

# Three strategies towards sustainability

## Identifying examples of efficiency, consistency and sufficiency

### Overview

The three strategies towards sustainability – efficiency, consistency and sufficiency – are examined on the basis of concrete examples. The participants are divided into 3 small groups, each of which explores one of the three approaches with the help of a short text, before deciding which of the example pictures match the approach. In the process, the participants learn about and critically engage with sustainability strategies.

### Instructions

#### Preparation

The short texts and example pictures must be printed and the pictures cut out. Each group should have enough copies of the text assigned to it and one complete set of pictures. This means that three sets of pictures must be printed.

#### Execution

1. To begin with, the presentation is given to introduce the group to the three strategies (Materials: presentation and script; as the presentation is somewhat detailed, for some groups a brief introduction to the 3 strategies – efficiency, consistency and sufficiency – may be appropriate instead). Comprehension questions are answered.
2. Instructions for the group work are given, and the group is divided into three smaller groups. Each group is assigned one of the terms “efficiency”, “consistency” and “sufficiency”. Each group receives an envelope containing sufficient copies of the text describing the strategy assigned to it and a full set of example pictures.
3. First, the participants read the text and clear up any comprehension issues. The group then looks at the pictures, discusses them and decides which pictures match the strategy assigned to it. The groups should be given 15 minutes for this stage.

	12-20
	40 minutes
	Downloadable materials (< <a href="http://www.endlich-wachstum.de">www.endlich-wachstum.de</a> >): Presentation with script, texts, example pictures, classification overview
	The participants should already have some knowledge of ecological issues such as resource scarcity and climate change.

4. After the group stage, each group presents its strategy and the pictures chosen. The other groups can ask questions, and a plenary discussion can be held on whether the pictures have been correctly allocated.

#### Evaluation

After each group has presented its strategy and selection of pictures, additional background information can be provided in the evaluation stage if appropriate. The following questions can then be discussed with the group:

- > Which approaches did you already know about, and what was new to you?
- > Which of these strategies do you encounter most often?
- > What are the limits and weaknesses of each approach?
- > Which strategies do you find especially convincing? Which do you think are a good idea?
- > How do you think the strategies could be implemented?
- > Which strategies might enable you to best contribute to sustainability in your everyday lives? What concrete action could you take?

Variation	For facilitators who are familiar with the topic and groups with extensive prior knowledge, additional strategies such as resilience, subsistence, subsidiarity, regional-ity, decentralisation etc. can be incorporated into the activity.
Tips for facilitators	Further information on this topic can be found e.g. in the module “Wirtschaft, Neue Weltordnung” (“Economy, new world order”) from the series “Mut zur Nachhaltigkeit” (“Courage for sustainability”) published by the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy (< <a href="http://www.mut-zur-nachhaltigkeit.de">http://www.mut-zur-nachhaltigkeit.de</a> >, in German).
Sug- gres- tions for follow-up	This method can be followed by “Entkopplung – Ein Mythos” (The decoupling myth, currently only available in German - see < <a href="http://www.endlich-wachstum.de">www.endlich-wachstum.de</a> >) or “Rebound comics”, both in chapter 2 for a deeper exploration of the limits of efficiency and consistency. Some of the cards from the “Exit cards” method are suitable for a closer look at sufficiency approaches.