SLS' Approach to
Creating Sustainable Communities

1. As an Integrated System – with an emphasis on projects and initiatives that address two or more spheres

Environment

Economic/ Environmental

Environmental/ Societal
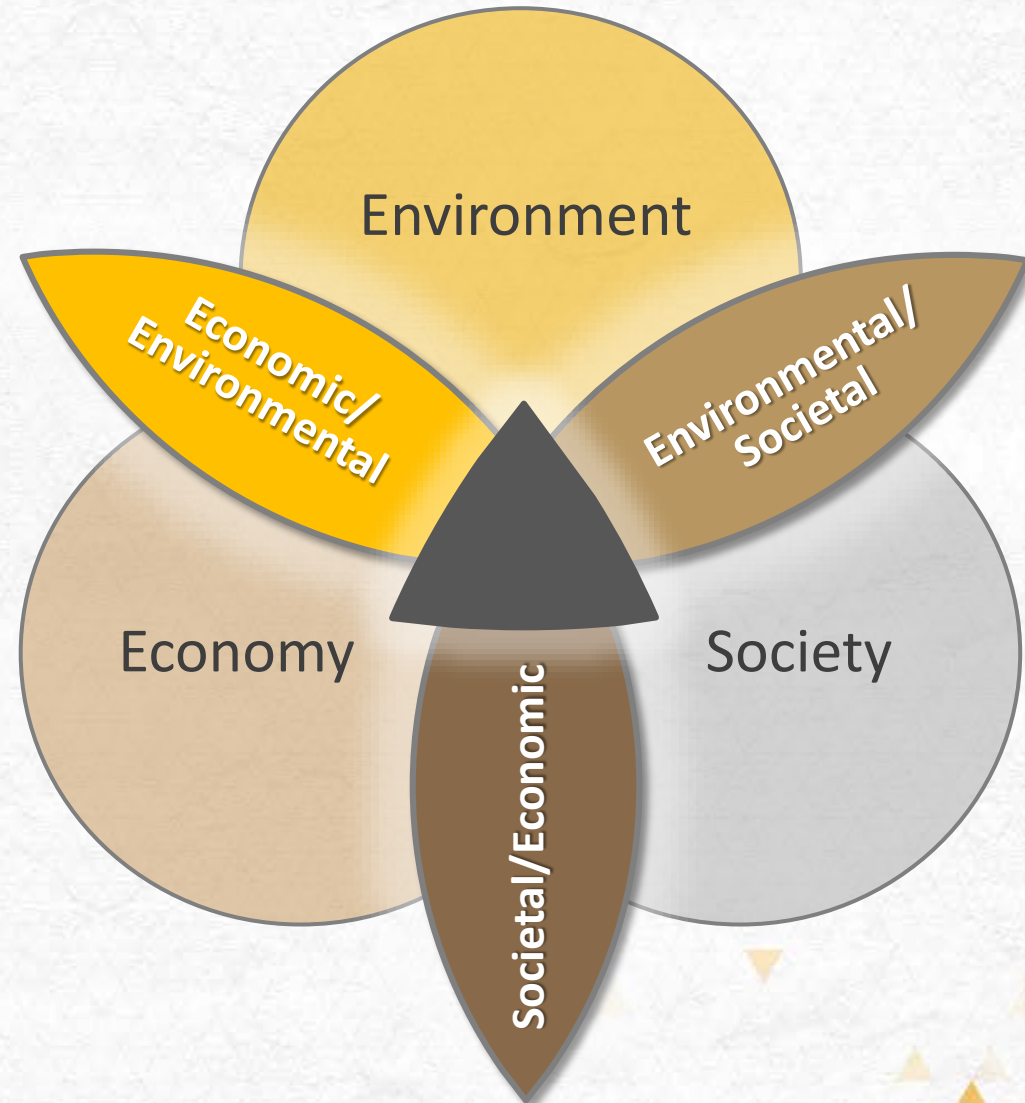
Economy

Society

Societal/Economic

2. With a special focus on Society, incl. Equity and Voice

"The overriding aim of global economic development must surely be to enable humanity to thrive in the safe and just space, ending human deprivation while keeping within safe boundaries of natural resource use locally, regionally, and globally."

