

“the framework of rules, institutions, and practices that set limits on the behavior of individuals, organizations and companies<sup>9</sup>”

The “institutions” that sets the “rules” will be a collection of “stakeholders” (those who are recognized as having a degree of responsibility for determining the cost of a “food mile”) and local government entities. The true cost after factoring in ecological damage to the earth will include “social justice<sup>10</sup>”.

What is “social justice”? Here is a quick run-down. It involves:

- ◆ progressive taxation
- ◆ income redistribution
- ◆ property redistribution
- ◆ equality of opportunity, and
- ◆ equality of outcome

**In summary:**

*Foodshed Regulations would give these environmental groups and government agencies control over all means of production of the food consumed by the American people. This is pure Marxism (as in control of all means of production through abolition of private property.) In the name of “Social Justice” all food production, distribution and consumption would be controlled by government. Through increased taxation and regulation, American citizens would be stripped of their wealth and property and have all resources redistributed as government sees fit.*

*When this happened in Russia under Stalin, eleven million people who were seen as resisting socialism were intentionally starved to death. Food (or lack thereof) can become the ultimate weapon, the ultimate control.*

*Thus far we have only responded to the first item defining “sustainable agriculture.” It has consumed most of the space available and has*

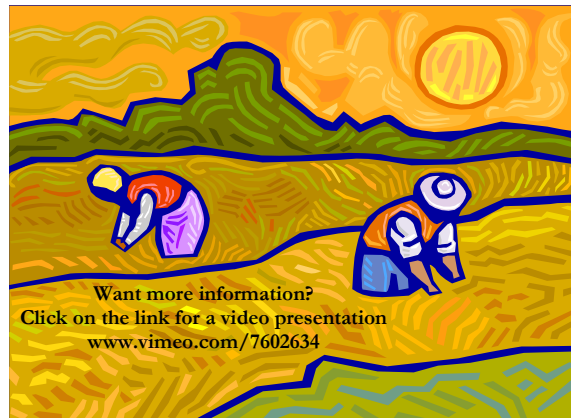
*involved a number of rabbit trails we have had to go down.*

*So that we don’t overburden our initial effort, we shall take the advice of a young nine year old nephew we know. He asked his mother a simple question about the birds and bees and she referred him to his father. Well, Dad, being a proper father, was determined to inform his son about things as completely as he could. It was sometime later that Mom asked the boy if his Dad had answered his question. The boy responded, “He sure did! I think I got a lot more than I really wanted to know”.*



FOOTNOTES

1. www.arch.wsu.edu/09 publicatons/sustain/modlsust.htm
- 1a. www.mnplan.state.mn.us/pdf/2000/eqb/ModelOrdWhole.pdf
2. www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/terms/srb9902terms.shtml
3. ibid
4. ibid
5. http://web12.clackamas.us/alfresco/download/direct/workspace/SpacesStore/fa8597da-c264-11dd-a620-5fa507d8ef06/20080624.pdf
6. http://www.conservationdistrict.org/sheds/
7. www.hawthornevalleyfarm.org/fep/foodmiles.html
8. http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/009093.html
9. United Nations “Human Development Report” - 1999
10. European Foundation Center



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**“SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE”**  
**As Tony the Tiger says, it sure sounds**

**“G-RR-EAT!! “**

You know, we have read glowing reports and articles about “sustainable agriculture.” Here are just some of the coming changes to the new agricultural system:

1. Each community will grow its own food through the use of individual and/or community owned farms that form a boundary around the community.
2. All farming will be sustainable and eco-friendly. Organic farming will be certified and monitored by a farm stakeholder committee. This will ensure that food labeled “Organic” is authentic.
3. Constant measurements will be taken to guarantee that the sustainability and eco-friendly parameters [BMPs (best management practices)] are maintained.
4. Organic farming will be productive without the use of pesticides and unnatural fertilizers.
5. Industrial farming will no longer be allowed to damage the earth.
6. Importing foreign food products will be reduced in order to increase local production and thereby help the local economy.

