
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies

Presents



Cynthia Stahl

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Region III

Sustainability: How will we know if we're there?

Sustainability has become a buzzword, making it difficult to be sure whether we are all talking about the same thing. We hear about sustainable products, sustainable living, sustainable farming, sustainable jobs, and yet we also have polluted air, water, land, and endangered species. In this seminar, come hear about the four questions that define sustainability in an actionable way. These are: 1) what do you want to sustain?, 2) for whom do you want to sustain it?, 3) how long do you want to sustain it?, and 4) at what cost are you willing to sustain it? Who gets to answer these questions and how can an environmental policy-making agency like the U.S. EPA facilitate these discussions? What will we use to measure success? Will we recognize it if we see it? We will discuss what makes sustainability so difficult to pinpoint using the language of wicked problems and clumsy solutions. The Multi-Criteria Integrated Resource Assessment (MIRA) approach developed at the U.S. EPA will be introduced as a clumsy approach that could facilitate getting to these answers.

Date: November 2, 2011

Time: NOON - 1:30 pm

Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building

34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 St)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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NO FOOD OR DRINK PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM
