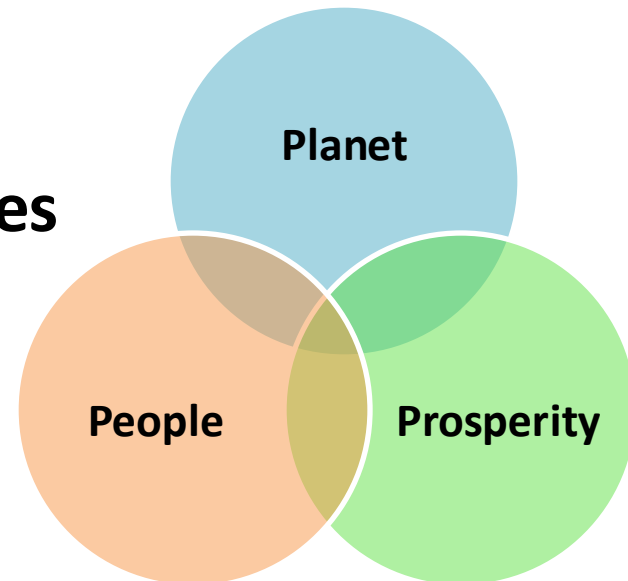


# **Update on Academic Sustainability Programs**

**Dr. Nanette Chadwick**

**Director of Academic Sustainability Programs  
Office of the Provost  
and  
Associate Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences**



# What is Sustainability?

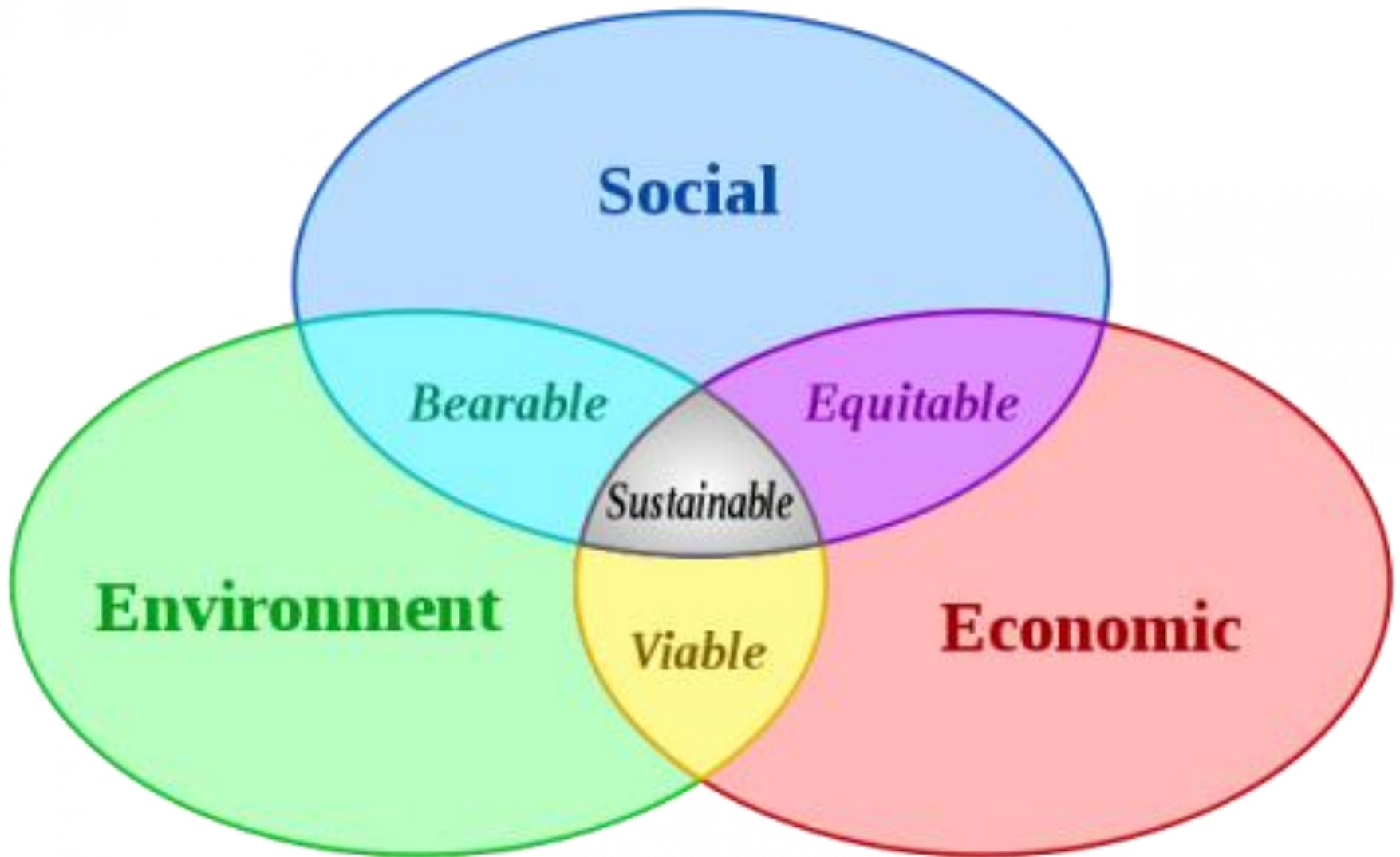
**“Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”**