- Kate Raworth, Oxfam Doughnut

Website: http://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/
Video: https://www.oxfam.org/en/video/2012/introducing-doughnut-safe-and-just-space-humanity

VOICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Focusing on VOICE means supporting shared leadership and community-driven change

Increasing level of community involvement, impact, trust and communication

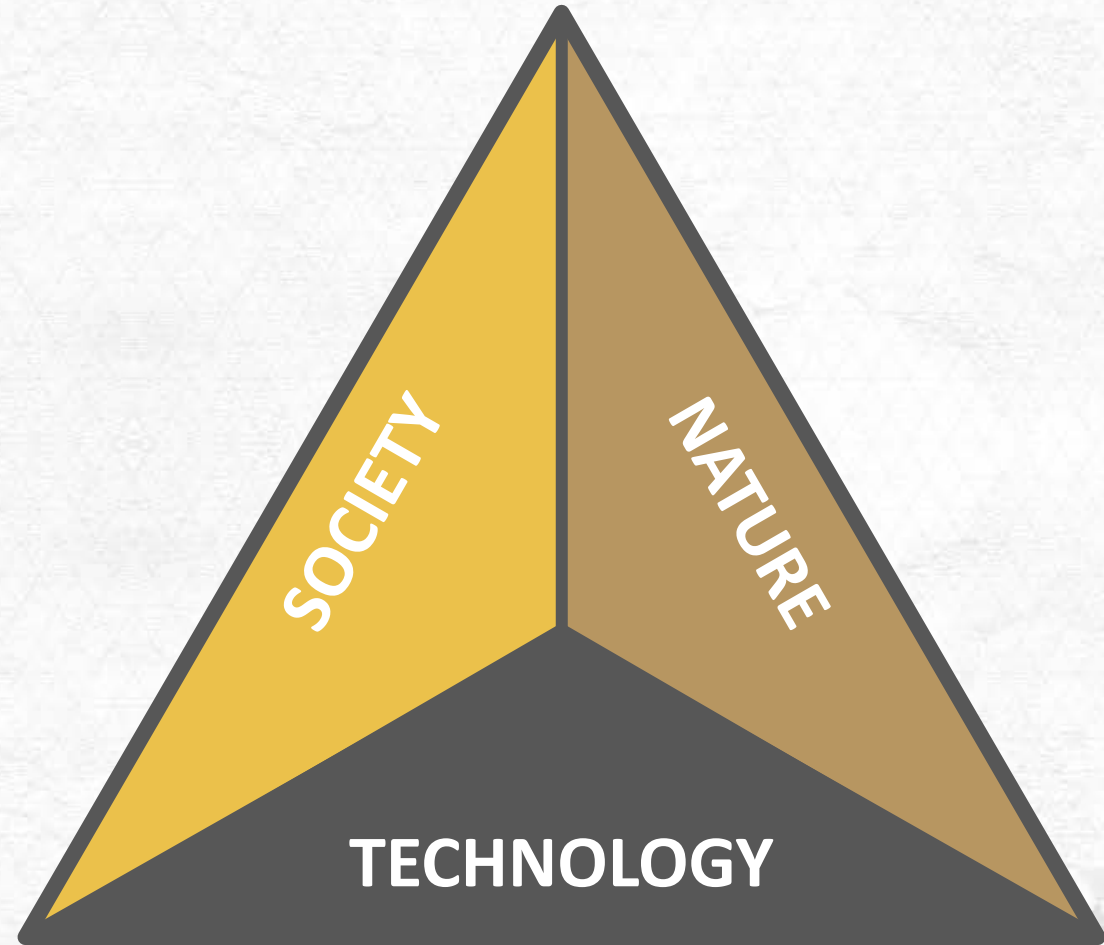| Outreach	Consult	Involve	Shared Leadership / Participatory	Community-Driven
Some community involvement	More community involvement	Community involvement	Strong bidirectional relationship	Strong community leadership

