

# Sustainability: Changing the Operating System

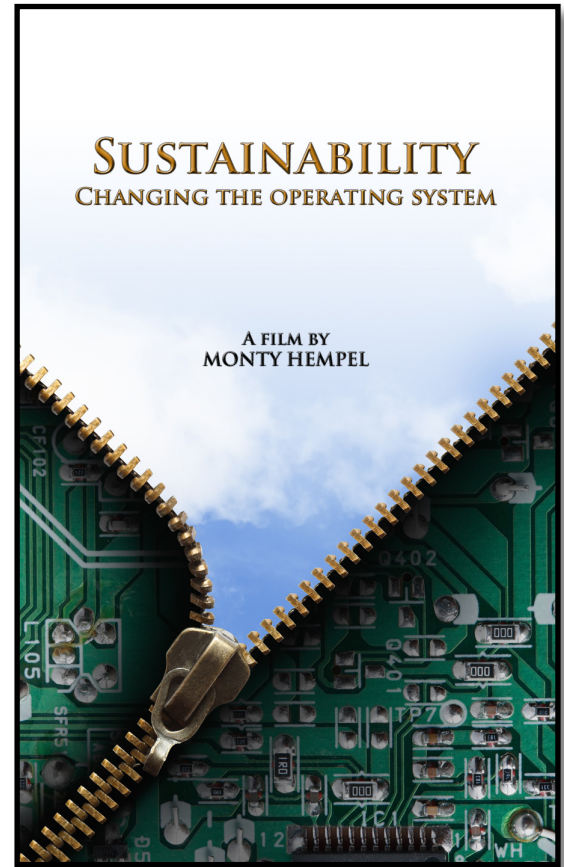
A film by Monty Hempel

Click here to watch the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/105404441>

Film Release: 2013 (running time: 48 minutes)

**SUSTAINABILITY: Changing the Operating System** is a film essay about the challenges of creating a world that works for everyone. Sustainability requires the integration of environmental, economic, and social action to create a future that is green, profitable, fair, and "glocal." The film examines the old "operating system" of industrial growth that has given rise to a series of interlocking crises in finance, energy, food, water, biodiversity, poverty, climate disruption, and population growth. It calls for a new operating system that is grounded in the life of community and dedicated to the health and resilience of people, markets, and ecosystems.

Examining both the promise and limitations of sustainability, the film offers a sobering but hopeful look at life in the twenty-first century. Sustainability is presented as a process of improvement in relationships between diverse groups of people, and between people and their environment – including relationships with pets and other animals that bring true diversity to our lives. Vital to this improvement in relationships is the human capacity for empathy and compassion, along with a deeper understanding of interdependence and how it determines our place in the great web of life.



**Filmmaker's Summary:** "Even in Hollywood there are limits to how many explosions, car chases, and gunfights people can absorb as 'entertainment' before their discernment of reality is compromised. For those who seek more meaningful visual stories, this film offers a vision of a better world. It addresses the real challenges of securing social, economic, and environmental health. Moreover, it will make you think about questions that truly matter, and choices that will profoundly affect quality of life for current and future generations."

**About the Filmmaker:** *SUSTAINABILITY: Changing the Operating System* was written, directed, and produced by Monty Hempel, president of Blue Planet United and Hedco Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Redlands. Hempel is a veteran college teacher and filmmaker, as well as a nationally recognized leader in sustainability and environmental protection. He served as a founding board member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and as the first (interim) president of the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS). Hempel has taught university courses about sustainability issues for 30 years and has produced three books and more than a dozen previous films, including the award-winning video, *Spirit of Place*. (2011).

**About Blue Planet United:** **Blue Planet United** is a public benefit, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps people make connections between three defining issues of the twenty-first century: population stabilization, sustainable consumption, and the preservation of wild landscapes, seascapes, and habitat. We create print publications, educational films, and web resources that foster awareness and action to save the last great wild places of this tiny blue planet. Visit us at [www.blueplanetunited.org](http://www.blueplanetunited.org). See the film trailer: <https://vimeo.com/105404441>