United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (1987)

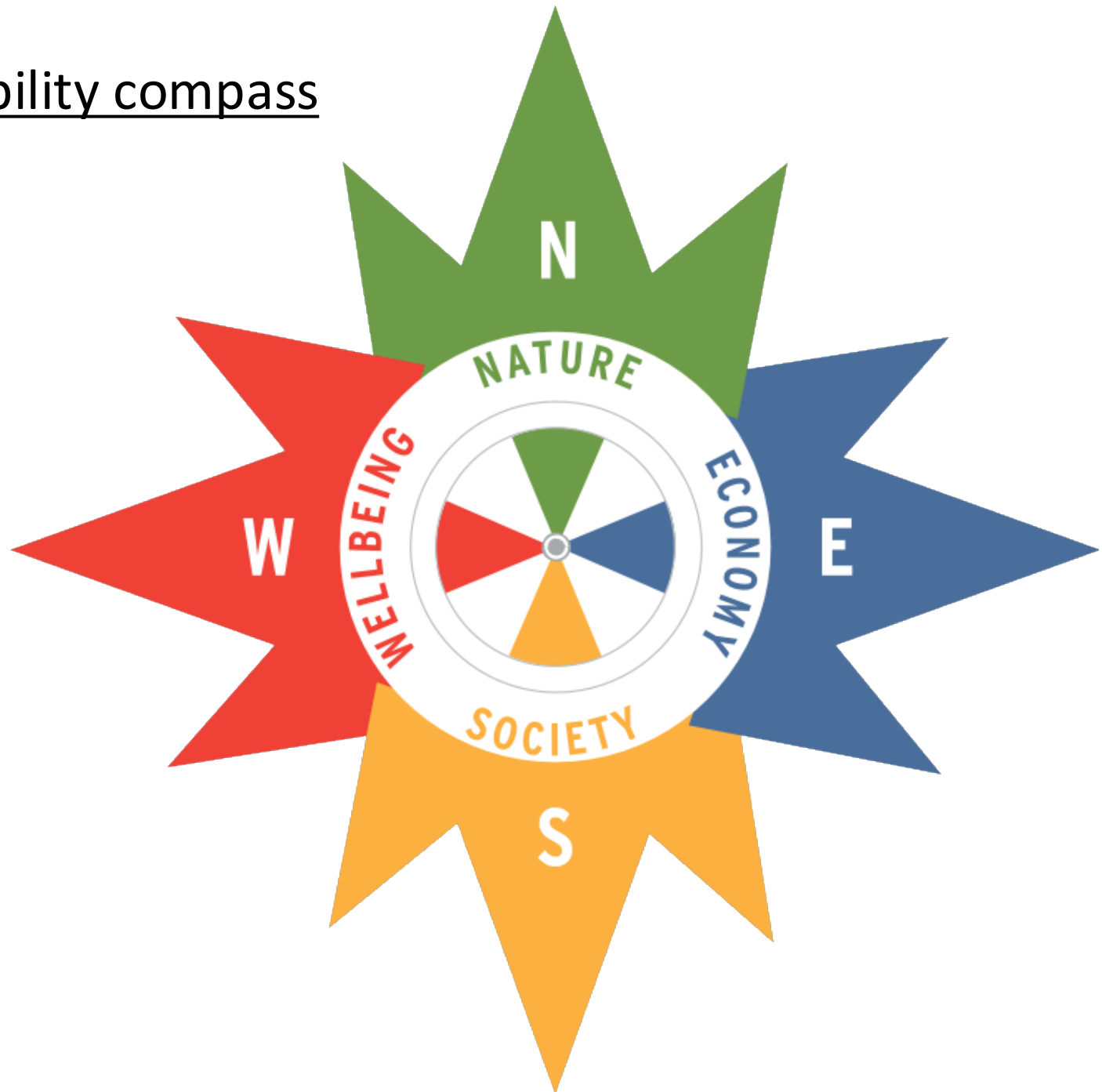
**Meeting human needs now and in the future in a fair, equitable, and socially just manner, and in a way that protects and maintains healthy ecosystems in perpetuity.**

