

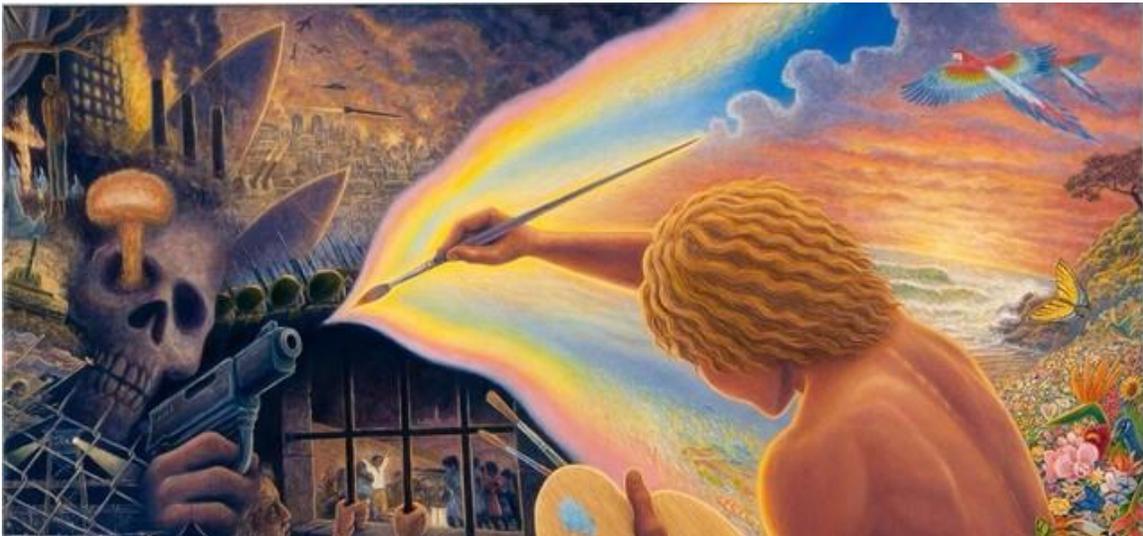
Live Rent Free: A Safe Place to BE

Planned Homesteading Communities based on sustainable, earth friendly and self-sufficient practices (meaning they are able to produce or provide more of the needs of the community using local resources) would provide rewarding livelihood and economic security. This is the new way to create 'jobs' on the local level as we move toward a resource based economy.

Friendly, Affordable Upbeat – We the People CAN do this.

By Grandma KoKo, April 17, 2017 – Multimedia artist and author of "[More to Come](#)" a timely story about the possibility of a peaceful future existence on this paradise of a planet. Only love can heal the planet of love.

Take time to Wonder about Everything



Paintbrush Warrior

Mark Henson - Oil on Canvas

The artist uses his magic to confront the forces of repression.

<http://markhensonart.com/>

Short Author Bio

Grandma KoKo is a displaced homesteader. She tried for 7 years to manage a self-sufficient, sustainable homestead in a permaculture fashion. The homestead was sold a few years ago due to economic constraints. Finding another homestead or eco-village to join is difficult for many reasons. The deck seems to be stacked against it.

Dominant Culture does not support this Counter-Cultural movement. People are encouraged to think homesteading is a lot work, when it is significantly less work than the slave labor system of EMPIRE and MONEY. This co-operative lifestyle does require a village, a community of people all pulling together, sharing and

caring in a loving manner, respectful of each other and the earth. It's a team sport.

Unfortunately, political and bureaucratic restraints prevent progress in the direction homesteaders need to go. This report may seem lengthy, but it is attempting to lay the cards on the table so we can all take a good look. We the People want to be in agreement about planning for the future.

Grandma KoKo is looking forward to building her own home out of natural materials in a safe place where no rent is required.

NO RENT PLANET

No one should have to pay rent to live on this planet. We are not born with a consumer number or bar code tattooed on our forehead. We the People want to live close to the EARTH with honor, love and grace. There is plenty of common land and plenty of people who want to live inside a thriving community that values our relationship to nature and each other.

All that is needed are small changes. Small changes in zoning laws and some adjustment to cultural ideology (propaganda) will allow a growing number of people to live as we 'see fit'. The first step is to think about it, know we can and believe we will.

No one should have to pay rent to live on this planet.



To quit the game, just walk away.

Four Sections

Basically, there are four sections to this report;

What it might look like? Page 2

Overcoming Obstacles Page 14

Why do we need and want this? Page 18

How to get there from here? Page 26

What

What are we talking about? What would a Planned Homesteading Community look like? What would it be like to live without money?

It could be large, possibly hundreds of homesteads. It could be small, perhaps only a handful of homesteads. It could be a network of homesteads or homesteading communities. It could happen in rural or urban areas, and places

in-between. This is a CULTURAL change, a change in lifestyle and it is appealing to many from the wealthiest to the poor, from young to old.

Life Is Good: Sustainable Living (National Geographic Documentary)

Sustainable living is a lifestyle that attempts to reduce an individual's or society's use of the Earth's natural resources and personal resources. (40 minutes)

https://youtu.be/EpM_10cCQwY

We the People are tired of playing with the deck stacked against us, always in favor of the culture of DOMINATION, run by greed and fear. We can co-create a better way of getting along on this planet. Cooperation and kindness start in the home and in the home town community.

Based on Permaculture

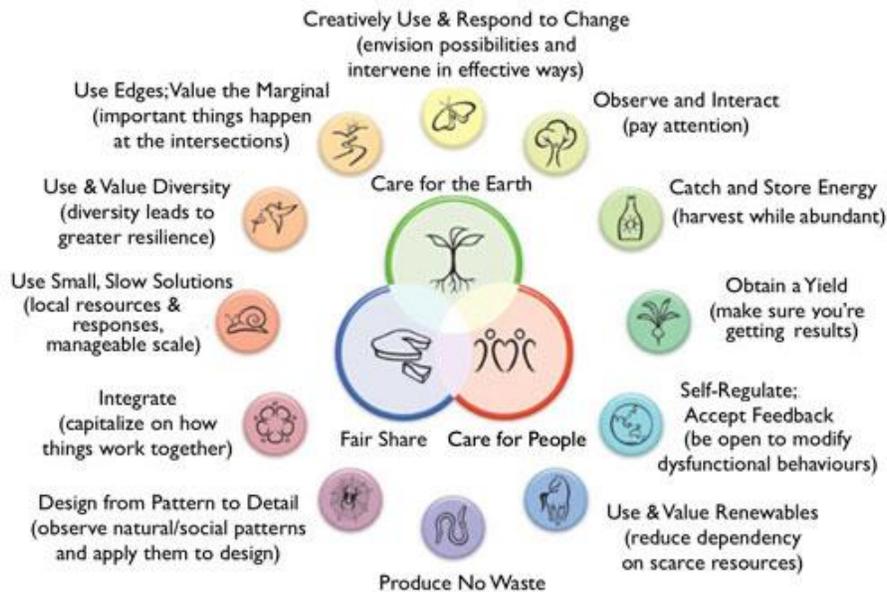
Permaculture is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive systems which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is the harmonious integration of the landscape with people providing their food, energy, shelter and other material as well as nonmaterial needs in a sustainable way. - Graham Bell, author of "The Permaculture Way"

<http://grahambell.org/permaculture-2/permaculture-books/book-review-the-permaculture-way/>

Inhabit: A Permaculture Perspective (2015) documentary

"Inhabit" is a feature length documentary introducing permaculture. It presents a vast array of projects, concepts, people, and translates the diversity of permaculture into something that can be understood by an equally diverse audience. For those familiar with the concept, it will be a call to action and a glimpse into what's possible – what kind of projects and solutions are already underway. For those unacquainted with permaculture, it will be an introduction to a new way of being and a new way of relating to the Earth. For everyone, it will be a reminder that we are capable of being a healing force for the planet.

