



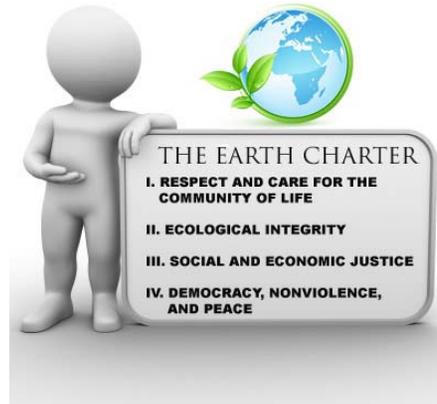
THE EARTH CHARTER

www.earthchartercommunity.org

This remarkable Declaration of Interdependence was drafted as part of a grassroots process that took more than 10 years and involved thousands of people in 78 countries, gathering in meeting halls, schools and the open air to identify common values and work together for a better world. It was launched at The Hague Peace Palace in 2000.

Since the Earth Charter Initiative launched hundreds of cities/towns, thousands of organizations and tens of thousands of people have endorsed and utilized the Earth Charter as a foundational guide for our transition to a sustainable future including:

- U.S. Mayors Conference
- International Academy of Science
- World Federation of Engineering Organizations
- Social Ventures Network
- Alliance for Sustainable Communities
- Global Ethics Foundation
- Rainforest Action Network
- Chicago Media Watch
- Indigenous Peoples' Survival Foundation
- The Heritage Institute
- The Humane Society of the United States
- The National Wildlife Federation
- Parliament of the World's Religions
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
- Colleges & Universities across the U.S.
- Calvert Funds Ltd.



We invite you to Endorse the Earth Charter today and join the Earth Charter Community Network at:
www.earthchartercommunity.org

As a member you can Share your Earth Charter or other related activities, projects, and programs through:

- Blog posts
- Videos
- Upload Pictures
- Have Forum discussions
- Start or join a group around projects and initiatives
- Post an Event
- Visit the Earth Charter Store
- Invite your friends to join the Community and Endorse the Earth Charter!
- Check out the new Member Projects page and add your own banner
- Download and print the new beautiful Earth Charter Endorsement Certificate

Contact for more information:



Values & Principles for a Sustainable Future

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future . . .

As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

~ Preamble of the Earth Charter



Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.

"The Way Forward"

From the Earth Charter

The Earth Charter is the product of a worldwide, decade long, cross cultural dialogue on common goals and shared values. It was drafted by a civil society initiative and launched in 2000.

The mission of the Earth Charter is to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace.

The Earth Charter reflects the consensus taking form in the emerging global civil society on universal values for sustainable development and can validly claim to represent a core set of shared ethical principles with a broad and multicultural base of global supporters.

Sustainable development and sustainable ways of living require changes in both the hearts and minds of individuals, along with the reorientation of public policies and practices.



The 4 Pillars and 16 Principles of the Earth Charter are:

I. Respect and Care for the Community of Life

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.
3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.
4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

II. Ecological Integrity

5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.
6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.
7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.
8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.



III. Social and Economic Justice

9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.
10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.
11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.
12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual wellbeing, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

IV. Democracy, Non-Violence and Peace

13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making and access to justice.
14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.
15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.
16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.