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## **ARCH 3551 SUSTAINABILITY HISTORY AND PRACTICE**

### **Final Paper Parts 1 & 2.**

Part 1.

#### **Social Equity**

**Definition:** Social Equity is the active commitment to fairness, justice, and equality in the formulation of public policy, distribution of public services, implementation of public policy, and management of all institutions serving the public directly or by contract. It is a just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.

**Example:** An artist given an opportunity to succeed in his field of work in a society.

#### **Environmental Justice**

**Definition:** Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

**Example:** A starving artist who is trying to make a living is treated with the same respect as a CEO of a million-dollar company.

#### **Green Economy**

**Definition:** A green economy is an economy that aims at reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and that aims for sustainable development without degrading the

environment. It is closely related with ecological economics but has a more politically applied focus.

**Example:** Investing money into a green home, such as using solar panels.

Part 2.

### **1. Sea-Level Rise**

When sea levels rise globally as rapidly as they have been, even a small increase can have devastating effects on coastal habitats farther inland. This can cause destructive erosion, wetland flooding, aquifer, and agricultural soil contamination with salt, and lost habitat for fish, birds, and plants. Coastal areas will be greatly impacted, as people will attempt to find ways to adapt and move out of the areas.

### **2. Economic Inequality**

Wealth distribution is unequal, as there are the powerful 1% holding more money than 70% of the population combined. This is significantly emphasized in Russia, where oligarchs hold more money than a population of average citizens combined. Income inequality is prominent in many countries, as some positions are paid much more than others.

### **3. Poverty**

Poverty is ubiquitous among many countries, especially in Africa where basic needs are not met. People struggle globally as they are unemployed, do not have money for raising their children properly, or cannot even have a decent meal. This creates more problems as a chain reaction, as sicknesses can be more prevalent.

#### **4. Pollution**

Pollution is a global issue since the Industrial Age. Countries with a lot of manufacturing, such as USA or China, pollute the air with fossil fuels and harmful chemicals. This exacerbates the climate, causing more carbon dioxide into the air.

#### **5. Climate Change**

Climate change is a global issue facing all of us, impacting weather, natural disasters, sea-level rise, economy, and temperature. This will be damaging for countries since we will deal with crops being affected, marine life worsened, adapting to extreme heats, and spending money on survival.

#### **6. Homelessness**

This is an issue especially in America, where people do not have homes to sleep in or basic needs such as food. There is no proper solution to this, and it is only increasing.

#### **7. Mental Health**

This issue is something we ignore or do not take seriously, since psychiatry is a recent form of a medical field. Mentally ill people struggle with illnesses such as OCD, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, causing destructive means to themselves and others; such as school shootings.

#### **8. Misinformation**

This is an issue ever since social media came out. People are reading false information about media and news through fake sources they find on social media. This creates a herd of misinformed individuals.

## **9. Social Media**

Social media is an outlet displaying lives of other people right in our fingertips. This unconsciously creates a comparison principle in our minds, keeping us insecure, not good enough, and always tending to show the world how special we are compared to others.

This causes anxiety and distress especially among young people.

## **10. Drugs**

Many people around the world struggle with drugs such as heroine, cocaine, meth, and more. This creates many suicides, overdoses, family destructions, ill health, and deaths globally.