This essay seeks to help untangle a part of the discourse on sustainable development by constructing a taxonomy of sustainable Development models. This taxonomy is based on an extensive literature review that, to some extent, privileges the Mexican experience. In this way, the essay presents and compares both normative and positive models. The models included in this essay are: mainstream sustainable development, which corresponds with the strategy outlined in the Bruntland Report and Agenda 21; political ecology, a model developed by French economist Alain Lipietz; grassroots sustainable development, whose roots can be found in a school of thought dating back to the 1970s known as Another Development; fair trade, an experience that can be traced back to the indigenous communities of Oaxaca; Community Forestry, which has been put into practice by various communities in the south and center of the country; environmental action, especially with respect to local-level conflicts over the control of natural resources; and community-based conservation, whose principal manifestation is the biosphere reserve.