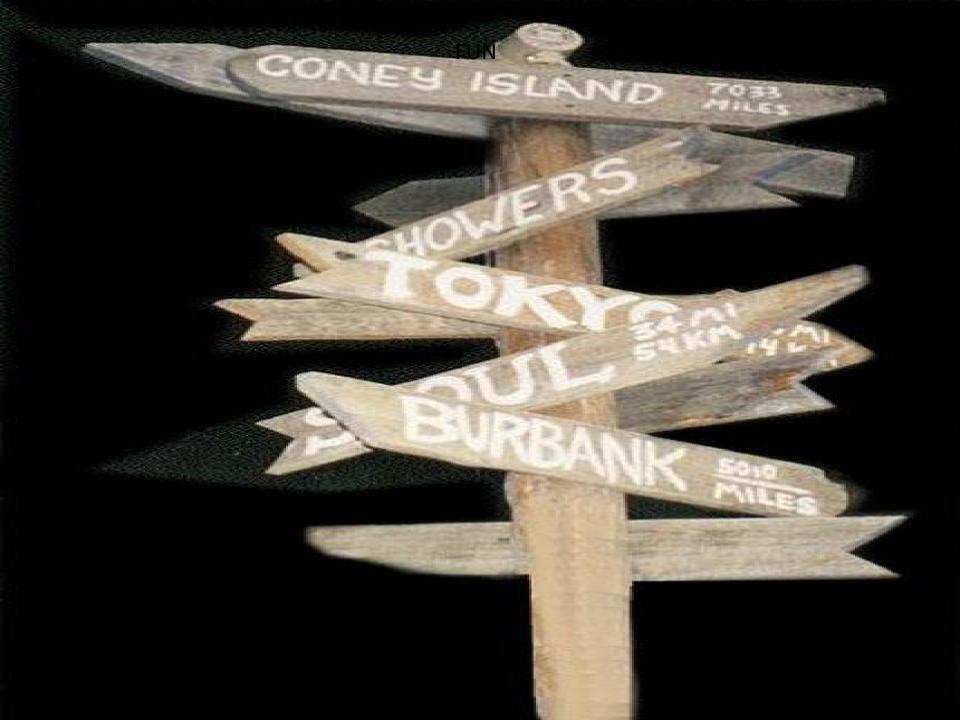
Sustainable Indicators



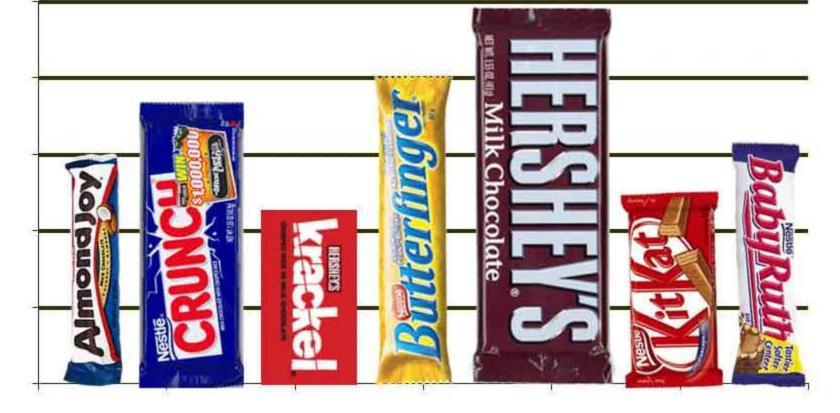
Garrett Dolan, Ph.D. Rice University, SSPEED Center June 2011





