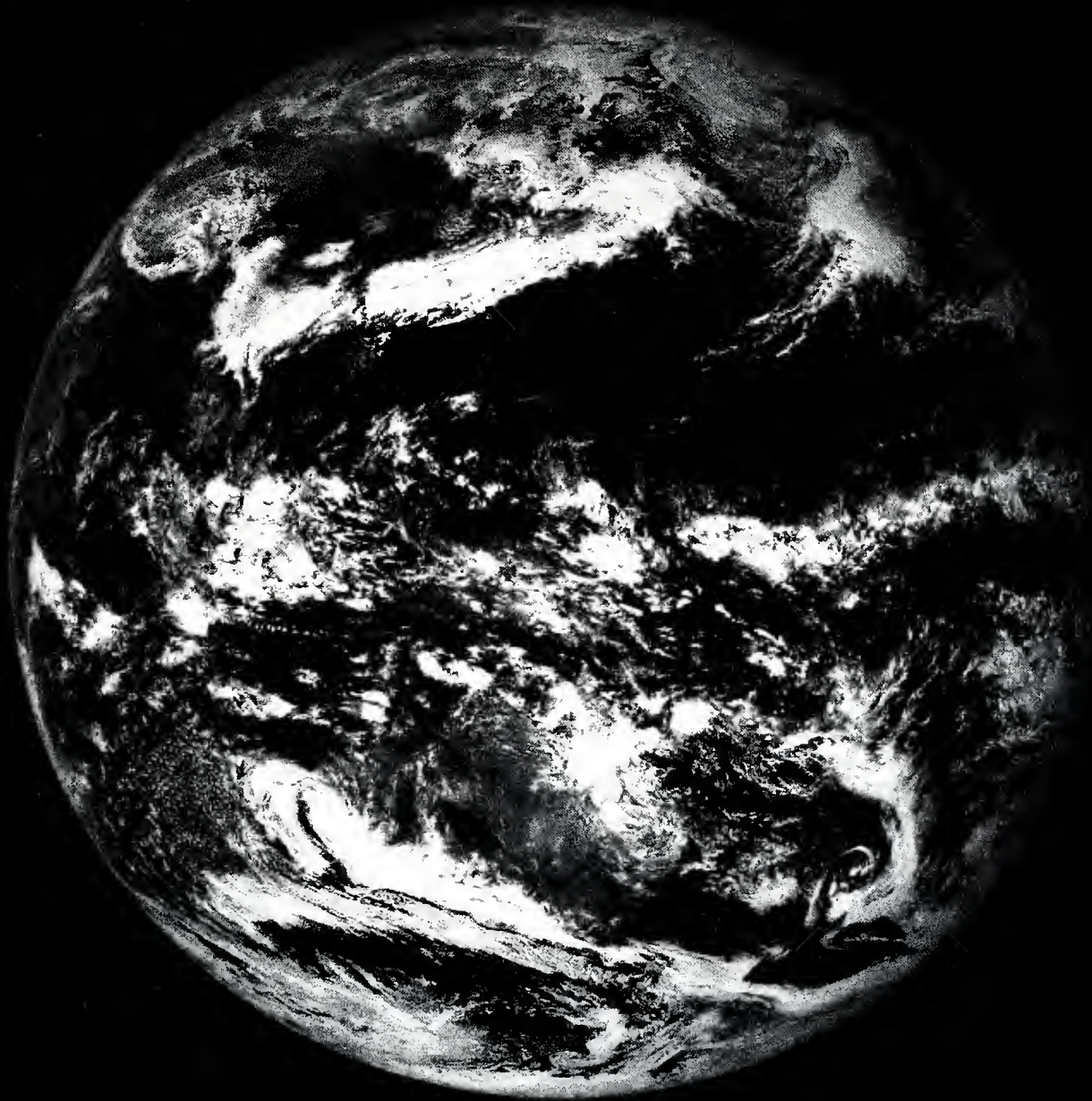


Carolina Planning

Volume 20
Number 1



Sustainable Development

Editors' Note

Sustainable development--these are two words that planners are hearing more frequently as people talk about the future of how we should plan and how we should live. And yet, many find it difficult to define sustainable development and even harder to identify how it can be incorporated into their everyday lives or planning practices. The articles in this issue of *Carolina Planning* seek to offer insights into how the concept of sustainable development can be transformed into practice and how it is being adopted by communities and government agencies to realize sustainable goals.

Our first article, by David J. Brower, serves to introduce the concept of sustainable development and provide some background about how it has risen to the forefront of international discussion. The following articles then describe specific programs and initiatives that have been adopted or are under consideration around the country to assist in the effort of planning for sustainable communities.

Given the importance of agriculture to North Carolina's economy and history, it is fitting to begin with Nancy Agnew's article describing the federal government's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program and how SARE is encouraging revisions to existing agricultural practices. In an article of particular interest to urban land use planners, J. Gary Lawrence, Director of Planning for the City of Seattle, details how that city incorporated sustainability goals into their recent comprehensive planning process. In the area of economic and community development is a *Carolina Planning* interview with Nina Morais, Joseph McDomick, and Sarah Bobrow, representatives from the Penn School for Preservation on St. Helena's Island, off the coast of South Carolina. Their efforts are focused on reviving sustainable economic practices on the Sea Islands to ensure the continued survival of the unique heritage of the long-time residents of the islands.

Ylang Nguyen discusses some of the initiatives being undertaken at the state level to incorporate sustainability of all types, including environmental and economic sustainability, into legislation and public policy. The issue of housing is addressed next by Allan Rosen, with an examination of cohousing as a possible component of sustainable communities. In the final article, Karen Walz focuses on how planners can reach out to the public, community leaders, and other local officials to achieve consensus about what form sustainability should take within their communities.

This issue also contains a photograph of the first-prize painting by Jason Cashman from the second annual Weiss Competition on Urban Livability. Finally, we include abstracts from some recent Masters Projects by students in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill to make planners aware of some of the resources available from the department. We hope that this issue provides some "food for thought" as well as useful information about how to practice sustainable development in your community.

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