



# *Sustainable Leadership*

As we face the ever-present reality that our levels of consumption are not sustainable on a long-term basis on the planet, that our actions are already impacting global climate patterns, it is not a great leap to take in stating that our ways of *working*, too, are not sustainable. I speak of more than burnout and retirement on the job, or stress-related illness. The mechanistic, Newtonian, hierarchical approaches to problem solving, innovation and communication simply are not enough to deal with the complexities we face in our lives today.

Sustainable Leadership introduces a new approach to leading in our complex times, a model that like the living systems it models itself after, “continually re-creates itself.” Because human beings themselves are living systems, our health and wholeness are vitally linked to the fate of our planet. *What would a living systems approach to leadership look like?* The answer to that question cannot be spelled out, because it is evolving and will evolve further as it is explored in depth. There are some cornerstones that can be suggested as a starting point, however.

It is a **HOLISTIC** leadership

- It is modeled after nature and living systems, for it recognizes that it, too, is a living system
  - It works with the entire body/mind system and explores multiple ways of knowing
  - It works from a post-Newtonian model and learns from the new science
- It is leadership in a state of constant evolution, that is **GENERATIVE** by nature
- It has learned to ally itself with emergent forces and take cocreative action from that place of broader and deeper connection
  - It is always learning and incorporates daily events into the evolution of its leadership practice
  - It consider the whole, even unto 7 generations
  - It recognizes its role as a change agent, cooperating with and flowing with change rather than “selling it” or holding the status quo

It is a leadership of **COMMUNITY** and interdependency

- It has learned to think and work in terms of interdependencies, rather than hierarchies
- Its paradigm of leading involves leading as community rather than as individual alone
- It has highly developed capacities for deep communication that cross differences in gender, age, education, ethnicity
- It is skilled in finding shared purpose and win-win solutions

It is a leadership that pursues development in both **INNER & OUTER** realms

- It has practiced the “be’s” of leadership with the same dedication as the “do’s” of leadership
- It constantly challenges inner paradigms before implementing new external solutions
- It is creating the field of leadership, through ongoing work on four levels: physical, psychological, mythic and spiritual
- It balances health of the organism/system with production

It is a **WHOLE LIFE** leadership, rather than just work-focused leadership, and recognizes and respects the full life of the leader

- It practices constant renewal
- It recognizes natural cycles of energy and works within those cycles
- It is able to suspend traditional ways of seeing, and use the past to inform the present, not to dictate it

*“Attending Tricia Webster’s workshop was a remarkably transformative experience for me. As a group leader Tricia acts as a skilled guide to the inner sanctum of the soul. Tricia has the ability to create and hold a sacred space in which participants are called to access their own unlimited spiritual capacities. I experienced a deep connection with the omnipresent potent power of Spirit. If you are interested in making significant personal and social changes, I highly recommend Tricia’s programs.” Terry Burke*

If this way of thinking is consistent with your own or that of your organization, we invite you to consider bringing a Sustainable Leadership program to your community or place of work. For details, contact [tricia@triciawebster.com](mailto:tricia@triciawebster.com) or call 541-535-1015.