<http://inhabitfilm.com/>



Ethics and Principles of Permaculture are dedicated to being sustainable and self sufficient.

Permaculture Ethics: Earth Care, People Care, Fair share

Central to permaculture are the three ethics: care for the earth, care for people, and fair share. They form the foundation for permaculture design and are also found in most traditional societies.

Permaculture Principles

Here are the 12 principles of permaculture as described by David Holmgren.

1. Observe and Interact – “Beauty is in the mind of the beholder”
2. Catch and Store Energy – “Make hay while the sun shines”
3. Obtain a yield – “You can’t work on an empty stomach”
4. Apply Self Regulation and Accept Feedback – “The sins of the fathers are visited on the children of the seventh generation”
5. Use and Value Renewable Resources and Services – “Let nature take its course”
6. Produce No Waste – “Waste not, want not” or “A stitch in time saves nine”
7. Design From Patterns to Details – “Can’t see the forest for the trees”
8. Integrate Rather Than Segregate – “Many hands make light work”
9. Use Small and Slow Solutions – “Slow and steady wins the race” or “The bigger they are, the harder they fall”
10. Use and Value Diversity – “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket”
11. Use Edges and Value the Marginal– “Don’t think you are on the right track just because it’s a well-beaten path”
12. Creatively Use and Respond to Change – “Vision is not seeing things as they are but as they will be”

<https://permacultureprinciples.com/principles/>

Intentional Community

An intentional community is a planned residential community designed from the start to have a high degree of social cohesion and teamwork. The members of an intentional community typically hold a common social, political, religious, or spiritual vision and often follow an alternative lifestyle.

<http://www.ic.org/>

Ecovillages are intentional communities whose goal is to become more socially, economically and ecologically sustainable. Most range from a population of 50 to 150 individuals, although some are smaller, and larger ecovillages of up to 2,000 individuals exist as networks of smaller subcommunities.

“Ecovillages, Lessons for Sustainable Community” book by Karen Litfin. The website offers detailed descriptions of 14 ecovillages on 5 continents, many of the more established ecovillages worldwide.

<http://ecovillagebook.org/ecovillages/>

Ecovillages — A Leading Edge for Sustainability video under 30 minutes, Karen Litfin discussing the book

<https://youtu.be/xVjxkeMThx8>

Global Ecovillage Network

<http://gen.ecovillage.org/>

'A New We ~ EcoVillages and Ecological Communities in Europe' documentary

<https://newwe.jimdo.com/>

What? Not use MONEY?

How to live without money – 6 minute video

It's not what you think, once we get there, people don't want to leave. They just want to stay.

https://youtu.be/339Xfbm_LkM

Fictional future scenarios

More to Come

The short story "[*More to Come*](#)" by Grandma KoKo offers a view of life in a future homesteading community. It entertains questions many wonder. What could life be like in the future? How would it be possible to live without money? How might we like to live?

<http://moretoCome.us>

Can we imagine life without utility bills?

"The universal Electric Power Co., which twenty years ago would not bring utility lines into Paradise except at a price none of the homesteaders could afford, now with the increase in population, wants to supply the needs of the community. But no one will sign up. After the early years of doing without electricity, paradise has equipped itself with solar panels, windmills, and diesel generators to provide all the electricity its people feel they need."

"The Man Who Created Paradise" by Gene Logsdon

"I make farms. Alice helps a lot. Alice is my bulldozer. You should stop by sometime and take a look at what we've done. Yours truly, Wally Spero Paradise Road Route 4, Old Salem, Ohio"

<https://thecontraryfarmer.wordpress.com/2008/09/02/the-man-who-created-paradise-by-gene-logsdon/>

Can start on a shoe string

We expect communities will be supported with ample funding. The happy truth is these communities can start, grow and thrive even with minimal funding. Where there is a will there's a way. The HOW section of this document is full of examples and ideas to get started and going.

Economically Self-sufficient

These communities will offer products, services, education and research. It won't take long before any Planned Homesteading Community will become economically self-sufficient. Along with true economic self-sufficiency, these communities of people working and playing together offers something more valuable, a deep sense of well-being that comes from feeling satisfied and knowing there will be enough. Participants in this adventure will learn to live without want of food, shelter or clothing and without damaging nature or polluting the earth.

A Valuable Asset

A thriving Planned Homesteading Communities will rapidly become a valuable asset to the larger community as a whole. The entire process of building community spirit to initiate the effort, to planning, deciding details, collecting resources, services and talented people, all weave together to offer a sense of well being to every community that embraces this earth friendly lifestyle. Working together, we can build a showcase that honors our Mother (earth) and each other

as loving, caring, human beings. It really is a BIG DEAL to learn to work together and share. Each Planned Homesteading Community will have its own special features and unique feel as a result of the input from each place of origin. Everyone involved will benefit.

Save \$\$\$, Live Better, Immediate Benefits

A Planned Homesteading Community offers a friendly, affordable, and easy to grow pathway to Affordable Housing. It offers a viable alternative for many who are looking to find a simpler way to live. We want to embark, by collective conscious design, on this journey toward self sufficiency in alignment with Natural Law. We BELIEVE we can architect a better lifestyle, fit for human beings. We have learned, no one is an island, we can not get there alone, and this MUST be done by many as community in collective agreement.

Common Land is the heart of the matter

Common Land is loosely defined as land that everyone has a right to use.

“Common land is land owned collectively by a number of persons, or by one person, but over which other people have certain traditional rights, such as to allow their livestock to graze upon it, to collect firewood, or to cut turf for fuel.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_land

Common Land, Common Ground

“All over the world – in fact, for 2.5 billion people – lives depend on land and natural resources that are held, used or managed collectively. These communities, including 370 million indigenous people, call more than half of the world’s surface home, but have formally recognized rights to a mere 10 percent of that land. In most cases, these people are the best stewards of the land and its resources. They need strong rights and they need benefits. They need a voice.” - Justin Adams, Global Managing Director for Lands at The Nature Conservancy.

<http://landportal.info/blog-post/2016/08/common-land-common-ground>

Managing common land

Common land is land owned by one or more persons where other people, known as ‘commoners’ are entitled to use the land or take resources from it.

Commoners’ rights

The right of a commoner to take resources from a piece of common land is called a right of common.

