

B B C BITESIZE

We are looking at sustainability, which is about meeting our social, economic and environmental needs today, without compromising the needs of the future.

Sustainability has three pillars.

Social sustainability involves giving people inclusive access to factors including affordable housing, healthcare, education and fair employment.

Economic sustainability creates short and long term profits and employment, whilst also reducing environmental threats and poverty.

Environmental sustainability balances ecology and the needs of the planet while delivering on social and economic needs. All three factors need to be considered and satisfied in order to be truly sustainable.

Businesses have a choice when deciding how to operate. Let's take the fashion industry as an example. Fast fashion is when clothing brands rapidly produce large quantities of clothes, frequently following celebrity or catwalk trends. Materials are often synthetic or include microplastics. As well as being cheap and less durable, so more clothes are quickly thrown away leading to increased waste.

Employment conditions can be poor, having a negative social impact on workers.

How can we ensure that as consumers we are making sustainable choices when buying clothes? We can buy less, upcycle, buy pre-loved or choose ethical brands. This builds a sustainable economy whilst also helping to protect the environment through reducing waste and energy use.

We all have a role to play in sustainability so that we can meet our needs today without compromising the future. What could you do to make that important difference?