From Schematic of Community Engagement Continuum (EPA, 2015; NCER CEnR Primer; note that this is one piece of a larger diagram)

Read more about our Partnership Principles in our BIG IDEAS:
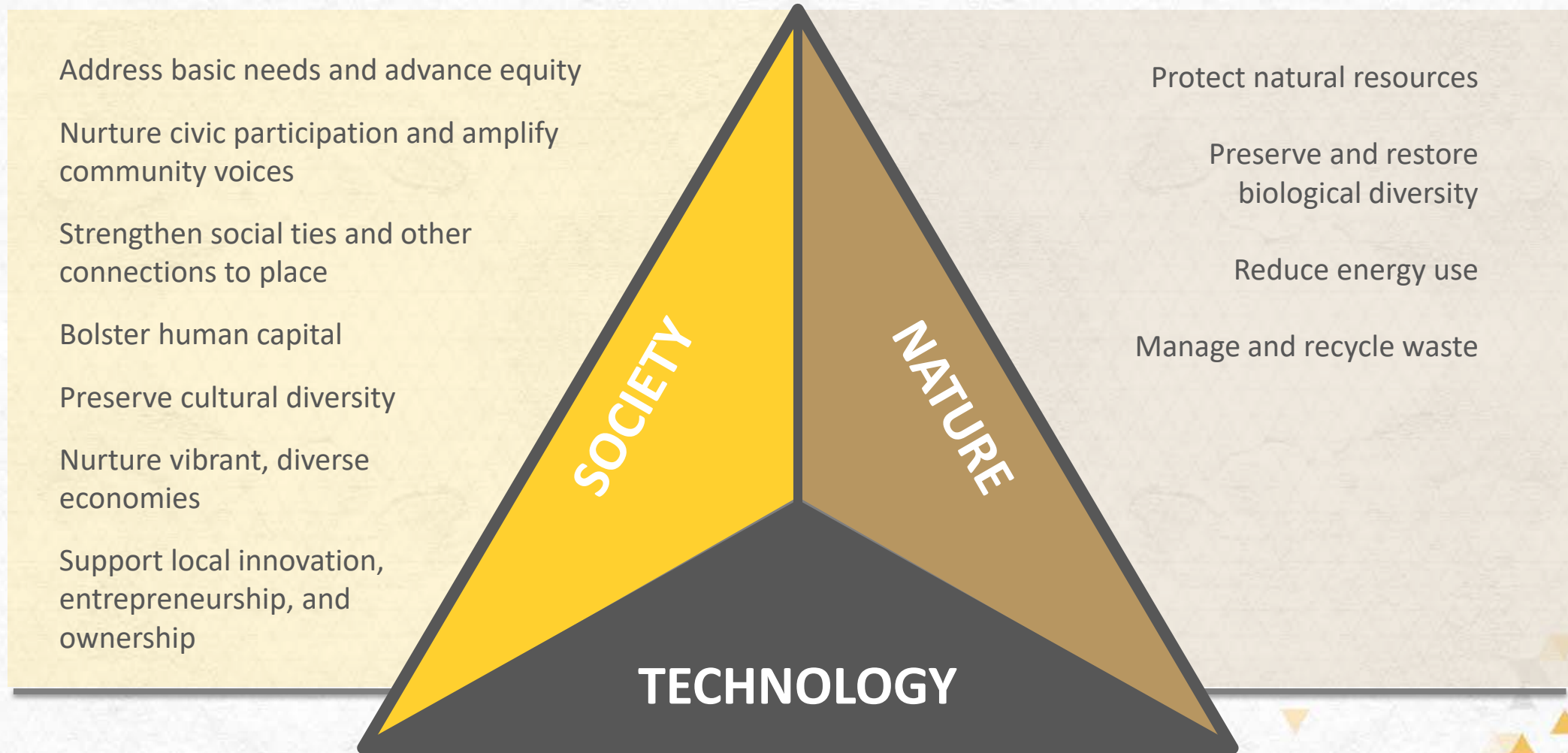http://serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu/big-ideas

3. And an emphasis on developing and using Technology to support community visions that benefit Society and Nature

SOCIETY

NATURE

TECHNOLOGY

HOW CAN TECHNOLOGY ASSIST COMMUNITIES IN SUPPORTING SOCIETY AND NATURE?

Address basic needs and advance equity

Nurture civic participation and amplify community voices

Strengthen social ties and other connections to place

Bolster human capital

Preserve cultural diversity

Nurture vibrant, diverse economies

Support local innovation, entrepreneurship, and ownership

Protect natural resources

Preserve and restore biological diversity

Reduce energy use

Manage and recycle waste

SOCIETY

NATURE

TECHNOLOGY

*Adapted in part from Jeffrey C. Bridger and A.E. Luloff, "Toward an interactional approach to sustainable community development,"
Journal of Rural Studies 15 (1999): 377-387*

"**Just sustainabilities** is …'the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now and into the future, in a **just and equitable** manner, whilst living within the limits of supporting ecosystems'"
                                                                                    - *Julian Agyeman, Tufts University*
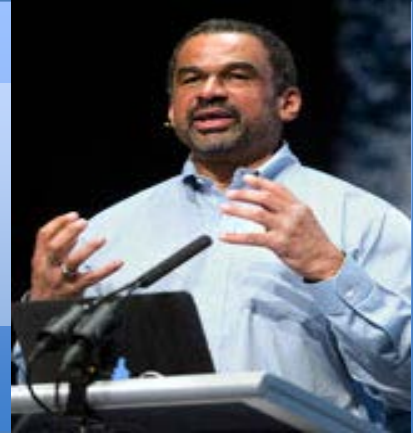
- SLS does not have one definition of a "sustainable community"

- Rather, we bring diverse stakeholders together to continually create new visions of sustainable communities, and of the ways in which **science and technology can help humans and nature flourish, now and in the future, in Georgia, the U.S., and around the globe**

- With our strong emphasis on Social Sustainability, including equity and voice, we align well with the definition of "Just Sustainabilities" above from Julian Agyeman, Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University, who is a leading scholar on the intersections between justice and sustainability and a co-founder of the concept of "just sustainabilities"

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES "BIG IDEAS" AT GEORGIA TECH – THIS IS HOW WE PREPARE STUDENTS TO DO THIS WORK

Lifecycle Analysis & Thinking

How would you describe this big idea?

Lifecycle Analysis (LCA) is a specific analytical approach to evaluating the impact of human artifacts. It is a engages lifecycle thinking by guiding decision makers to consider each stage of that artifact's lifecycle, from material extraction through production, use, and disposal, and consider the impacts of those stages. Social LCA (S-LCA) is a particular emerging form of LCA that focuses on the social impacts. Impacts include workers rights and safety, community building, living conditions, fair competition. These impacts may be negative or positive, and our understanding and definitions of types of impacts is still improving. Many researchers are still working on methodological approaches to S-LCA.

How is this big idea applied to your work?

Much of my work is in environmental LCA, and S-LCA shares its origins in this approach. In fact, the reasons we care about environmental LCA are for its impacts on worker safety and local health and fair use and stewardship of resources. The interconnections between the design of artifacts, environmental systems, and social systems are highly complex, and in order to make smarter decisions and be able to predict un-intended consequences, we need to model these social and environmental aspects of artifacts.

Learn more:

Social Hot Spot Database

Guidelines for Social Life Cycle Assessment of Products

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Read more by Cassandra Telenko

- Good Health & Well-being
- Water & Green Infrastructure
- Climate Change & Energy
- Sustainability Education & Youth Leadership
- Innovation for Sustainable Communities
- Global Sustainability & Cultural Diversity
- GT Sustainable Campus
- Civic Data & Design

OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO:
ACT LOCAL TO ACHIEVE A GLOBAL VISION – UN SDGS

Learn more about our **UN University Greater Atlanta Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE)**: serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu/atlanta-un-rce

= Priority SDG for the Greater ATL region