A right of common can be:

pasturage - the right to put livestock out to feed on the land, usually grass but can be heather or other vegetation

pannage - the right to put pigs out to feed in wooded areas of the land

estover - the right to take specific timber products from the land, like whole trees or firewood

turbary - the right to take turf or peat from the land to burn as fuel

piscary - the right to take fish from ponds, lakes, rivers and streams

rights in the soil - the right to take soil or minerals from the common

animals ferae naturae - the right to take wild animals

Commoners can only take enough turf, peat, fish, soil or minerals for the property to which their right of common is attached.

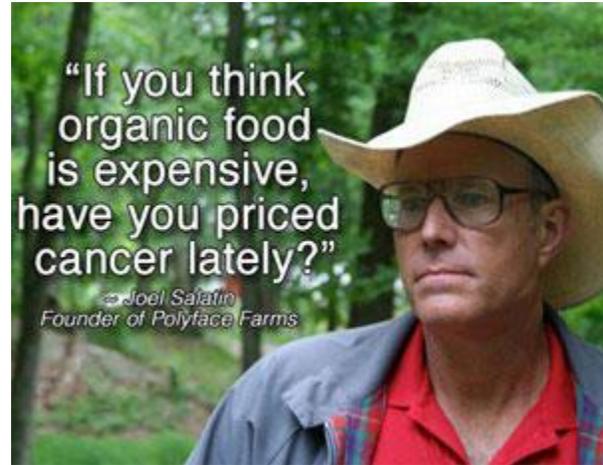
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-common-land>

General Conceptual Components of the Planned Homesteading Community

Imagine this like a Home Owners Association dedicated to sustainability.

Imagine thriving Planned Homesteading Communities providing food and commodities that are better value than available from vendors like WalMart, Fast Food or Dollar Stores; encouraging a thriving local economy.

Imagine the Planned Homesteading Communities as being similar to a park, tourist attraction or nature preserve. Each Planned Community will be a collective effort of creativity and a natural showcase.



Imagine newer technologies being utilized for sustainable solutions, research and education.

Like a Nature Park

These Planned Homesteading Communities would offer features that benefit the larger region. They might have a petting farm for families to visit and enjoy. It could contain traditional park elements, most maintained and cared for by the members of the community. There could be; butterfly gardens, walking trails, bird sanctuary, water purification, honeybee promotion, coppiced woodland areas, larger gathering/pavilion sites for weddings and other special occasions. There is much opportunity here for enterprises serving as a tourist attraction available at a fraction of the cost of similar enterprises.

Center for research and education

People like to learn how to live better. We have much to learn. For instance, a class about building with natural materials would result in an actual building. Opportunity to experiment with deployment of newer technologies for sustainable living will provoke intriguing solutions.

Note: Additional development of the **Rent Free, Tax Free and Self Sufficient** components will be presented in the HOW section, a little farther along in this document. The three are naturally interrelated and integral to the success of these endeavors.

Rent Free: We the people already own a large amount of land. By using public land (common land already owned by local, county, state or federal holdings) or

land held in Land Trust (public or private) or simple community acquisition. Land Banks offer an alternate way to finance. Perhaps a 99 year lease will be useful. The land and/or properties can be non-profit and considered an asset of the larger community. The members of the Community will assure that the land is used in accordance with the values and goals of the community. Consider the Planned Homesteading Community as a value added resource for production and services.

Tax Free: The land itself will likely be in non-profit status and non-taxable. By using primarily gift economy, trading/barter and other local economic schemes there is little need to handle money or pay for anything, so no sales tax. No income tax, because there is no employment as we know it and no payroll checks. Imagine the economic security/freedom of NOT having to work a 9-5 that doesn't even pay enough. Imagine playing/working toward that which brings us JOY, in step with our own inner knowing, natural rhythms of life, the weather and seasons.

Self-sufficient: The Planned Homesteading Community strives to be self sufficient in every way. Not reliant on fossil fuels and the Big Power Grid, our needs and wants can be satisfied more simply. Planning to stay well rounded when 'seeding' a new Community is the important part. It's best to start up including a diversity of members able to provide a majority of what we now call consumer needs and wants. By planning to include a variety of talents, services and experience when choosing the constituents of any Community we can be assured more success with being self-sufficient. Variety is the spice of life, they say, and variety of contributions provides a cornucopia of plenty for everyone, plenty of food, clothing, homes, and buildings of all sorts.

Sustainable: Planning to live in a way that may be continued by future generations without depleting natural resources. Sustainable living is a lifestyle that attempts to reduce an individual's or society's use of the Earth's natural resources and personal resources.

Based on Permaculture

Permaculture is a holistic approach to landscape design and human culture. It is an attempt to integrate several disciplines, including biology, ecology, geography, agriculture, architecture, appropriate technology, gardening and community building. - Guy Baldwin, Cortez Is, BC

Permaculture Ethics: Earth Care, People Care, Fair share

<https://permacultureprinciples.com/principles/>

Inhabit: A Permaculture Perspective (2015) documentary

<http://inhabitfilm.com/>

Creating Food Forests – Edible landscape – Forest Gardening

A food forest is a gardening technique or land management system, which mimics a woodland ecosystem by substituting edible trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals. Fruit and nut trees make up the upper level, while berry shrubs, edible perennials and annuals make up the lower levels. – Beacon Food Forest <http://beaconfoodforest.org/>

There is a profound difference between a forest garden and a conventional garden.

In the small town of Riverton at the bottom of New Zealand's South Island is Robert and Robyn Guyton's amazing 23-year-old food forest. The two-acre property has been transformed from a neglected piece of land into a thriving ecosystem. 20 minute video

Thriving 23-Year-Old Permaculture Food Forest - An Invitation for Wildness <https://youtu.be/6GJFL0MD9fc>

Edible Forest Gardens: Ecological design and practice for temperate-climate permaculture Book by Dave Jacke and Eric Toensmeier http://www.edibleforestgardens.com/about_book

'The Ultimate Ecological Garden: Forest Gardens' 5 minute video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qh8IMGL6sb0>

Able to get along with one another: Isn't this just the hardest part? It includes not only getting along within the Planned Homesteading Community, but also with all other neighbors. We are finding Non violent Communication one of many important tools for improving interpersonal communication skills. Planning how we will get along is an important part of the plan.

"Nonviolent Communication is based on the idea that all human beings have the capacity for compassion and only resort to violence or behavior that harms others when they don't recognize more effective strategies for meeting needs." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nonviolent_Communication

Shared use

Land and buildings along with tools and equipment would most likely be cooperatively owned by members jointly and preferably NOT owned by government. The land and buildings belong to the community as a whole. How that will be managed can be left to the people involved. The larger issues and compromises will hopefully be worked out without a lot of RED TAPE from Government bureaucracy. Sharing is caring they say. It also offers economic advantages, especially the more expensive items.

Careful planning and continual monitoring: Much effort will be needed to stay on track with Community goals and values. Finding useful tools and resources, utilizing emerging technologies and viewpoints for improving interpersonal and social skills will need to be ongoing.

