Today's Objectives

- Review forest sustainability and the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators as relevant to Baltimore County
- Introduce participants to sustainability goals and indicators (system, program and action level)
- Identify and prioritize key issues related to forest sustainability in Baltimore County
- Select key indicators to measure forest sustainability in Baltimore County

Agenda

8:30 – 9:00	Coffee, donuts, registration and warm-up exercise
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome, Introduction and Forum Overview
9:30 – 10:45	Small group exercise to identify key issues in Baltimore County
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Issues prioritization and report back
12:00 – 12:45	Lunch
12:45 – 1:15	Introduction to sustainability goals and indicators
1:15 – 2:15	Small group exercise to define goals and select indicators for the County
2:15 – 3:30	Report back of the indicators
3:30 – 4:00	Discussion of next steps
4:00	Wrap-up and adjourn

Montreal Process
Background

- Evolved from meeting in Montreal, (hence the name, *Montreal* Process)
- Working group of twelve nations – Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, the United States, and Uruguay.
- Account for
  - 90% of the world's temperate and boreal forests and
  - 60% of all forests on the globe

Montreal Process
Santiago Declaration (1995)

- Forests are essential to the long-term well being of local populations, national economies, and the earth's biosphere as a whole.
- Criteria and indicators needed for:
  - Common understanding of sustainable forest management
  - Framework for evaluating progress
  - Informing decision-makers and public
- Criteria and indicators must reflect
  - Changes over time
  - Different contexts in different places
  - Qualitative as well as quantitative

Montreal Process
Criteria & Indicators

- Developed for assessment of sustainable management of forests at the national level
  - Includes 7 criteria (categories) and 67 indicators
  - Addresses ecological, economic, social and institutional factors
- Ultimately success depends on sustainable local management of natural resources

Montreal Process
Criteria (Condition or Process to Assess)

1. Conservation of biological diversity
2. Maintenance of productive capacity of forest ecosystems
3. Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality
4. Conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources
5. Maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycle
6. Maintenance and enhancement of long-term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of societies
7. Legal, institutional and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable management.

Sustainability is:

"… development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

World Commission on the Environment and Development

Gogebic County Definition

"Sustainable Forestry is [forest management] that contributes to the [economic health] of Gogebic County while maintaining the [ecological and social/cultural values] for the benefit of present and future generations in Gogebic County."

Key Concepts of Sustainability

- Understand the linkages between economic, social and environmental goals *(see connections, strive for a balance*)
- Long-term limits to natural, social, and built systems *(look ahead 20-50 years, live off the interest of community capital, don't degrade or use it up)*
- Inter- and intra- generational equity *(share with future generations and current inhabitants, local sustainability not at global expense)*

Goals, Criteria and Indicators

- Goal – a description of future condition community members wish to achieve
- Criterion – a means of judging; a test by which something can be judged
- Indicator – a numeric measure that provides key information about a system's condition

What Makes A “Good” Goal?

- Looks to the future
- Potentially measurable
- Potentially achievable, but not easily or automatically
- Reflects a broad understanding and agreement of what is important to and valued by the community
- Represents desired *outcomes* or community *conditions*

Characteristics of Indicators

- **Unit of measurement**

(e.g., numbers, acres, dollars, percent)

- **Type of measure** (absolute or adjusted)

(total energy use or energy use per capita)

- **Period of measurement**

(e.g., ten years, one year, six months, quarter, month)

- **Boundaries/scale**

(e.g., neighborhood, town, county, state, region, national, global)

Aligning to sustainability

Goals and indicators are like a compass:

If they aren't aligned with sustainability, there is no telling where you will end up

What Makes A Sustainability Goal or Indicator?

- A good sustainability goal or indicator reflects the key sustainability concepts:
  - Linkages b/n social, environmental and economic goals
  - Long-term limits to natural, social and built capital
  - Inter- and intra- generational equity
- Is measurable, relevant, understandable, and useful to the community/organization decision-making process
- Generally focuses on system level rather than program or action level

