

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

What is Sustainability as it relates to historical preservation and Why Pursue It?

*"Historic preservation can and should be an important component of any effort to promote sustainable development. The conservation and improvement of our existing built resources, including re-use of historic and older buildings, greening the existing building stock, and reinvestment in older and historic communities, is crucial to combating climate change."
- the position of the National Trust for Historical Preservation*

The Pocantico Proclamation on Sustainability and Historic Preservation:

In early November, 30 preservationists, architects, green builders and energy experts, (*Including Mr. Milford Wayne Donaldson the State Historical Preservation officer of the State of California & Mr. John Fowler the Executive Director of the White House's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation*), gathered at Pocantico for a retreat hosted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Friends of the National Center for Preservation Training and Technology. The group met to discuss the future of historic preservation in light of global warming, and specifically the implications of climate change for preservation policy. After two days of intense discussions, the group developed the core of the Pocantico Proclamation on Sustainability and Historic Preservation, which outlines principles to sustain our built environment.

>> [for a complete list of the participating agencies and representatives please click here](#) <<

Based on these principles developed the Pocantico Proclamation on Sustainability and Historic Preservation advocates the following:

✎ **Foster a Culture of Reuse**

Maximizing the life cycle of all resources through conservation is a fundamental condition of sustainability. The most sustainable building, community or landscape is often the one that already exists. Lessons learned from historic

preservation are transferable to the entire existing built and landscaped environment.

✎ **Reinvest at a Community Scale**

It is not sufficient to address sustainability on a piecemeal basis through individual building projects. We must consider the larger context of the built environment: our communities. Reinvestment in existing, more sustainable neighborhoods especially our older and historic ones saves resources and promotes socially, culturally, and economically rich communities.

✎ **Value Heritage**

The design of older buildings, landscapes, and communities should inform future building practices. While new green building technology offers promise for reducing the environmental harms caused by new construction, traditional building practices offer a wealth of sustainable design solutions that are premised on sensitivity to local conditions, careful siting and planning, and long-term durability, all of which provide essential models for the future.

✎ **Capitalize on the Potential of the Green Economy**

Preservation economics provide a powerful model for shifting away from a consumption-based and energy-inefficient economy. Reinvestment in our existing built environment must become an indispensable part of America's new green economy. Per dollar spent rehabilitation activities create more new jobs than new construction.

✎ **Realign Historic Preservation Policies with Sustainability**

Today's challenges require that historic preservation move beyond maintaining or recovering a frozen view of the past. Historic preservation must contribute to the transformation of communities and the establishment of a sustainable, equitable, and verdant world by re-evaluating historic preservation practices and policies, and making changes where appropriate.

The Pocantico Proclamation on Sustainability and Historic Preservation illustrate that historic preservation offers a model for sustainability and encourages interdisciplinary collaboration and partnership between government and the private sector, and diligent work on behalf of preservationists, to highlight historic preservation as the leading, relevant and timely exemplar for a sustainable twenty-first century!

How this applies to San Clemente:

The currently being developed, with direction of the city council, Sustainability Action Plan MUST address the unquestionable instinctive and direct connection between sustainability and Historical Preservation and encourage and support preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and adaptive re-use of historic resources whenever possible, and discourage demolition, so as not to lose existing material resources, culture, historic examples and investments from past generations,

to reduce solid landfill waste, and to help obviate the need for new construction materials and the energy required to produce them!



Raad Ghantous

Celebrate the Miramar Committee & Publicity Committee Chair

www.sanclementehistoricalsociety.org