Use of ONLY non-polluting, sustainable, renewable sources for fuel and electricity: Say goodbye to utility bills and non-renewable fossil fuels like gasoline and oil. Power needs of the Community can be met with naturally renewable and non-polluting sources. There is MUCH going on in this area and many options are available that will allow the Planned Homesteading Communities to operate entirely 'off grid'. That means no utility bills, smart meters or cutting of trees to run utility lines. Fuel to power vehicles and small engines can be made from garbage, literally. The process is easier than making alcohol for human consumption, replacing the use of traditional gasoline. This leads us towards Pulling the Plug on Profit.

Building with natural materials: Using Permaculture principles to design and build homes and other structures with natural and/or recycled materials allows us to live 'mortgage free'. Our homes will be cool in summer and warm in winter in large part by being built in a way that compliments the local climate.

Protectors of the land and water: Residents of the community will be right there to protect the land from others who may want to bring harm.

Perspectives for the Project

Let's take a look at the Green Cay Wetlands and Nature Center

<http://discover.pbcgov.org/parks/Pages/GreenCay.aspx#.WLJHxNQrJH0>

Green Cay Wetlands (or Green Cay Wetlands and Nature Center) is a nature preserve located in Boynton Beach, Florida. The 100-acre (0.40 km²) property was purchased in 1999 from Ted and Trudy Winsberg, who used the property for farming. The Winsbergs sold the property for 1/3 of its appraised value with the condition that it would be made into a wetland. Construction began in July 2003. It was created jointly by the Palm Beach County Utilities Department and the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department in 2004. This park includes 1.5 miles (2.4 km) of elevated boardwalk, which takes visitors through various habitats, including cabbage palm hammock, cypress swamp, wetland hammock, and tropical hardwood hammock. The boardwalk also features a Seminole chickee hut as well as several gazebos, which have descriptive signs offering information on the wildlife and plant life.



The Nature Center showcases exhibits on the water cycle as well as a turtle pond, frog terrarium, American alligator hole with young live alligators, and a wetland diorama. There is also a theater, gift shop, and an exhibition hall inside.

The park is a water reclamation facility, and naturally filters millions of gallons of water each day.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Cay_Wetlands

The Planned Homesteading Community could well be conceptualized in a similar manner as the Green Cay Wetlands Nature Center. It was planned, and then built to be a haven for wildlife. Much consideration was given to turn a piece of ground that had been used for farming sweet peppers into a paradise for living

things. They even placed special little fish in the water that will eat mosquito larvae. It's nice not to have mosquitoes around.

Why not consider humans as wildlife and attempt to make an ideal living place for humans? These Planned Homesteading Communities will become like a paradise of economic relief, an oasis amid the busy-ness of EMPIRE. Say good-bye to the current welfare system that is failing our people so tragically.

Yes, We the People will plan our own safe haven paradise and we can construct it for a fraction of the cost that went into planning and building the Green Cay Wetlands and Nature Center. The result of our efforts will yield many benefits, and like the Green Cay Wetlands the Planned Homesteading Communities will become a valuable asset in many ways to the larger region they serve.

Detroit and Cuba as example

IDEAS WE SHOULD STEAL: WHAT'S GOOD IN THE AGRIFOOD?

Detroiters are transforming empty acreage into an urban farming community. Could it work in Philly?"

"Agrihoods are the integration, in cities particularly, of food production, energy efficiency and affordable housing, recreation and community spaces based around farming. You have food, healthcare and education. Another way of describing an agrihood is as a 'permaculture village,'" says Paul Glover.

<http://thephiladelphiacitizen.org/agrihood-michigan-urban-farming-initiative/>

In some ways all of Cuba became a collaborative Homesteading Community when faced with an oil embargo. Powerful lessons were learned when they had to get by with significantly less fossil fuels. What spurred them on was a leader who said, grow everywhere, grow on the roof-tops and empty church yards. The successful farmers rapidly became the wealthy people of their communities.

The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil.- Documentary 2006

<https://youtu.be/JE31TPaz54E>

One Hundred Acre Woods

To help us think about possible ideal scale, consider 100 acres roughly divided into let's say 30-40 homesteads of 2-3 acres. Homestead Clan families might be composed of 2 or more people. Let's say, approximately 8-12 people in a homestead, related in any way they want, Kith and Kin.

The Central Area is the heart of our homesteading community, more public and a point for exchange with the local neighbors, any nearby town, city or village. Roughly estimating, let's say 30-40 homesteads on these hypothetical 100 acres, with 10 people each and another 100 or more people living closer to CENTRAL AREA, that's perhaps 400-500 people.

The Central Area possible features

It is a more public place, offering a central building or compound of buildings. There is likely to be a traditional road in and out of the community, parking areas may be allowed in the central area.

Tool sharing, kitchen sharing, office sharing, you name it.

The Central Area may offer any or all of the following:

Restaurant, hotel, Brew PUB, bakery, performance stage, classrooms, office space, computers, internet connection, charging outlets, medical treatments, (both natural and 'modern' medicine), stores, camping, small homes and apartments.

Site Planning and Layout

Careful selection of the land, then analyzing the features of the land and climate along with community needs and interests will be taken into account. Spend time to watch and pay attention to the natural cycles and rhythm of the land. Become empathetic with the natural environment to ascertain how to best use the land to achieve our goals. Laying out the location of the CENTRAL AREA, mapping where to locate the homesteads considering functional requirements will become easier as we first consider the earth. We want to plan for stages of development, as the community grows from inception to a state of 'being full'.

Locating Ideal Candidates

Finding people who want to live here will be easy. Many people will naturally be interested in living in a RENT FREE zone. Please note, while this scenario will appeal to our homeless, the goal here is not just to populate the Planned Homesteading Community with bodies that need a home. THIS IS NOT BEING PROPOSED AS A HOMELESS SHELTER!!!

Instead we want people and families that match core values of the community. We want to plan that the members of the community have or are willing to learn a variety of talents, skills and services. We are planning a thriving community that works toward satisfying needs and creating opportunity for ALL to thrive. 'Live Long and Prosper'

Careful selection of people interested in growing and working toward common goals is critical for success. Here are a few ideas of the kinds of products and services a Planned Homesteading Community may wish to include. Brew pub, restaurant, hotel, teachers, bakers, honey production, moccasin/footwear production, pickle making, bike repair, builders, herbal medicine, shaman, artists, musicians, researchers, food growing, preservation, preparation and serving, along with production of crafts of all kinds. Each community must evaluate its needs, wants, goals and work with what is available.

Connecting Communities

Communities can be planned at a size that suits the local folks. Clusters of Planned Homesteading Communities will offer expanded possibilities.

Networking between communities and villages will allow additional opportunities for expanding horizons of economic trading and viability.

Communities with Flavor

Communities can be themed to offer certain kinds of benefits and solutions. As we grow into this PLAN, clusters of communities may be planned to complement the goals and visions of entire areas

Let's explore some example 'themes' for Planned Homesteading Community.

Healthy Eating and Lifestyle Practice

This Planned Homesteading Community would be offering fresh organic food, possibly a restaurant, cooking classes, yoga and so much more. Having it set up for people to come for a healing visit, experience the lifestyle, perhaps for a 4-6 week healing experience. It could focus on weight loss or coping with serious illnesses like heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. Good health relies on a healthy lifestyle and these communities will model and assist people in that direction by actualizing lots of fresh food, exercise, clean air, natural settings and positive reinforcing activities.

