



Above is the diagram that Princeton University prepared during their brainstorming discussion on the relationship of sustainability science (SS) and sustainable development (SD). The discussion began with the question, “Is the relationship one way or two way?”

We understand the relationship to be two way. In terms of research conducted in SS or SD domain, In order to facilitate this relationship, SS provides the tools to the practitioners. On the feedback loop, the sustainable developers provide the questions that drive the need for scientific solutions. To distinguish SS and SD, in terms of research in each, we thought SS may be use-inspired basic research, while SD is theory-inspired applied research.

The public fits into this two-way relationship as a source of input and filter on the priorities for research from the SD sector, and source of local information for SS.

Our potential solution to facilitate SS and SD communication is the following:

1. Create recurrent communication forums (i.e. conferences, meetings). This process is shown as seen in the fourth image in the attached PDF called “SS SD relationship” and is used to enable temporal dynamics of exchange.
2. Create diverse working groups.

Ultimately, the relationship between SS and SD will depend on how researchers develop tools and how practitioners use those set of tools.