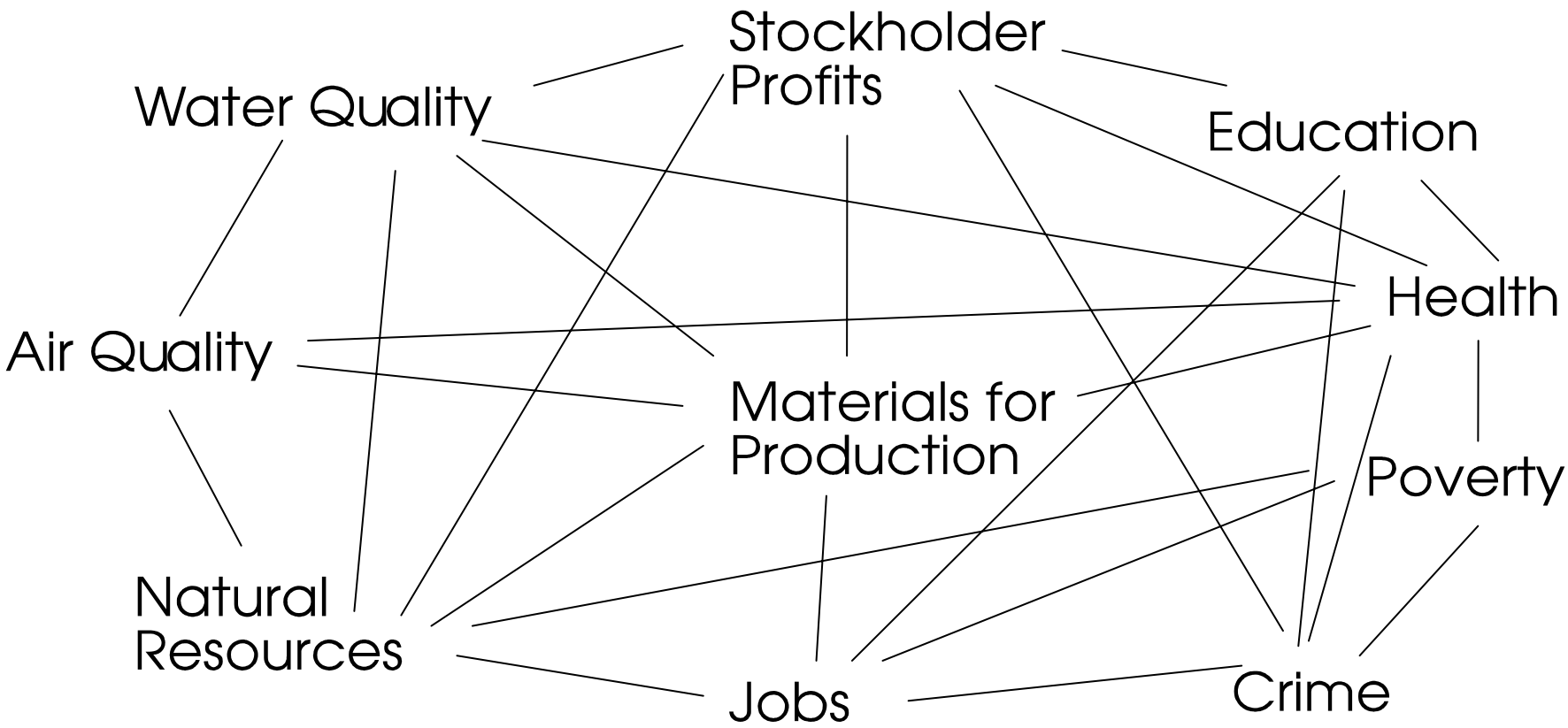
Goals and Indicators: Which Comes First?

- Goals:
  - provide a framework for developing indicators
  - provide an impetus and context for tracking, reporting, and discussing the indicators
- Indicators:
  - help identify goals
  - help track progress towards the goals
- Either can be first, BUT, to be effective – goals and indicators have to be aligned

Traditional Measures

Environment	Economy	Society
Water Quality	Stockholder Profits	Education
Air Quality	Materials for Production	Health
Natural Resources	Jobs	Poverty
		Crime