Humanitarian

This Planned Homesteading Community would be available for people who need help. There could be a focus on caring for elderly, children or others who are down and out. Having a place to go when we are down and out, physically, emotionally and mentally would offer a special kind of social security. It would be a place of healing and finding balance. There is no greater grace than selfless service to others. It could be VERY different solution than the pitiful homeless shelters because there would not be prisoners (homeless clients) and guards (staff). It could offer an entirely different residential opportunity for our elder and disabled population.

LGBT friendly (LGBT = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual)

Let's hope all communities will want to be LGBT friendly. Yet realistically, we can decide who is in and who is out. Call it discrimination or simply allowing people to hang with others who like them and are not hateful.

Criminal Justice, Mental Health, Substance abuse

Let's face it; these folks have a real hard time finding housing, work and peace of mind. Having Planned Homesteading Communities that welcome felons and sex offenders would be an interesting solution for communities that don't want them, NIMB 'Not In My Backyard'. We are proposing that expensive and ineffective rehabilitation programs, prison/jail stays and homeless shelters could largely be replaced by simply allowing people a piece of land to call home. Calling it a safe place to BE takes on new dimensions.

For the Children

Families relieved of economic burden, will be in a better position to raise children. Planned Homesteading Communities that choose to have children and families can offer to replace the struggling foster care system with loving families and Homesteads willing to foster and adopt. People of all ages thrive in a supportive community. Kids love having a safe outdoor place to play. People need to feel wanted.

Video of foster care

Foster kids deserve better than trash bags for their belongings.

<https://youtu.be/4PUHvNLdvHo>

Focus on Recycling, Reclaiming, Reusing

Grow – plant nursery, offer landscape planning and maintenance

Reenact historical scenarios

Teach wilderness and tracking skills

Forest Communication, Tree Whisperers

Many, many, more...

German Forest Ranger Finds That Trees Have Social Networks, Too

https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/30/world/europe/german-forest-ranger-finds-that-trees-have-social-networks-too.html?_r=0

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Getting Along

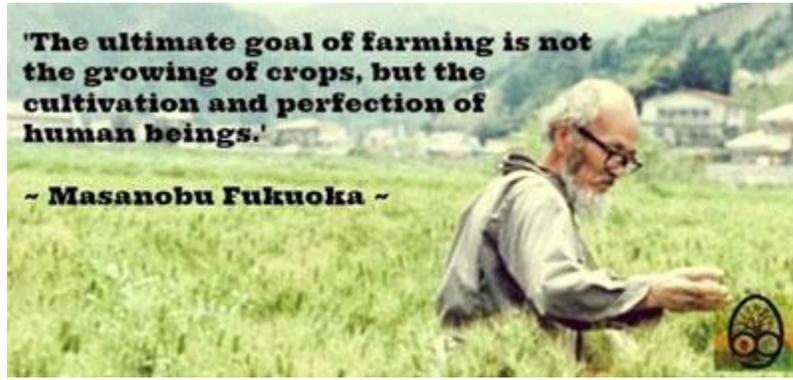
Learning to share our living space, to get along with OTHER folks is part of the human experience. We have become accustomed to property ownership allowing certain forms of entitlement that will not work in a successful shared living opportunity.

To this end there will need to be much effort to communicate clearly and to have a wise council to guide 'the Tribe' as Communities will need to exist in a more mature form of relationship and community. Ground rules and shared values will need to be identified and honored. Cultivating non-confrontational approaches and more gentle and effective ways of speaking will go a long way toward mutual understanding.

Negative public opinion

We can already hear certain resistance to the NO RENT idea, people who believe they had to work hard to buy their home and land, why should anyone else get land for free? Some people will initially think EARTH based living is inferior in many ways to the 'modern' way of life. The suggestion of a tribal approach to management is suspect to people steeped in the propaganda of EMPIRE.

Negative social ideology will need to be addressed by good communication, explanation and engaging the larger community. As more Planned Homesteading Communities get going and can demonstrate what an asset they are to the bigger Village, more and more people will want to live this way. We will show them by example.



'The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings.'
- Masanobu Fukuoka -

Getting the Green Light on Zoning issues

Zoning issues will need to be addressed. A Planned Homesteading Community is a combination of business, residential and agricultural zoning. We will work with zoning officials to satisfy the greater community agreements about land use.

What is the purpose of Zoning?

Zoning of land is the tool used by the County to regulate the use of property for the purposes of protecting public health, safety, and general welfare of the community. The purposes of Zoning are to regulate land use, prevent land use conflict, and allow growth to occur in a rational manner.

We want to build our own homes out of natural, non-toxic materials in a creative way that nourishes our souls. Seriously, folks, we can find a way to rewrite a few zoning ordinances to allow us to live better.

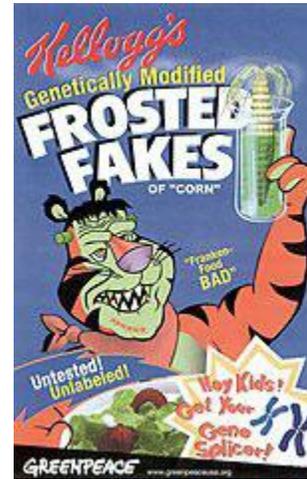
Changing Strange and Unnecessary Laws, Finding Normal

Strange legal issues have been problematic for most homesteaders and small farmers.

We the people are tired of strange laws that prevent all kinds of things like the collecting of rainwater, or drinking un-pasteurized milk. We are done with GMO's, seeds that can't reproduce and laws enforced pertaining to seed collection. .

We are tired of economic sanctions that support Industrialized Agriculture, yet penalize the small farmer. We are tired of Frankenfood.

We the People are smarter than this. We want food that is fresh, has full bodied taste, and is nourishing and affordable. We need to live in community, homesteading requires a Village. Like playing basketball is a team sport. A person can practice shooting hoops for a long time, but to really play the sport we have got to be part of a team, and there has to be another team to have a game time.



Everything I Want to Do Is Illegal: War Stories from the Local Food Front – Book by Joel Salatin

<http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/820958-everything-i-want-to-do-is-illegal>

Excerpts from the book "[Folks, This Ain't Normal](http://www.polyfacefarms.com/2011/07/28/folks-this-aint-normal/): A Farmer's Advice for Happier Hens, Healthier People, and a Better World" **Joel Salatin**,
<http://www.polyfacefarms.com/2011/07/28/folks-this-aint-normal/>

“The first supermarket supposedly appeared on the American landscape in 1946. That is not very long ago. Until then, where was all the food? Dear folks, the food was in homes, gardens, local fields, and forests. It was near kitchens, near tables, near bedsides. It was in the pantry, the cellar, the backyard.”

“This magical, marvelous food on our plate, this sustenance we absorb, has a story to tell. It has a journey. It leaves a footprint. It leaves a legacy. To eat with reckless abandon, without conscience, without knowledge; folks, this ain't normal.”

“The average person is still under the aberrant delusion that food should be somebody else's responsibility until I'm ready to eat it.”

