

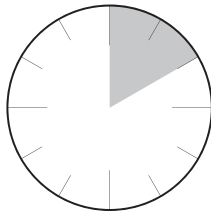
## Project Team Activity

*Objective:* This is a tool to get your team thinking about what sustainability is and to discuss how considering economic, environmental, and social aspects to sustainability can be incorporated into exhibit projects.

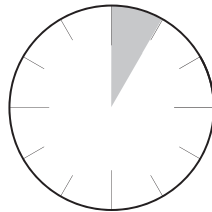
### TIME REQUIRED

**1 hour and 15 minutes**

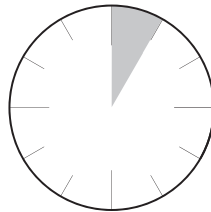
**ADVANCE PREP**  
10 minutes



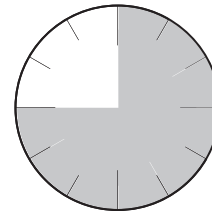
**SETUP**  
5 min.



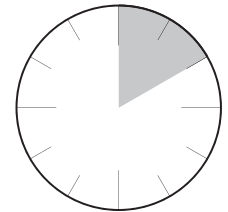
**INTRO**  
5 min.



**ACTIVITY**  
45 min.



**WRAP-UP**  
10 min.



### SITE REQUIREMENTS

- Standard size meeting room or classroom
- Chairs and table(s), enough space for all participants to have a writing surface
- Adequate wall space for hanging three large posters

### PROGRAM FORMAT

SEGMENT	FORMAT	TIME
Introduction	Large group discussion	5 min
Activity Part 1	Group activity	15 min
Activity Part 2	Group activity	15 min
Activity Part 3	Group activity	15 min
Wrap-up	Large group discussion	10 min

## SUPPLIES

SUPPLIES	AMOUNT
PINK* Post-it notes (2" x 2" size, or flags)	3 per person
BLUE* Post-it notes (2" x 2" size, or flags)	3 per person
GREEN* Post-it notes (2" x 2" size, or flags)	3 per person
YELLOW* Post-it notes (2" x 2" size, or flags)	8 per person
Pens	1 per person
Chart pack or butcher paper (dry-erase boards can be substituted)	3 sheets, poster size
Markers, different colors that are easy to read	4 markers
Tape or pins to affix posters to walls	6 push pins or 2" pieces of tape

*\*Any color can be substituted as long as you have four different colors.*

## ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Make posters for the Activity Parts 1, 2, and 3, using the attached diagrams as templates (see *Poster Templates*, pp. 7–9 of this guide).
- Gather supplies for activities (i.e. Post-it notes and pens)

## SETUP

- Set up tables with post-it notes and pens.
  - Post-it notes (3 pink, 3 blue, 3 green, and 8 yellow for each person)
  - Pens (1 per person)
- Hang posters around the room

## BACKGROUND

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*These notes are intended for the facilitator. We recommend conducting the activities without giving participants too much prior information, in order to draw out existing beliefs and assumptions.*

*More in-depth information and other resources can be found at [www.exhibitSEED.org](http://www.exhibitSEED.org).*

Many people think about creating sustainable exhibits in terms of something being “green” or recyclable. Leading exhibit planners and designers are finding more holistic ways to think about “sustainability,” or the “ability to sustain, or endure.” One of the more popular frameworks is called the “Three Pillar” approach. This means that the three pillars of sustainability—economy, environment, and society—must all be considered and in balance for something to be truly sustainable. The concept of “sustainability” may mean different things to your group, depending on cultural context and experience of participants.

Because economic, environmental, and societal factors are so interrelated, this often means making compromises to choose the most sustainable path. There is rarely one clear “best” answer and the tools presented on [www.exhibitseed.org](http://www.exhibitseed.org) are designed to help facilitate discussions and considerations for making more sustainable choices.

The goal of this project is to apply those sustainability considerations to the process of creating exhibits. The tips and resources were created and tested from a science museum perspective, but we hope the recommendations have value for all museums and exhibitors.

