14 Sustainability 1

Introduction to Creating Sustainability

Green Earth is a council made up of environmental scientists. The following report explains our findings on **sustainability**. Within the report, we offer recommendations for sustainable living in rural and urban areas.

The report is divided into two sections. The first half of the report describes sustainable farming methods, including a description of best **organic farming** practices. Chapters 1-4 include sections on crop management, including **crop rotation**. **Monoculture**, **intercropping**, **contour farming**, and the use of **cover crops** are compared and discussed. Chapter 5 describes ways to **compost** waste and the importance of composting. Instructions on composting are included. This includes small-scale methods appropriate for cities, and large-scale methods appropriate for farms and rural areas.

The second half of the report looks at **urban planning** issues. Overall issues of **sustainable design** are discussed in Chapters 6 and 7. Special attention is given to **green buildings** in Chapter 8. Several examples of green buildings are given. The final chapters of this section are a conclusion about the importance of sustainability and **permaculture**. We here at Green Earth stress that **environmental management** is vital to our society. We believe that we must reverse the effects of **unsustainable** practices.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 What kind of farming does not use pesticides?

2 What method of planting crops is the opposite of monoculture?

Reading

2 Read the report. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

1 What is the purpose of the report?

A to assess organic farming efforts in different regions

B to offer suggestions that will increase sustainability

C to announce the creation of a sustainability council

D to increase the popularity of sustainable design

2 Which of the following is NOT an agricultural method?

A monoculture

B permaculture

C intercropping

D crop rotation

3 Which effort towards sustainability does the report recommend for both rural and urban areas?

A sustainable design

B green buildings

C composting

D monoculture

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-10) with the definitions (A-J).

1 __ unsustainable
2 __ compost
3 __ intercropping
4 __ sustainability
5 __ urban planning
6 __ green building
7 __ cover crop
8 __ crop rotation
9 __ sustainable design
10 __ organic farming

A farming with the use of natural, sustainable products

B a form of farming in which different crops are grown in strips

C a crop that is planted to improve soil quality

D a structure that is constructed in a.sustainable way

E the process by which cities and towns are designed

F unable to be supported or maintained

G the state of being able to be supported or maintained

H a philosophy of design for buildings and vehicles

I the process in which different crops are grown on a field at different times

J to turn waste into fertilizer

4 **Read the sentence pairs. Choose where the words best fit the blanks.**

1 **monoculture / permaculture**

A In _____, farmers grow only a single type of crop in a field.

B _____ is based on the sustainability of cities, towns, and agriculture.

2 **contour farming / environmental management**

A In _____, fields are plowed in a way that is often not straight.

B Recycling is one form of _____.

5 🎧 **Listen and read the report again. What sustainable practice does Green Earth recommend for homes and large farms?**

Listening

6 🎧 **Listen to a conversation between a farmer and a scientist. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).**

1 __ The woman recommends growing additional crops.

2 __ The man practices monoculture.

3 __ The man worries about the cost of organic farming.

7 🎧 **Listen again and complete the conversation.**

Scientist: Okay, well, I'm glad to hear that you're already practicing sustainability. You're doing the right thing! What methods do you use?

Farmer: I always **1** _____ _____ _____, and I also switched to contour farming. This has helped my soil erosion a lot.

Scientist: Great stuff. Do you use **2** _____, or intercropping?

Farmer: Well, right now I use monoculture.

Scientist: Hmmm. You might want to mix it up a little. Try some **3** _____ _____.

Farmer: You're right. I'll look into that.

Scientist: Great. And what about growing **4** _____ _____?

Farmer: Yeah, I've **5** _____ _____ it. It's just so hard to switch over. The process takes years.

Scientist: **6** _____ _____, it's worth it in the end.

Speaking

8 **With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.**

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

I'd like to talk about ...

Do you use ...?

And what about ...?

Student A: You are a farmer. Talk to Student B about:

- what farm methods you use
- what additional sustainable actions you'd like to take
- why you're unsure about taking action

Student B: You are a scientist. Talk to Student A about sustainability practices.

Writing

9 **Use the report and the conversation from Task 8 to write a summary of different sustainability practices. Include sustainable types of farming, urban planning, and permaculture.**