“Food security is not in the supermarket. It's not in the government. It's not at the emergency services division.



Vandana Shiva
Seed Freedom movement.
Non-cooperation - Passive resistance

Bija satyagraha is a people's movement for the resurgence of the real seed, of the intelligence of farmers to be breeders and to co-evolve with the intelligence of the seed towards diversity resilience, quality. It is a movement that springs from the higher laws of our being members of the Earth community — Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — from the higher laws of our duty to care, protect, conserve and share. The bija satyagraha pledge that our farmers take says:

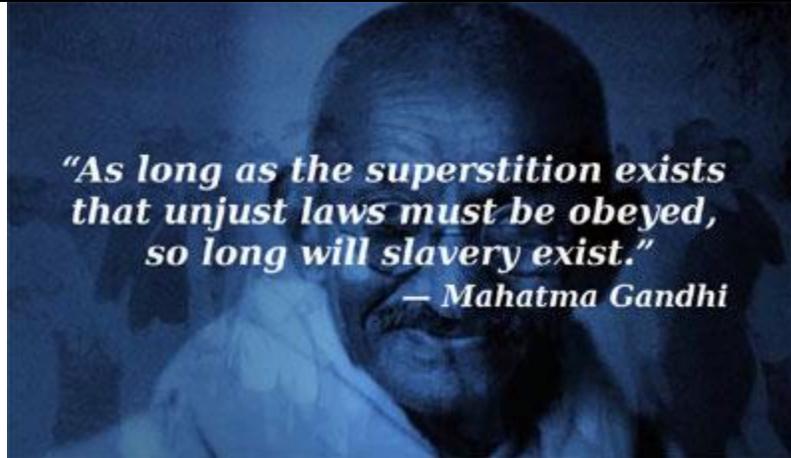
“We have received these seeds from nature and our ancestors. It is our duty to future generations to hand them over in the richness of diversity and integrity in which we received them. Therefore, we will not obey any law, or adopt any technology that interferes in our higher duties to the Earth and the

True food security is the historical normalcy of packing it in during the abundant times, building that in-house larder, and resting easy knowing that our little ones are not dependent on next week's farmers' market or the electronic cashiers at the supermarket."

future generations. We will continue to save and share our seeds."

Satyagraha, the force of truth, is more important than ever in our age of "post-truth". Satyagraha was, and has always been about awakening our conscience.

<http://seedfreedom.info/satyagraha-in-post-truth-era/>



"As long as the superstition exists that unjust laws must be obeyed, so long will slavery exist." - Mahatma Gandhi,

Gandhi called his overall method of non-violent action Satyagraha, commonly know as non-violence. Satygraha translates roughly as "Truth-force." A fuller rendering, though, would be "the force that is generated through adherence to Truth."

As Gandhi acknowledges, he did not "invent" satyagraha. He learned it from the people of India. As he writes in Hind Swaraj: "The fact is that, in India, the nation at large has generally used passive resistance in all departments of life. We cease to cooperate with our rulers when they displease us. This is passive resistance."

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
Eleanor Roosevelt

Give Peace a chance:

Some people look at this plan for self-sufficient, sustainable Homestead Communities and dismiss it as too HOPEFUL? "Oh, that sounds like Utopia, which will never happen," they say. Bring to mind that before the Dominant Dominator Culture has influenced so much, indigenous/native people have been living together, peacefully enough, and co-existing in a sustainable rhythm with their natural surroundings for many years longer.

Imagine: no countries, no wars, no need for greed or hunger, people living for today, living life in peace, sharing all the world. You may say this is dreaming, but we are legion. We the People are ready to 'Live As ONE' and be at peace. The most important place we all long for peace is in our homes and in our hearts. This is the planet of LOVE and we are Loving to live together in peace.

Why

Why do we want to live in a better way?

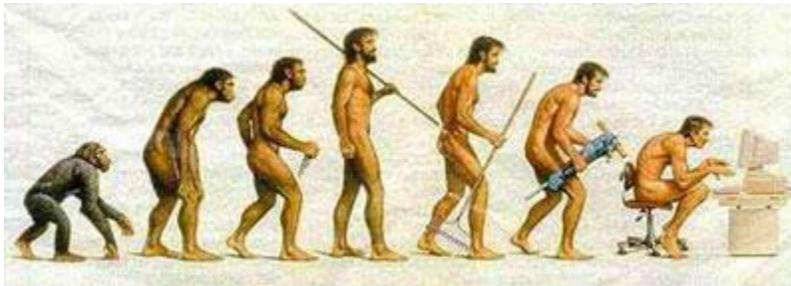
The Evolving Human

"All of the things that are given to us for free - land, air, food and water - have been taken over by governments. And all of the means of getting what we need - clothing, shelter, heat, electricity and transportation - have been taken over by corporations. The same thing that has been done to the American Indians has been done to us; we just haven't realized it yet. Now we are all left without any freedom, which was really the capability to be self-sufficient and self-sustaining. Nor do we have any real power, which is simply the ability to decide and do."

The Evolving Human – A Story of Awakening Kundalini Book by Penny Kelly page 216

<https://pennykelly.com/>

<https://pennykelly.com/my-books/the-evolving-human/>



The New Aboriginal

"a domesticated, fragile population that can no longer see what produces health. They pollute the very world they require for survival." Arthur Haines 10 minute video

<https://youtu.be/EuKW0Z6m-Do>

<http://www.arthurhaines.com/>

From Unconscious to Conscious Evolution

"So that's evolution and it's something you can do. If you just see "it's me," not something else you will evolve because once you become human you have enough awareness and consciousness to evolve consciously. When you were a monkey you did not decide "I'll become human being." Nature just pushed you on but now you're conscious enough to decide "I want to evolve from where I am to whatever is possible." Just... Just try, just maintain five minutes manage your life consciously today, you will see tomorrow morning how you will be, you'll be shining, believe me (Laughs)." Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev

<https://youtu.be/XYeUF1b7Bk>

Read Full Transcript:

<http://isha.sadhguru.org/blog/video/from-unconscious-to-conscious-evolution/>

**“As there is a technology to create external wellbeing, there is a whole dimension of science and technology to create inner wellbeing”
– Sadhguru**

Live in a Better Way

Live in a Sacred Way, with EASE (Earth As Sentient Entity), co-existing with Nature. . We are developing three important areas: **Food, Economics and Relationship.**

[Waking up to the Sacred](#) offers an expanded vision of the conscious evolution many are experiencing as we move into a more authentic, sacred lifestyle.



Awakening by [Ellen Vaman](#)

Sacred Food: Clean, flavorful, fresh food, improves our health and well being. We require nutritious food grown without toxic chemicals or GMOs - genetically modified organisms and free from earth debilitating practices. We insist on the freedom to grow and manage our own seeds. We also insist on economic access to food without artificial preservatives, sweeteners, flavors or colors.

SACRED FOODS Official Trailer

<https://youtu.be/c6ll8YiHv1o>

Food Sovereignty is also known as Food Security

“Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.”

