



## Does Sustainability Equal Fascism?

Did that title catch your eye, grab you by the scruff of the neck, and slam you up against the wall? No? Maybe it's just me. You see I've been an advocate and practitioner of sustainable living my entire life. I caught the bug from my parents who got it from their parents (all of whom which, I should mention, proudly considered themselves right-wing conservatives). So you can imagine my reaction when someone on the Sustainable Living blog on The Union's web site named "HereToStay" wrote "When you push the idea of sustainability make sure you understand the origins of its meaning." HereToStay continued on, linking sustainability to a socialist (and fascist) agenda being pushed by the United Nations and the Obama administration "that is rooted deep in the New World Order."

Judging from HereToStay's comments I think I can rest assured he/she won't be calling my company anytime soon looking for a more sustainable way to use energy! But he got me to wondering how most other folks out there define sustainability.

According to Wikipedia "Since the 1980s, human sustainability has implied the integration of economic, social and environmental spheres to: 'meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'" The footnote showed the source to be the United Nations General Assembly (1987) *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*. I found this a little bit disturbing, only because HereToStay (and others I've spoken to who share his beliefs) believe that anything having to do with the U.N. has to do with New World Orders, socialism, fascism, etc. And that bothers me because, knowing what I know, we (the people of this planet) can't afford to have people avoiding sustainable use of energy for fear that they will be labeled commie-pinko fascists!

On my public service web site – [www.TheEnergyGuy.com](http://www.TheEnergyGuy.com) – the byline under the title reads "Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." For the record, that's *my* definition (I'm an energy professional, not a sociologist, but I do value the social and environmental benefits sustainability offers).

My conservative grandparents, true to their conservative ethics, taught me not to waste anything needlessly. They suffered through the Great Depression and believed that wasting resources was not only irresponsible, it was un-American. Thanks to my Grandmother, to this day I still hold a carton of milk vertical for an extra 10 seconds to be sure that every last drop won't go to waste. My (now thirty year old) daughter Camille can attest to me going ballistic when she was a child whenever she tried to pour the remaining milk in her cereal bowl into the sink when she finished the cereal. Since then I've learned (from sound science sources) that wasting food is even worse for the environment than wasting energy (yep, my grand-kids are in for a real treat now, eh?)

So here I am, working hard my entire life to help others stop wasting energy and money - while also improving the environment - and all of a sudden I'm wondering if I should be concerned the

HereToStay's of the world think I'm a covert operative for the New World Order. If it makes you feel any better – and I hope it does - I didn't steam over this for very long before coming to the conclusion that there will always be some fringe group, hell bent on trying to convince the rest of us that there's a commie behind every tree. Besides, I know in my heart that supporting New World Orders, etc, isn't what I'm all about. And lastly, in my 30 years of working in energy efficiency and solar, promoting it world wide, I haven't once been contacted by an enemy agent asking for my help in “population reduction coupled with the deconstruction of societies to a 3rd world country type existence, with the elitists ruling the masses” (the goal of sustainability according to HereToStay).

NOTE: if you are an enemy agent reading this, don't bother calling me for help – I hereby publicly denounce your plans for turning this great nation into a third world country!

OK, now that we've got the enemy agents turned away I can get back to the subject at hand. As regular readers of this column know, I'm all about helping people save energy in ways that reduce their monthly expenditures from the first year forward with energy efficiency and solar. The goal is not only a higher level of economic security for our customers, but a healthier environment inside and outside for us, our children, and a higher level of national security due to less dependence on foreign sources. So, if you're still with me, what do you think? Does Sustainability equal Fascism?



*Ray Darby is President of Sustainable Energy Group Inc., a Grass Valley company offering energy efficiency and solar services for residential and commercial buildings, from comparing the alternatives through installation and servicing of energy systems of all types. You can reach him at 530-273-4422, via email [RayDarby@SustainableEnergyGroup.com](mailto:RayDarby@SustainableEnergyGroup.com), or visit their web site at [www.SustainableEnergyGroup.com](http://www.SustainableEnergyGroup.com).*