Objective: Work together to build everything your community needs, represented by the cards in the deck. Build sustainably to avoid running out of resources or knocking down the tower!

Each player starts with five resource blocks of each color:

Purple = People    Green = Nature    Yellow = Money

The rest of the blocks stay in the “bank” bag. Place the cards face down on the table.

Let’s play!

Draw: The youngest player goes first. Draw a card from the deck—that’s what you’ll build first. Check the card to find out how many blocks it costs and how many blocks it earns in rewards.

Pay the cost: Use blocks from your resource pile to pay the “cost” indicated on the card. Start building a tower by laying three blocks side by side to form a square.

Earn the reward: Take the “reward” blocks from the bank and add them to your resource pile.

Continue to build: Players take turns drawing cards and building. Each level of the tower is built from three blocks, laid crosswise on the level below.

Trade and borrow: Need more (or different) blocks? You can trade with the bank, according to the trade card. You can also remove blocks from the lower levels of the tower—but be careful!

End: Your community is complete when your group has built all the cards in the deck without toppling the tower—or when you run out of resources! Do you think you can “win” this game? Do you think the community you built is sustainable?
We all have a role in building a more sustainable future!

Being a change agent involves reflecting, asking questions, and taking actions, as individuals and communities. For example, we can invest time and money to make community gardens that are attractive, grow food, and provide a place for neighbors to meet each other.

In this game, you invested resources to bring benefits to your community. In real life we also have limited social, environmental, and economic resources, and we need to decide how to use them to create the kind of world we want to live in.

Sustainable communities meet the needs of people, the planet, and the economy. In this game, you invested resources to bring benefits to your community. In real life we also have limited social, environmental, and economic resources, and we need to decide how to use them to create the kind of world we want to live in.

Sustainability means healthy people, communities, and environments, now and in the future. When we think about how to build sustainably, we weigh many factors, including the impact on people, the planet, and the economy. Sustainability scientists consider social, environmental, and economic perspectives to be the “three pillars” of sustainability.

Individuals and communities will find different ways to live and grow sustainably.

Neighbors can work together to create community gardens.