This sure sounds good — but is it really a win-win situation?

Well, let's take a closer look at the points being raised. After all, there is always more than one side to every issue. The first point actually raises several issues itself:

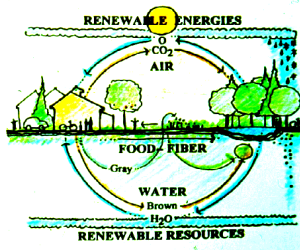
1. Each community will grow its own food through the use of individual and/or community owned farms.

We need some definitions to understand what this is saying.

"Each community" is of course a reference to a "sustainable community". Washington State University School of Architecture likely has the definitive description of "sustainable community".

"...a sustainable community is one which provides all of its own needs for air, water, land (or food and fiber), and energy resources within the confines of its own site.<sup>1</sup>"

Obviously, creating and maintaining a "sustainable community" has implications that stretch beyond a system of "sustainable agriculture".



Here we have a copy of the University's graphic—it is quite intuitive. The circle around the community is generally referred to as an "Urban Growth Boundary" (UGB) or a "Utility Service Area". Here is an easy to understand definition from the State of Minnesota:

"A UGB is an established line beyond which urban services such as public sewer and water and transportation improvements will not occur.<sup>1a</sup>"

Sounds wonderful until you stop and think

about what this will do to property values outside of the UGB. Who would buy property where modern conveniences such as power, road maintenance, etc. will not be permitted? That's right—nobody!

The free market system has been replaced by an official policy that promotes a system of sustainable communities/agriculture. The new system will create a shortage of desirable real estate. As anyone knows, a shortage, created naturally or by government edict, will destroy the average income earner's ability to own a parcel of land.

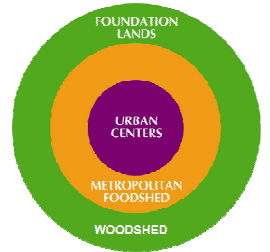
"Community owned farms" is another point referenced here. The USDA provides an interesting definition. In bureaucratic speak—government doubletalk—a "community owned farm" is CSA—"Community Supported Agriculture".

"In basic terms, CSA consists of a community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation so that the farmland becomes, either legally or spiritually, the community's farm, with the growers and consumers providing mutual support and sharing the risks and benefits of food production.<sup>2</sup>"

What this means exactly will obviously have to be determined by the bureaucrat who wrote it. But I venture to say that "spiritual ownership" of a private farm is a concept that yearns to be a plot on Twilight Zone.

Another point that must be considered is the concept that farms will form a boundary around the community. This is often referenced as the "foodshed<sup>3</sup>" or "food-circle<sup>4</sup>". The concept is confirmed in the graphic from the Washington State University program. Oh—I forgot to mention the name of their process—it is "A Comprehensive Urban Regenerative Process". Remember EVERYTHING that is consumed in the community is produced in the community. So the concept of a

"foodshed" or "foodcircle" fits right in. Local governments across the country are adopting this concept. The bullseye from Clackamas County Oregon<sup>5</sup> is a fair indicator of its general acceptance. Here the urban center is surrounded by the Metropolitan Foodshed. Food produced in the "foodshed" is intended to be consumed in the "urban center". The outer ring is the Foundation Lands Woodshed and is where "Value-Added Forestry<sup>6</sup>" products will be produced. See the point? A "value added tax" system is being introduced. For instance, the price for agricultural products



grown or produced outside of the "foodshed" does not include the full cost of the "food mile". What are those costs? Well, I don't know all of the cost associated with the concept of a "food mile" but see the "food mile" poster above. Footnote 7 provides a link to the information relating to it.

These are some, but not all external costs: transportation, soil degradation, irrigation-related groundwater depletion, and pesticide and fertilizer misuse.<sup>8</sup>

Ultimately these costs will be calculated by a "governance" system. If you recall, governance is not government, it is: