



/SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE

When analyzing information and making decisions a SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE has a major impact on the sustainability of our actions.

**/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE:
HOW YOU THINK ABOUT THE LONG-
TERM IMPACT WHEN ANALYZING
AND MAKING DECISIONS,
COMPLEMENTING SHORT-TERM
THINKING; HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT
IT, AND THE IMPACT ON YOUR
BEHAVIORS.**

**YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE
THAT** you are a good problem solver.

You always look for quick and efficient ways to address a situation and seeking to simplify matters.

/YOU ARE COMFORTABLE acting promptly; it is important for you, and it provides you and others with a sense of control and direction. In this sense, you diminish uncertainty for yourself and others, which may be welcome since unpredictability can create anxiety.

Furthermore, trying to imagine future consequences may be puzzling because it requires a stretch of the imagination, and can make us feel responsible for future impacts that we can't quite conceive.

**/THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN FURTHER
LEVERAGE THOSE STRENGTHS AND
MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS
WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:**

You are aware of this, and thus you seek to extract from the problem quickly. That said, this same decisiveness may block your consideration of the

long-term impacts of a proposed solution, which could cause problems in the future.

So many of the problems of unsustainability result from a short-term focus when making decisions. It takes practice to develop new mental habits, but they too, can have long term impacts - for the better.

**/THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU
CONSIDER THE SM:**

There is a tacit pressure to act promptly and focus on that which needs immediate attention. This is very important, and there are many circumstances where this way of responding is the optimal, or even the only one that matters. A fire in the house, for example. We can sense the urgency and it is not a good idea to pause and reflect on the long-term implications of the fire.

But for many daily decisions, the context is different, and yet we still prioritize short term thinking, often without even pondering any medium- or long-term impacts of what we are doing. The stream of life, our colleagues, perhaps everyone with whom we interact takes for granted that we "all" act this way.

On the other hand, with greater understanding of the social and environmental problems we are facing, it has become clear that the law of cause-and-effect is always at play, even if not immediately obvious. In other words, the consequences of our daily actions do have impacts - some over time, some just in a different geography, and many on both.

As with other aspects which are key for a sustainability mindset, it is not a question of choosing one over the other, but a matter of balancing both views and taking both time horizons into account.

This mental habit expands our consciousness, as we become more aware of the way we are impacting others and the world. Not thinking about this doesn't stop it from happening. Rather, stretching our imagination to consider potential impacts across time helps us make better decisions, and play a more active role in shaping a better world.

/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:

For example, what might be some long-term consequences for sustainability of a purchasing decision you recently made? What would your latest decision look like if you had considered these potential long-term impacts? It takes practice to develop new mental habits, but they too, can have long term impacts - for the better.



Every action has consequences that are not immediately visible. Considering the long-term when analyzing situations and making decisions has a positive impact on global sustainability.