AU Office of Sustainability (2012)

# Sustainability as 3 interacting systems



# The sustainability compass



# ***Why sustainability?***

## Preparing students for The Great Transition:

- population peak of 9 billion before 2100
- end of ever-expanding, fossil fuel-based economy
- changing global climate and rising sea levels
- consequences of the Sixth Extinction

## **Auburn University's 2013-2018 Strategic Plan:**

“Over the next five years, we will...enhance the commitment to sustainability in our educational programs, research operations, engagement and innovation.”



## Office of Sustainability:

Campus facilities and operations

Pilot projects (solar energy, water use)

Waste Reduction and Recycling Dept.

Climate Action Plan

Spirit of Sustainability awards

Student internships, Newsletter

<http://wp.auburn.edu/sustainability/>

 **AUBURN**  
UNIVERSITY

**SPIRIT OF  
SUSTAINABILITY  
AWARDS**

**2013**



# Sustainability-Related Student Organizations

<https://auburn.collegiatelink.net/organizations>

## Sustainability Coalition

<http://www.auburn.edu/administration/facilities/organization/building-s/recycling/Sustainability-Coalition/>



**USGBC**  
STUDENTS  
AUBURN UNIVERSITY





# Academic Sustainability Programs

Office of the Provost (teaching & research) [/](#)

## Faculty development

- Faculty mixers; opportunities to interact across colleges
- Online research Inventory (STARS), >70 faculty members listed
- Research in 8 colleges, cross-college collaborations
- AU Research Week: Sustainability keywords and sessions
- Faculty research colloquium series planned



