

Eco-efficiency in the context of sustainable development

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Sustainable development

A social change process during which we learn how to live together in peace and mutual respect without causing irreversible damage to our planet by our patterns of production and consumption

SD challenges

- Learn to deal with complexity and uncertainty
- Search for new paradigms
- Balance between substantial and instrumental rationality

Different levels of scale

- Global: economy, major problems like energy, water and climate change
- National: policy, economy, innovation
- Local: daily life of individuals, balance ratio and emotion, cultural context

Different perspectives

- Public: responsibility for the commons
- Private: market driven contribution to the creation of welfare
- Civil society: continuously developing values, norms and good practices

Different mechanisms

- State: sovereign on own territory, legislation, financial incentives
- (Multinational) companies: geographically spread activities, reputation, continuity
- NGOs: geographically spread network, no formal power but influence via civil society

Search for good practices

- Global, national, local debate and dialogue
- From 'we' and 'them' to 'us'
- Eco-efficiency without irreversible damage
- Diversity as a source of inspiration