This activity is intended to help participants make their own meaning of what sustainability is conceptually, as well as invite them to explore considerations that can be made in the daily work of exhibit professionals that, with careful consideration, can become more sustainable over time.

## FACILITATOR-LED INTRODUCTION

### Envisioning Sustainability

5 minutes

Welcome everyone to the training and review the big picture agenda of the afternoon's workshop.

## ACTIVITY PART 1

### Sustainability Words

15 minutes

1. Have participants take a few minutes to prepare the following Post-it note tags.
  - a. List the first three words that come to mind when you think about **"Sustainability."** Then write each word on **PINK** flags.  
*(Sample Responses: recycling, green, healthy)*
  - b. List the first three words that come to mind when you think about **"Non-sustainability."** Then write each word on **BLUE** flags.  
*(Sample Responses: waste, litter, greenhouse gases)*
2. Have participants post their Post-it notes on corresponding poster for Activity Part 1, wherever they think the notes fit best.
3. As a group, take a few minutes to walk through the diagram and words posted in each sphere and in the overlapping regions, and discuss any questions, surprises, or other thoughts that emerge.

Sample Responses (*Answers will vary*):

- Most of the words ended up in the "environmental" sphere.
- A lot of the same words showed up more than once.
- Writing down "Non-sustainability" was more difficult than writing down "Sustainability" words.

## ACTIVITY PART 2

### Sustainable Actions

15 minutes

1. Have participants take a few minutes to prepare the following Post-it note tags.
  - a. List the first three **sustainable actions or behaviors** that come to mind. Then write each word on **YELLOW** flags.  
*(Sample Responses: recycling, walking, biking)*

## Sustainable Actions

### ACTIVITY PART 2 (CONTINUED)

- b. List the first three **unsustainable actions or behaviors** that come to mind. Then write each word on **GREEN** flags.  
(*Sample Responses: shopping, polluting, driving*)
2. Have participants post their Post-it notes on the corresponding poster for Activity Part 2, wherever they think the notes fit best.
3. As a group, take a few minutes to walk through the diagram and words posted in each circle and discuss any questions, surprises, or other thoughts that emerge.

Sample Responses (*Answers will vary*):

- *A lot of responses ended up in the waste sphere.*
- *Not very many items ended up in the “Well-being” sphere.*
- *Some responses are difficult to fit into these categories.*

## Sustainability and Job Tasks

### ACTIVITY PART 3

15 minutes

1. Have participants take a few minutes to prepare the following Post-it note tags.
  - a. List five exhibit-related tasks or duties that you are responsible for. Then write the word on a Post-it note.
2. Have participants post the notes on the corresponding poster for Activity Part 3, wherever they see appropriate.
3. As a group, take a few minutes to walk through the diagram and words posted in each circle and discuss any questions, surprises, or other thoughts that emerge.

Sample Responses (*Answers will vary*):

- *Some job-related tasks have a higher environmental impact than others.*
- *Likewise, some job-related tasks have a higher social, or economic impact.*
- *It’s difficult to know where to put things on this diagram.*
- *I don’t have all of the information I would need to know to do this activity accurately.*

## WRAP-UP

10 minutes

Ask for participant observations. Please note, there is no correct answer. Let participants guide the discussion.

### 1. What's one thing that stands out to you as a result of these activities?

Sample responses (Answers may vary):

- Sustainability is a broader concept than I've considered it being before.
- We all tend to think about sustainability as about the environment
- It's difficult to put your finger on exactly what sustainability is. It might mean different things to different people.

### 2. What's one thing that you think about differently now than you did when you came here today?

Sample responses (Answers may vary):

- I realize that I need to think about the social aspects of sustainability more.
- We can all make more sustainable choices.

### 3. What's one job-related task that you can think about or do differently as result of today's workshop?

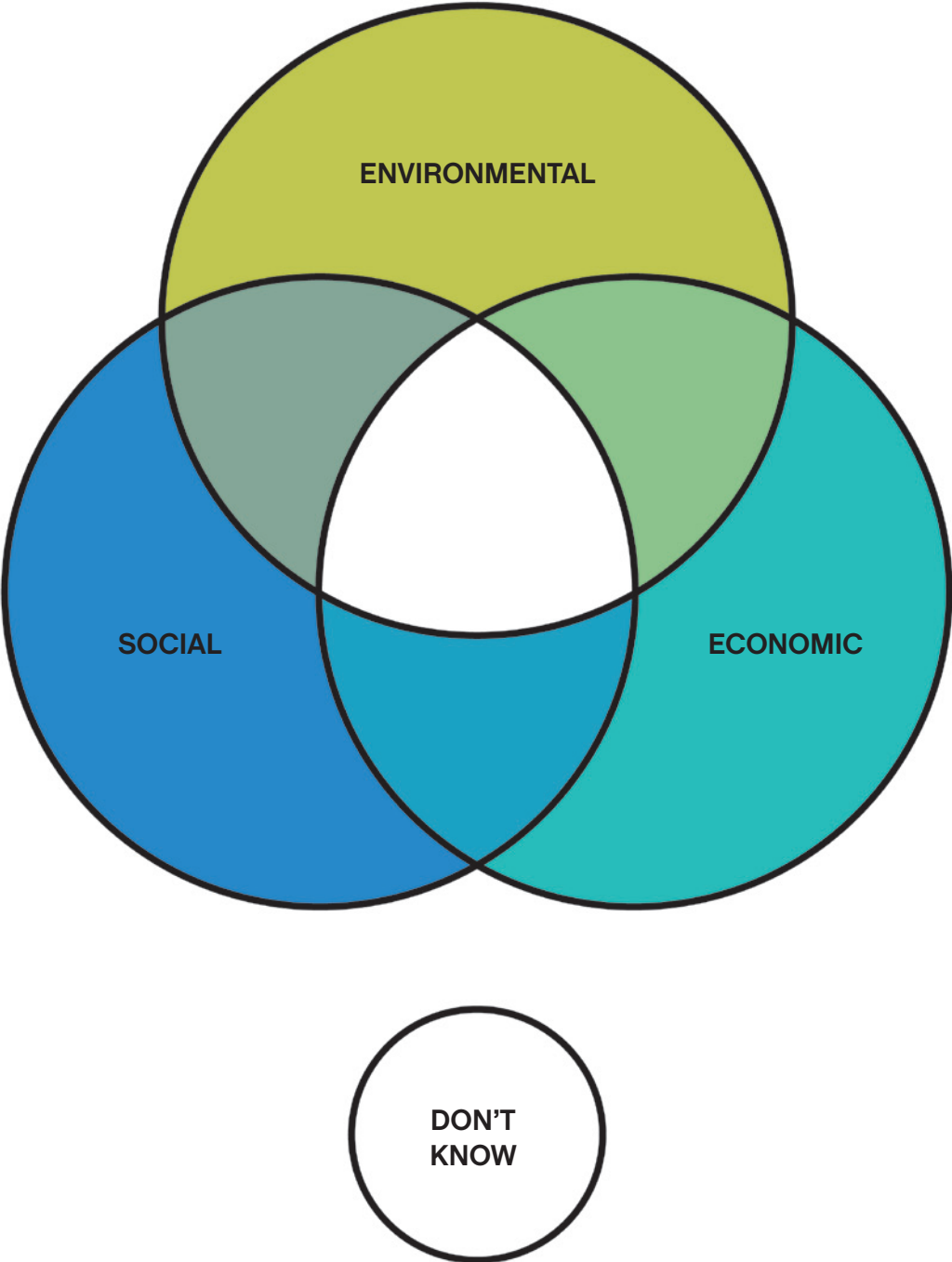
Sample responses (Answers may vary):

- With every single task- no matter how big or small, we can consider social, environmental, and economic impacts of our choices.

