

Differentiating
“Spirituality-Engaged Sustainability” Orientation from
“New Age Movement”

Features	New Age Movement	Spiritually- Engaged Sustainability
Spirituality (East & West)	Supports the orientation but holds, directly or indirectly, religion as the basis of spirituality	Supports the orientation but holds that spirituality and religion are separate realities (and argues for a sociology of spirituality)
Cosmological Worldview	Supports the view that all of us as part of a whole, but puts all emphasis on the transcendental or “God”	Supports the orientation that we are part of a whole but uses socially-grounded cosmological concepts
Religious System	Essentially sees spirituality as an extension of religious orientation	Attempts to salvage and separate the experience of spirituality from religious institutions; attempts to disrupt that orientation
Global Unity and Single Future	Promotes this orientation	Promotes dialogical global unity but recognises and promotes the idea of multiple social futures depending on communities and localities
Centrality of Human	Continues this orientation	Disrupts this orientation and does not support it. Also does not support any form of nationalism, particularly chauvinistic nationalism or localism. The aim is to encourage planetary consciousness.
Components Subject Matter	Self-help, motivational psychology, holistic health, parapsychology, consciousness research quantum physics, and the like	Critique of mainstream sustainable development, spiritual ecology, authentic communication, planetary consciousness, mindful leadership, eco-psychology, sustainable design, futures studies

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