<http://usfoodsovereigntyalliance.org/what-is-food-sovereignty/>

Award winning short film on How to be self sufficient in an urban setting with a small lot. 15 minute video

<https://youtu.be/u9xYPkSjpc0>

Sacred Economics: Relief from economic burden through other strategies, such as; gift economy, barter, local land banks, co-operative economics and more. We are changing the way money works by walking away, pulling the plug on the

plundering pirates of profit and moving toward a more local, resource based economy.

The book Sacred Economics by Charles Eisenstein is available on-line as a gift.
<http://sacred-economics.com/>

“We can see as society has become monetized, that community has disappeared. People long for it, but we can’t have community as an add-on to monetized life. We have to actually need each other.”

From Sacred Economics with Charles Eisenstein - A Short Film 12 minute video
<https://youtu.be/EEZkQv25uEs>

Sacred Relationships: Interpersonal relationships, reflecting non-violent communication, a sense of personal authenticity, grace and maturity, allowing the emergence and blossoming of full human maturity of conscious sensuality and expression. Learning to get along and play nice on the playground. Sacred sexuality is a key component of relationship.

Nonviolent Communication is a communication process. It focuses on three aspects of communication: self-empathy, empathy, and honest self-expression.
<https://www.cnvc.org/>

Sacred intimacy

Love, Sex, and Awakening: An Erotic Journey from Tantra to Spiritual Ecstasy

Book by Margot Anand (Author)

<http://www.margotanand.com/>

Workshop in Minnesota about intimacy

<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2017/03/17/tantra-intimacy-margot-anand/>

What is Sacred Sex? Find out more from the Goddess of Sacred Sex.

<https://goddessofsacredsex.com/what-is-sacred-sex/>

“sacred sex is about the consciousness and awareness which we bring to the act, elevating it from mere physical pleasure to a spiritual experience of growth, expansion and personal evolution”.

<http://www.consciouslifestylemag.com/sacred-sex-practices-tantra/>

HUMANITY, have VISION for our destiny

It’s going to take a VISION shared by the larger community willing to have noble goals and take steps to move toward them. None of us can get there alone. We have to find the way to move ahead together, in agreement.

We have a moral responsibility to build resilient communities

Thunder Valley CDC is a community development organization that is working with the local grassroots people and national organizations in the development of a sustainable regenerative community, that creates jobs, builds homes and creates a National model for alleviating poverty in America’s poorest communities.

Building Resilient Communities: A Moral Responsibility | Nick Tilsen |
 TEDxRapidCity 15 minute video
<https://youtu.be/e2Re-KrQNa4>

Nutritionally dense food is a noble goal

“Imagine a national policy to have such nutritionally dense food that people actually felt better, had more energy and weren’t sick as much. **See, that’s a noble Goal!** Joel Salatin quote from the documentary Food, Inc.

Food Inc - Official Trailer [HD] 2 minute video
https://youtu.be/eHJiNC_7wuw

People are already doing much

To make these big changes will require the agreement of many, founded upon much healing, individually and collectively. Many have laid a foundation for our return to an earth based culture.

Bioneers – Homesteaders - Permaculture practitioners continue to build and grow. So many people are doing it, or trying to. Many stand ready, longing to roll up their sleeves and get to work. Many more long for a way out of EMPIRE and can’t see past the overwhelming burden of economic realities.

We have found that the self-sufficient homestead requires the support and exchange with a larger like minded cultural community to thrive and flourish. It is based on community and the strength we draw from one another. No one is smarter than all of us. Together we can do anything. We must plan to cluster homesteads in a way that will benefit human systems and earth systems.

Bioneers are innovative groups or individuals who work to find practical solutions to environmental issues, focusing in particular on the interplay between these and other aspects of 21st century life, such as business, culture and politics. The term bioneer is formed from a blend of the words biological and pioneer.

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/us/buzzword/entries/bioneer.html>

People Are Ready

We The People have already made much progress. Many people are building earth ships, eco-villages and intentional communities. Many MORE are longing to gravitate toward a more economically viable, satisfying and friendly way of life. We, as a people in agreement, must end slavery and the desecration of our natural world. The opportunity to live RENT FREE would offer welcome financial



relief to many. In this way we achieve SALVATION. Yes, SALVATION for ALL the people.

Salvation [sal-vey-shuh n]

1. the act of saving or protecting from harm, risk, loss, destruction, etc.
2. the state of being saved or protected from harm, risk, etc.
3. a source, cause, or means of being saved or protected from harm, risk, etc.

People Want This

Community offers what people are HUNGRY for; better food, better sexuality, relaxed pace/less stress, freedom from WANT (economic viability), companionship and comfort. There is strength in numbers, and freedom in the economic security that comes from belonging to a strong, thriving community. People want to be in a space that cultivates and nurtures all of us. Offering a deeper sense of security and encouraging us to bloom into our more mature, authentic selves as human beings in relation to everything else in NATURE. This is why we are calling this RENT FREE, TAX FREE Way of Life a Safe Place to BE

Sense of Well Being

Humans crave a sense of well being. We want to believe others will care for us if we can not care for ourselves. Living inside a supportive community, and knowing that all is being done in a manner that honors the earth and does not pollute or ravage the bounty of earth's resources. We want to live without poison being dumped into our air water and earth

A Safe Place to BE

We the people want a safe place to live, to call home. We want to live better by being close to the earth as our hearts dictate. The fascist, police state of the union is unnecessarily fearful and ineffective. All people whether rich or poor are living in our collective toxic filth. This toxic filth has invaded our air, water and soil EVERYWHERE on the planet. Nuclear waste, released radioactive elements, chemicals, oil spills and germ warfare are but a few kinds of the mess floating around. Think about what's being released in those Chem-trails being sprayed by the airplanes, anyway? This is not the direction we can afford to go.

The unthinkable madness of EMPIRE seems to know no bounds, yet we know it can not and will not continue. We the people are forging ahead to create a society, a culture that reflects the advanced level of our evolution as mature, compassionate, intelligent and intuitive humans.

We MUST LIVE in a better way, close to the EARTH! Our refuge lies in the loving heart of our EARTH, GAIA, Grandmother Turtle. We do this for our children's sake.

Indonesia is returning land to the people who love it.

Saputra, in his acceptance speech in response to the handover of title by Widodo, noted that, 'Our traditional wisdom has played an important role in managing and preserving our forests. This has contributed to keeping our Earth greener and reducing the negative impacts of climate change'.

Indonesian president hands over management of forests to indigenous people

BY AMY LUMBAN GAOL AND LIA DAHLIA • FEBRUARY 15, 2017

<http://blog.worldagroforestry.org/index.php/2017/02/15/indonesian-president-hands-management-forests-indigenous-people>

Earth System Models and Human System Models

“Over the last two centuries, the impact of the Human System has grown dramatically, becoming strongly dominant within the Earth System in many different ways. Consumption, inequality, and population have increased extremely fast, especially since about 1950, threatening to overwhelm the many critical functions and ecosystems of the Earth System. Changes in the Earth System, in turn, have important feedback effects on the Human System, with costly and potentially serious consequences. However, current models do not incorporate these critical feedbacks. We argue that in order to understand the dynamics of either system, Earth System Models must be coupled with Human System Models” excerpt from article: Modeling sustainability: population, inequality, consumption, and bidirectional coupling of the Earth and Human Systems

<https://academic.oup.com/nsr/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/nsr/nww081>

We must restructure our living patterns because the culturally acceptable mode of living conflicts with basic human system needs and basic earth system needs. It is not satisfying to live with Dominators among us, they destroy, plunder and murder as a way of life. By planning communities that serve the people, all the people, we can find our way. We must find a better way to live together on this small planet.