Interconnected Measures

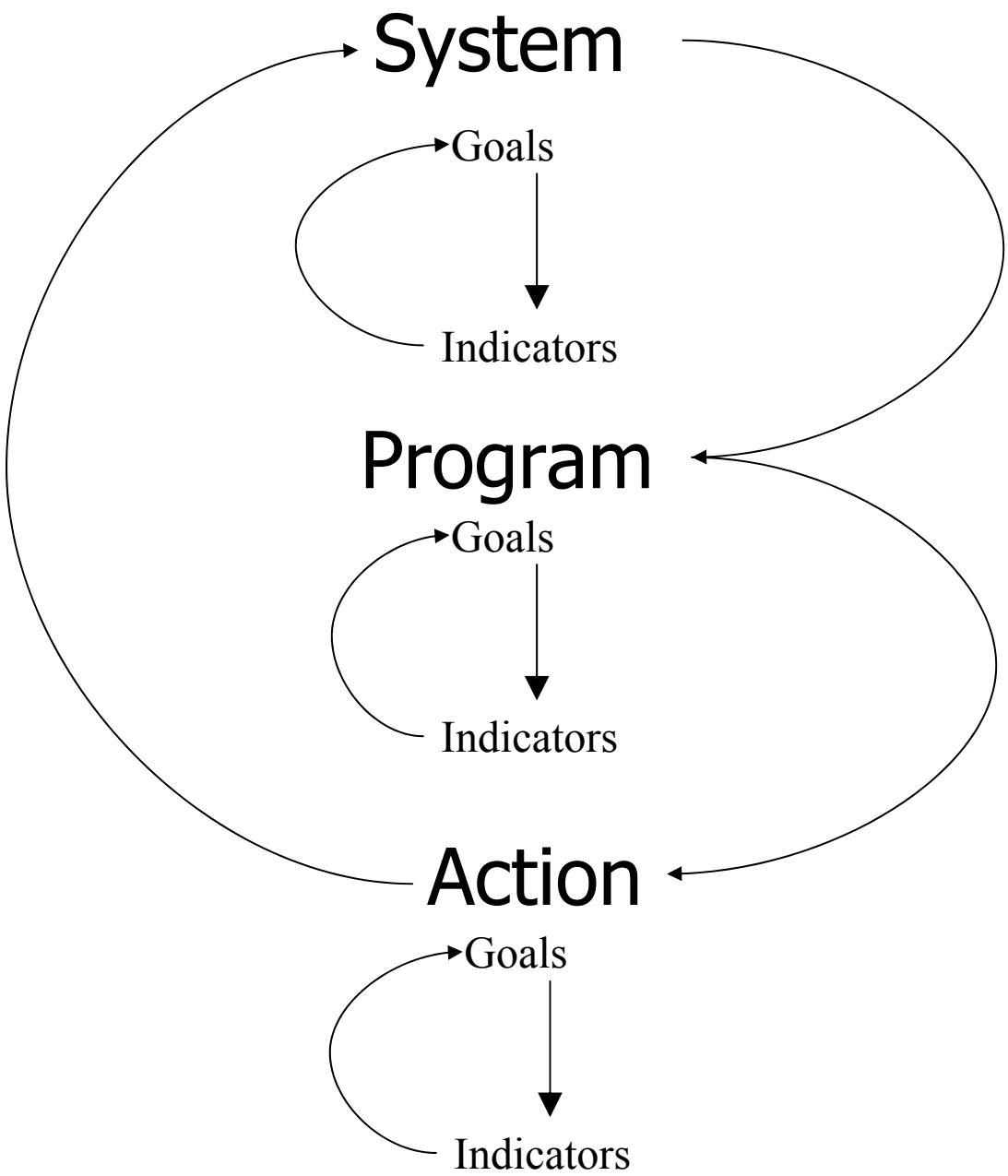


Traditional vs. Sustainability Indicators

- Total annual water withdrawal (in gallons)
- Pollution emissions from facilities
- Annual timber production (in tons).

- Level of water in streams compared to historic levels
- % of asthma-related hospital admissions
- Annual removal of wood products compared to the volume determined to be sustainable.