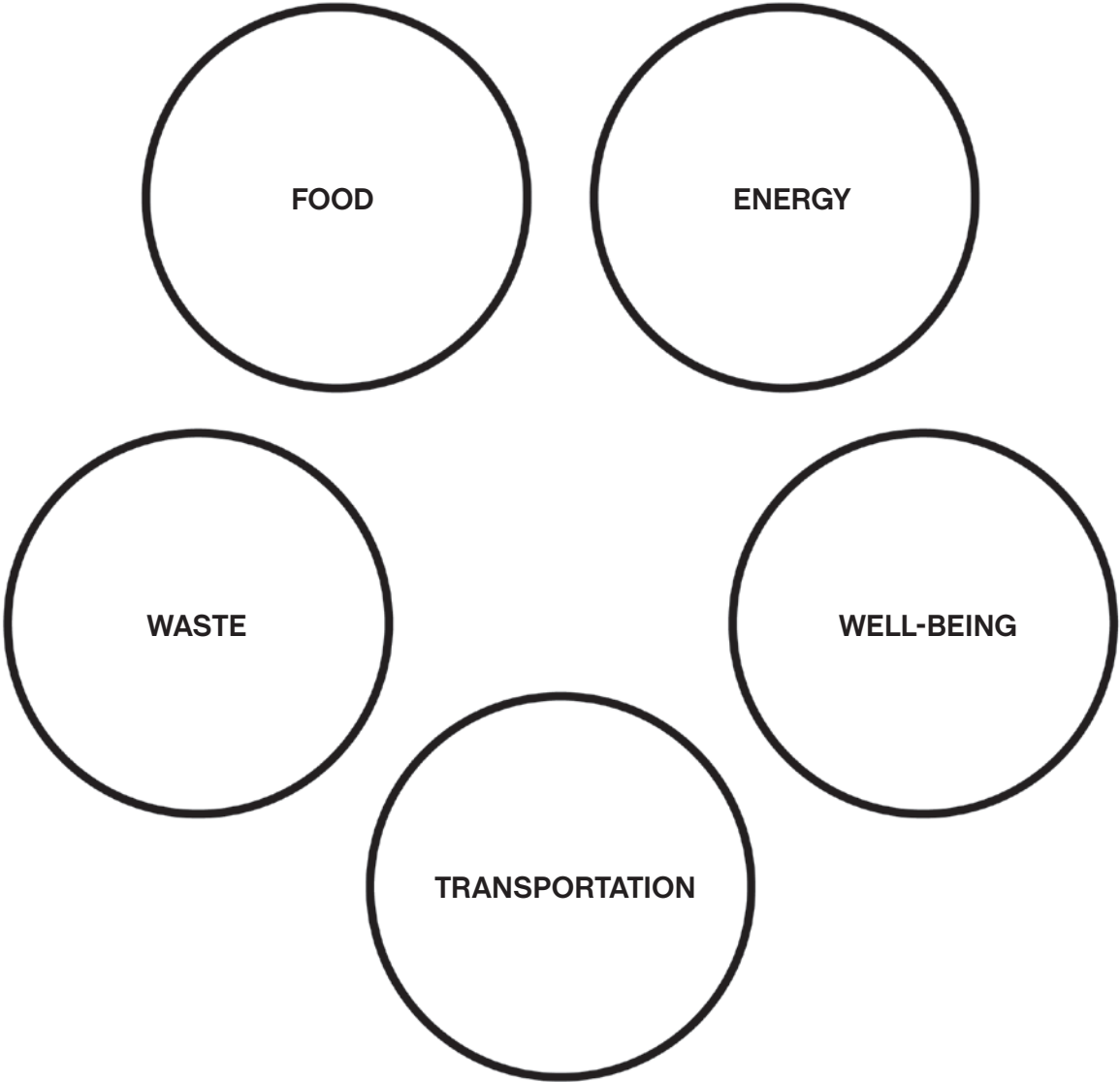
## OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

- To take this exercise a step further, consider having participants think of one thing that they want to take away from today's workshop, and write it on a post-it. Compile the entire group's post-it notes and put them on one poster to hang up in the office or a hallway at work.

POSTER: ACTIVITY PART 1



**POSTER: ACTIVITY PART 2**





POSTER: ACTIVITY PART 3

