Integrating Sustainability in Capacity Building

University of Stuttgart
Chair of Building Physics (LBP)
Life Cycle Engineering (GaBi)

www.LBPGaBi.uni-stuttgart.de
Integrating Sustainability in Capacity Building

Capacity building amongst communities using computer and web-based methods

June 19th, 2007

SDIMI 2007: Panel Discussion II

Julia Pflieger

(Department Life Cycle Engineering, University of Stuttgart)
Integrating Sustainability in Capacity Building

What is Sustainability?

Society expects a well-balanced ratio between profit orientation and concentration on social concerns or environmental issues.

Leads to integrated consideration of economic aspects, social responsibility and environmental effects.

The idea by tradition / history…

Reflects the most widely accepted approach to defining sustainability: The “triple bottom line”.

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What is Sustainability?

Feasibility of integrated evaluation of economic aspects, environmental effects and social issues?

Where is the difference between short-run trend-setting and long-term sustainable development?

What is the basic idea and target of the sustainability discussion?

What is only fulfillment of given standards, what is sustainable development and behavior?
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What is Capacity Building?

Traditional idea of capacity building:

...strengthening and/or development of trained human resources and institutional capacities in terms of techniques and skills...

But what is the sustainable idea of the capacity building concept?

✓ Interdisciplinary and integrated course of action
✓ Application orientation: From theory to practice application
✓ Target-orientation: Significance of activities towards sustainability
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Capacity building amongst communities using computer and web-based methods... promoting, educating and set-up of a knowledge basis...

Training of all kinds of human resources

Educating in the most efficient and effective way

Comprehensive and interactive (e-)learning resource
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Capacity building amongst communities using computer and web-based methods

... supporting the day-to-day sustainability work...

Data collection, management and analysis

Generation of meaningful and flexible indicators

Publication and reporting according to external / internal standards addressing a variety of questions
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Evaluation of the success of capacity building activities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Short term activities</th>
<th>versus</th>
<th>long-term strategy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Following short-run trends</td>
<td>versus</td>
<td>long-term development and integration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulfilling standards</td>
<td>versus</td>
<td>target-oriented approach</td>
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Contact

Dipl.-Ing. Julia Pflieger
University of Stuttgart
Chair of physics
Department Life Cycle Engineering
Hauptstrasse 113
70771 Echterdingen
Germany

Tel.       ++49(0)711-489999-25
Fax        ++49(0)711-489999-11

E-Mail     julia.pflieger@lbp.uni-stuttgart.de

http://www.lbpgabi.uni-stuttgart.de