

Sustainability Council of Ventura County

Profile

The Sustainability Council of Ventura County is a non-profit, regional organization, promoting public education about new ways of living with the planet. We look for opportunities to educate the public and decision-makers about the importance of seeking sustainable solutions to problems. We establish partnerships with businesses, organizations, governments and individuals to conduct projects and programs that promote sustainable outcomes. We particularly seek projects that galvanize people into action that brings about long term change in the social, economic and environmental sectors and thus lead to more sustainable human and natural systems. We see the Council as a catalyst for change.

The Sustainability Council is based in the Southern California coastal County of Ventura. Ventura County has a population of some 800,000 and abuts metropolitan Los Angeles with some 10 million residents. Between the County and its ten cities, and citizen sponsored initiatives, a number of unique measures have been enacted to avoid becoming an extension of Los Angeles. These measures seek to maintain the rural/farming character of the unincorporated areas while allowing each of the cities to evolve into mature urban centers. Therefore much of our work to date has focused on the problems of land use and the education about “livable “ communities as an alternative to sprawl.

The Council was formed in 1995 following the first of several nationally-televised town hall meetings on sustainability emanating from Washington D. C. and sponsored locally by the U.S. Navy at Point Mugu. A core group of attendees organized themselves to produce subsequent annual conferences. They soon realized that a more formal organization was needed to continue their efforts year round. This led to the group's incorporation in 1997 as a 501c3 non-profit organization. It is operated by the Board of Directors with assistance from an Advisory Board and the general membership.

The Board of Directors, typically numbering 12 to 15, strives create a diverse membership comprised of people from various disciplines, backgrounds and vocations, who are of various ages, races, economic standings, and who reside in different geographic areas of the county. The organization is managed and administered solely by the Board. An Advisory Board, appointed by the Board of Directors, provides advice and assistance in meeting the organization's mission and specific projects. General membership in the organization is open to any one who supports the mission of the organization. Dues are collected from all members.

As a 21st Century organization we intend to remain responsive to change and technological opportunities. We therefore strongly urge our members to participate via e-mail and our website (<www.sustainabilitycouncil.org>) as a matter of convenience and to promote rapid responses to challenges and opportunities. Doing so will also conserve valuable resources including the volunteered time of the Board of Directors and others engaged in work on behalf of the organization.