***"Greenest College in Alabama"***



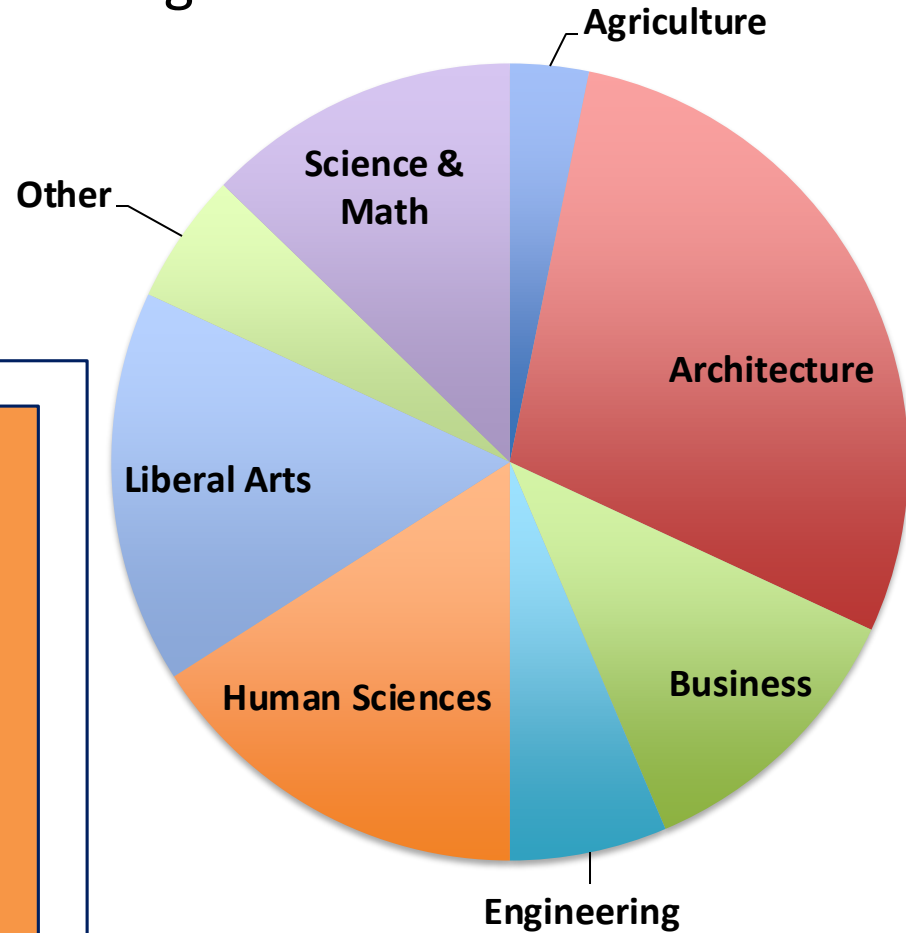
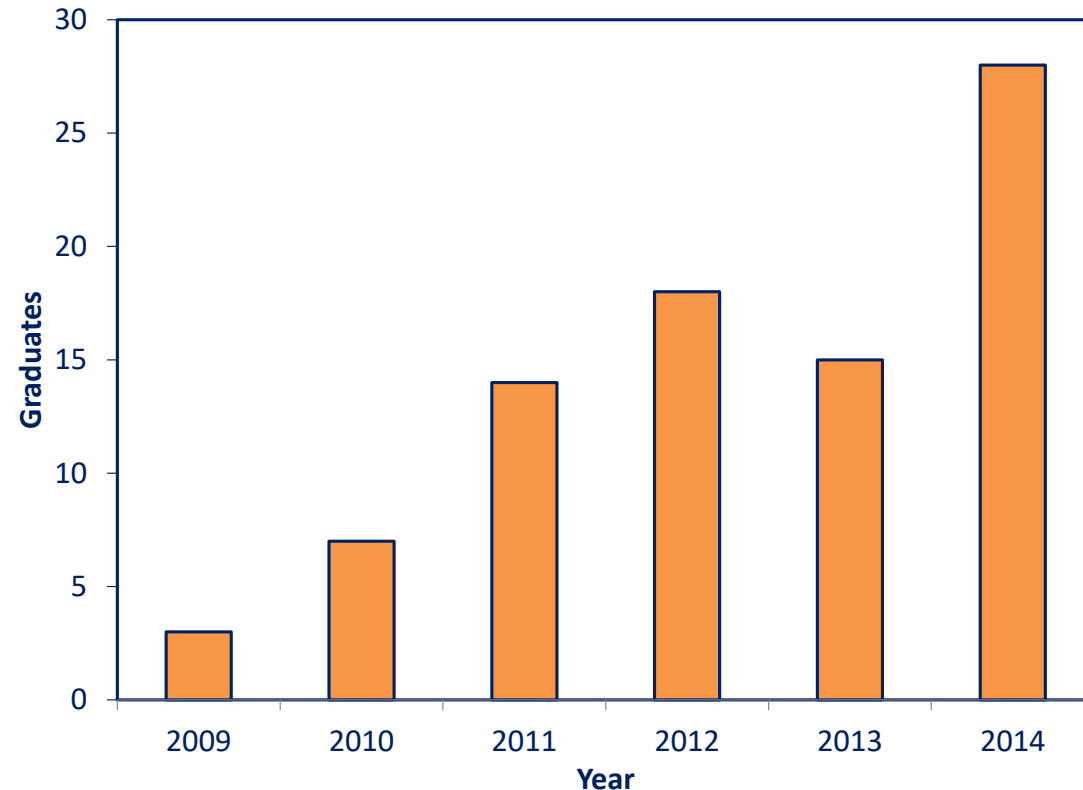
# Minor in Sustainability Studies (one of few in USA)

Established 2008, rapid growth

Diverse students: from 45 majors in 8 colleges

100+ graduated so far + ~60 current

90 in intro courses this year



# Faculty opportunities in the Minor in Sustainability Studies

## – Required courses

- Introduction to Sustainability *[faculty paid extra to co-teach]*
- Senior Capstone *[ditto]*

***Rails with Trails project outreach:*** <http://www.railwithtrail.com>

## – Electives in 3 areas (9 hours)

- Society and Markets; Environment; Social Justice
- 42 elective courses in 24 departments (changes each year)

– Examples: *[faculty can apply for elective status]*

- » Food, Agriculture and Society
- » Sustainable Design and LEED Accreditation
- » Political Ecology
- » Renewable Energy Resources
- » Sociology of Natural Resources and the Environment

# Faculty Development

## **Workshop and Awards Program**

- \$500 for new/revised course syllabus
- Annual 2-day workshop at Forest Ecology Preserve
- ~ 80 faculty trained, ~20 each year (from > 30 departments)
- 40 courses revised to incorporate sustainability

*Most rewarding aspect:* Interaction with faculty from across campus

[http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/undergrad\\_studies/academic\\_sustainability/general\\_info.html](http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/undergrad_studies/academic_sustainability/general_info.html)



# Using Campus as a Living Laboratory

Course tours available:

- (1) Water
- (2) Food
- (3) Energy
- (4) Consumption and  
Waste
- (5) Walkability





# *Academic Sustainability*



[http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/undergrad\\_studies/academic\\_sustainability/index.html](http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/undergrad_studies/academic_sustainability/index.html)