

## **2023 NJS - Definition for Award of Excellence - Sustainability**

### **What is Sustainability?**

The definition of "sustainability" is fulfilling the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations, while ensuring a balance between economic growth, environmental care and social well-being.

### **Why has CQA/ACC created the new Award of Excellence - Sustainability?**

We all see the impact of climate change around us. Integrating sustainability into the National Juried Show awards is a way of supporting and recognizing our talented quilters who take conscious steps to integrate sustainability into their quilt, helping to ensure that future generations of quilters will be able to continue creating.

### **How can my quilt qualify for this award?**

Sustainability has 3 main pillars: Economic, Environmental and Social. These three pillars are informally referred to as profits, planet, and people. Although all three pillars are needed for true sustainability, your quilt can have elements of one or more of these pillars to qualify for the award of excellence in sustainability.

### ***Here are some explanations and examples:***

***Economic:*** This is about a balanced viability between profits and sustainability, e.g. the use of products or systems that encourage and promote the protection of the environment by limiting the risks posed by their production. Integrating renewable energy, recycling of products, waste reduction, process efficiencies and water reduction during the manufacturing of products are some fundamental aspects of the economic pillar. The use of solar or other renewable energy at your studio or using products manufactured organically, with recycled content and using renewable energy would be examples of this pillar.

***Environmental:*** This is the area where we usually think of saving our planet: recycle, reduce and reuse. The use of recycled fabrics or other recycled materials in the quilt would be an example of this pillar. This pillar is also commonly used by quilters to highlight activism(artivism). A quilt that has a message around endangered species, environmental disaster, or a human rights topic would also be an example of this pillar.

***Social:*** A simple definition of this pillar is treating employees fairly with an equitable living, being a good neighbor and community member both locally and globally. Interconnection within a community is another way of looking at the social pillar. The use of materials made by companies that have fair trade or profit sharing models or who are produced locally in your community would be examples of this pillar.

**Note:** Material use in your quilt (e.g., fabric, thread, batting, etc) could be found under any of the three pillars as upcycling, recycling, using organic and ethically sourced materials, natural, local or manufactured with recycled content materials.

These are only some examples to help you define how your quilt can qualify for this Award of Excellence.

On the National Juried Show (NJS) entry form, please use the “additional information” text box to share with our judges why and how you view your quilt as sustainable.

*(CQA/ACC gratefully acknowledges Bridget O'Flaherty for her input on these guidelines.)*