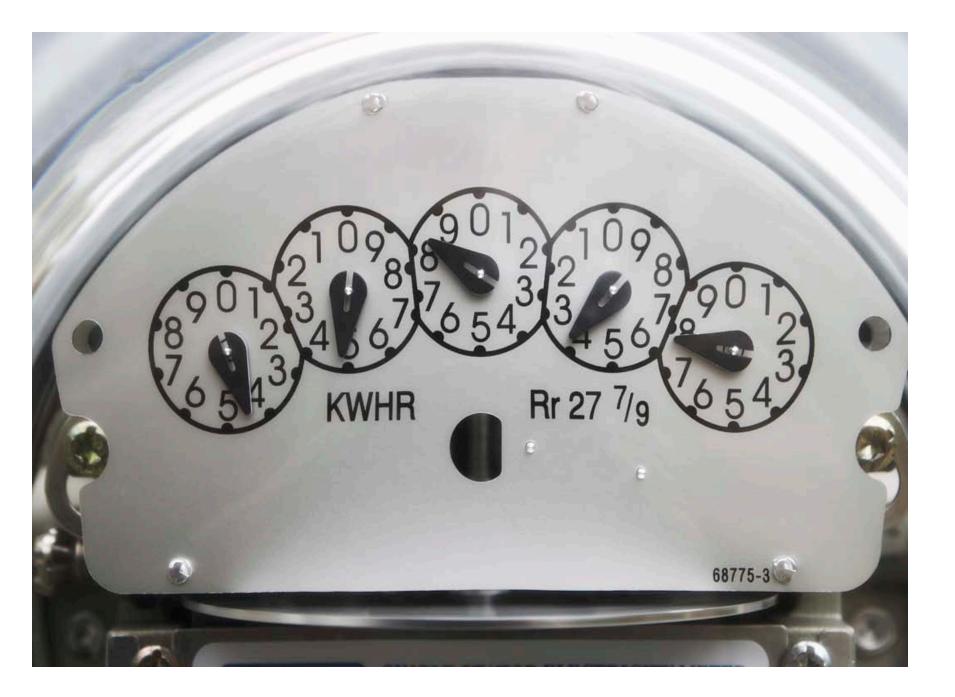


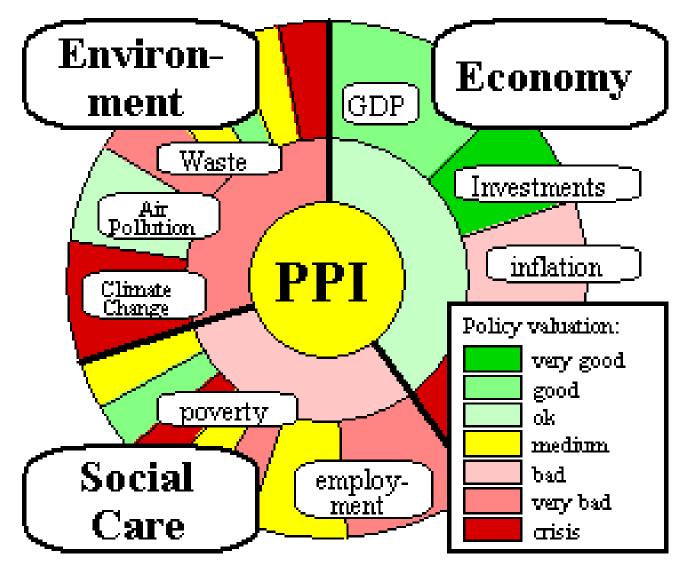
Amount Of Chocolate



Candy Bar Chart







Dashboard of Sustainability, http://esl.jrc.it/dc/pics/ppi_fut.gif



What is An "Indicator?"





 An indicator is something that helps you understand where you are, which way you are going and how far you are from where you want to be



Purpose of Indicators

 To be able to understand and learn what is going on relative to the subject so that informed decisions can be made





Types of Indicators

- Category Environmental, Social, Economic
- **Retrospective** Recycling rates
- **Predictive** Greenhouse gas projections
- Goal Indicator Matrix energy use to waste production; ...to income
- Pressure-State-Response-Impact
- Endowments # of college degrees to salary levels
- Systems population/acre

Coastal Comparative Examples



Traditional	Sustainable	New Emphasis
Per capita income	Amount of people earning a wage that can support dislocation and employment disruption caused by disasters	Changes focus from how much people have to the amount people need to deal with major adversity
Tax revenue	Ratio of tax revenue to support humans living in flood prone areas versus safe areas	Measures underlying subsidies that may distort public policy
Number of fishing permits	Ratio of permits awarded versus rates of regeneration	Changes focus from sheer numbers to ratio needed for sustainable social /economic development

Critical Issue #1: Conceptual Framework



 What is our agreed understanding of sustainable development such that it will help us make decisions?

Recommendation

- Do this first!
- Codify meaning and remind people often
- Process is as important as result



Critical Issue #2: Definitional Ambiguity

Challenge

 Words have meaning and they are all subjective

Recommendation

- Define terms second!
 - Sustain, develop, community, indicator, carrying capacity





Critical Issue #3: Time is of the Essence



Challenge

 How much time does a sustainable indicator require?

Recommendation

- Seek generational equity
- Sustainability = long-term

"In our every deliberation we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."

-From the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy

Critical Issue #4: How Many?



Challenge

- Complex systems
- Multiple variables
- Personal issue

Recommendation

- Quality trumps quantity
- Keep user and purpose in mind

8-12 KPIS – McKinney Rogers

"Small as possible, but as large as necessary" – Hartmut Bossel

76 data sets into 21 indicators – ESI, Yale

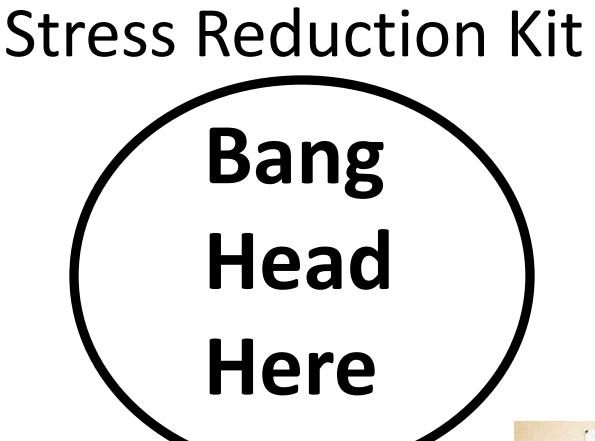
143 (now about 50) – UNCSD

"More than One" – Paradigms of Progress



Recommendations – Next Steps

- Process is very important
- Secure leadership consensus on terminology <u>FIRST</u>
 - Principles, values and definition
- Develop small set of effective <u>CORE</u> indicators
 - Determine types of indicators wanted
 - Test suitability
- Can't do enough education and outreach
- Take a systems view
- Workshops
 - Definitional, indicator selection process, measurement methods, etc...



Directions:

- 1. Place kit on firm surface.
- 2. Follow directions in circle.
- 3. Repeat step 2 as necessary.
- 4. If unconscious, cease stress reduction activity.