Sustainable Measures


System
Goals
Indicators
Program
Goals
Indicators
Action
Goals
Indicators

Different Levels

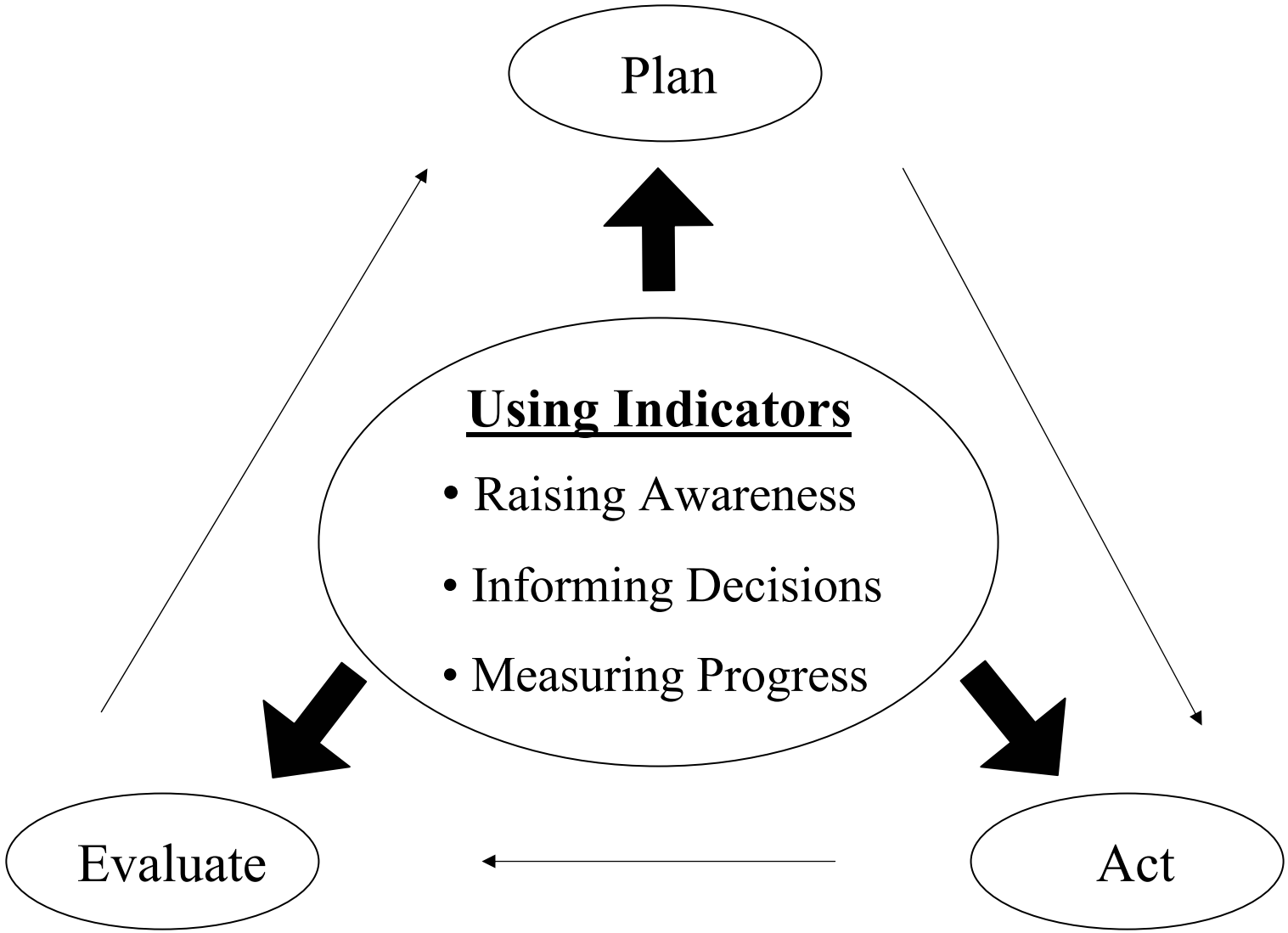
- **System** – long-term – desired conditions at the community level *(Community)*
- **Program** – medium term – changes that occur through the development and/or implementation of programs or sets of activities *(Local Committees/ Department Heads/ Local Organizations)*
- **Action** – short-term – desired effect of specific action or actions of individuals *(Committee members/ Organization Staff / Community Members)*

Different Levels - Water Example

System Level: Level of water in stream compared to historic levels

Program Level: Annual water use by residents and industry

Action Level: Gallons of water used to take a shower


Plan
Using Indicators
• Raising Awareness
• Informing Decisions
• Measuring Progress
Evaluate
Act

The Process Matters!

- The process by which indicators are developed is as important as the final product
- Collaboration is important; indicators must:
  - measure something that is valued
  - be understood by those who will use them
  - be seen as credible and meaningful
  - be linked (conceptually and practically) to policies and actions
- Process must aim to include everyone but especially the decision-makers and the data managers
  - There must be a common expectation that the indicators will be reported, discussed and linked to action on a regular basis