

PhD Dissertation
Department of Environmental Science and Policy
College of Science
George Mason University

Candidate: Rupalben D. Mangukiya

Defense Date and Time: November 30, 2020 at 2:00pm

Defense Location: Virtual through Zoom (RSVP to slister1@gmu.edu)

Title: The Relationship Between Economic and Non-Economic Aspects Of Sustainable Development At Sub-National Scales Within The United States Of America

Dissertation Director: Dr. Thomas Lovejoy

Committee: Dr. Todd La Porte, Dr. John Qu, Dr. Dann Sklarew

ABSTRACT

The study examines the relationship between economic and non-economic (social and environmental) pillars of sustainable development (SD) within the USA. SD is examined at sub-national scales – across all states and localities – using the first 16 Sustainable Development Goals categorized into three pillars of SD. Geographically, the Southern states and localities scored poorly on SDGI, and high performers are clustered in the Northeastern region. While a bi-directional positive relationship was observed between economic and social, a negative relationship appeared between economic and environmental pillars. The influence of various economic aspects on social and the feedback effects of the same varied geographically at the locality scale. It provides crucial information for planning policy implications.