Russian Home gardens/Household Agriculture leading the way Reconnecting to Nature through Spiritual Permaculture

“Dr. Leonid Sharashkin shows how Russian families have preserved a unique traditional lifestyle grounded in self-sufficiency and self-reliance - offering a path to a more fulfilling, independent, connected and mortgage-free existence. As millions of people the world over begin to embrace these ideas, humanity may now be entering an age of harmony and peace. This insightful presentation - revealing how we may each play our part - met with a standing ovation at the 2007 Earth Transformation Conference in Hawaii.” <https://vimeo.com/53313899>

Russian Dacha Gardening – Homescale Agriculture Feeding Everyone

“Russian household agriculture – dacha gardening – is likely the most extensive system of successful food production of any industrialized nation. This shows that highly decentralized, small-scale food production is not only possible, but

practical on a national scale and in a geographically large and diverse country with a challenging climate for growing. Most of the USA has far more than the 110 days average growing season that Russia has.”

<http://www.underwoodgardens.com/russian-dacha-gardening-homescale-agriculture-feeding-everyone/>

In 1999, 35 million small family plots produced 90% of Russia’s potatoes, 77% of vegetables, 87% of fruits, 59% of meat, 49% of milk — way to go, people!

“In 2003 the Russian President signed into law a further “Private Garden Plot Act” enabling Russian citizens to receive free of charge from the state, plots of land in private inheritable ownership. Produce grown on these plots is not subject to taxation. A further subsequent law to facilitate the acquisition of land for gardening was passed in June 2006.”

“In the 1960s the then General Secretary N.S.Khrushchov in compliance with the agricultural program in Russia began to grant private citizens six hundred square meters plot on lease in collective orchards. Such a plot was called “dacha” (a country house). In the 1990s dachas turned from a place for rest into a major means of surviving – people then were more like farmers than amateur gardeners. For most people a dacha is a place to grow vegetables, fruit, berries...”



<https://thebovine.wordpress.com/2009/08/09/in-1999-35-million-small-family-plots-produced-90-of-russias-potatoes-77-of-vegetables-87-of-fruits-59-of-meat-49-of-milk-way-to-go-people/>

Extensive scholarly report

THE SOCIOECONOMIC AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF
FOOD GARDENING IN THE VLADIMIR REGION OF RUSSIA

“The survey offers detailed information on the economic, agricultural, social, and cultural dimensions of gardening in the Vladimir region, including respondents’ adherence to a wide range of agrarian values. Based on the results, family gardening can be seen as a highly sustainable, diversified, and culturally important practice, which needs to be given due consideration by scholars and policy-makers.”

<http://www.underwoodgardens.com/downloads/Russian-Household-Gardening-Report.pdf>

Wake Up

Some people have little vision for anything except life as we know it. They think so called ‘modern comforts’ are worth the price we pay. We the People know better, we have suffered the terrible consequences of the DOMINATORS killing our people, seizing and poisoning our land, air and water. The carnage, rape and

genocide continue to this day, as I write. In fact, the travesty of Justice caused by the relentless, heartless dominator culture not only continues, it is escalating RAPIDLY! There is talk of extinction. It has happened before to dinosaurs and can happen again to humans on this planet. It even has an acronym, NTHE - Near Term Human Extinction.

<https://kevinhester.live/2016/06/02/human-extinction-by-2030-the-crisis-of-civilization/>

Lessen the suffering of the impoverished

While we are NOT planning these Communities to be homeless shelters, they will readily absorb many who are now facing desperate economic conditions. These Planned Homesteading Communities can provide for human needs at a fraction of the cost of traditional funding for the impoverished. HUD will be happy about that.

Even those often considered the lowest dregs of society; criminals, drug addicts, the mentally ill, disabled or retarded, even among these seemingly undesirable people, we continue to find people have talents, special gifts, experience and wisdom to offer a community. Everyone has talents, everyone is gifted.

Start Now, Learn As We Grow

While it takes time to be planning the community and placement of more permanent buildings and plantings, it becomes imperative to start living there in some way while building and growing. Temporary campsites and dwellings will likely be employed at the start.

EMPIRE acquires land for free or very cheap

Take time to wonder about how easy it is for the DOMINATORS to trash our National Parks. We lease them the right to Frack for mere pennies, jeopardizing the very nature of Park. Yet it seems unthinkable that people would be allowed to live in a park to protect them. Consider setting up a NO RENT Planned Homesteading Community in all the National Parks to protect them from those who would cause harm.

Case in point:

House Moves to Encourage Drilling in National Parks

<https://www.npca.org/articles/1462-house-moves-to-encourage-drilling-in-national-parks#sm.00001qhhvtxd1yd28yeskuaswlj3n>

Why Nestle pays next to nothing for Michigan groundwater

“Nestle Waters North America, the world's largest bottled water company, shipped the first bottle from its Ice Mountain plant in Stanwood in May 2002. Since then, the company has extracted billions of gallons of groundwater from underneath Michigan and has paid next to nothing for it. Michigan, a water-rich state surrounded by four of the five Great Lakes, charges high-volume, self-supplied water bottlers like Nestle and Absopure only \$200 per year in paperwork fees to operate. There's no state tax, license fee or royalty associated with the company's extraction of a precious natural resource.”

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/12/why_nestle_pays_next_to_nothin.html

HOW TO

Getting to RENT FREE

Expanding the discussion about living Rent Free and Tax Free, why and how it can work. Let's look at communities and strategies already in motion toward Affordable Housing and sustainable self-sufficiency.

True Stories

Bob's business is Affordable Housing

There is a gentleman we'll call Bob, who describes himself as having deep pockets, meaning he believes he has lots of money. He lives in a very nice, yet not overly ostentatious home. He loves spending time with family and friends, especially his grandchildren. Some might say he 'flips houses' yet he would describe himself as involved in providing Affordable Housing. He is not affiliated with any charitable activity. This is his method of making money.

In some ways Bob is like a bank. There are some people who can not or will not deal with a bank, for any number of reasons. This is especially true for the folks shopping for low income homes. Banks can make things very difficult for certain people to get a mortgage, especially so on the low income properties. Often enough mortgage plans will fall apart after the inspection required before the bank will lend money. Many Real Estate agents would rather not be bothered with homes that sell for under \$100K. Bob makes it possible for people to buy a home at a price they can afford. His business is both buying and selling homes. He offers the homes on land contract. I know Bob personally because he helped sell my home after it went into foreclosure in 2014. Thanks to Bob I came out way better than if I had sold my home the 'regular' way.

The point of this story is that a person or a community could become 'like a bank'. In terms of the business of buying and selling homes it would be most appealing to be able to deal with a friendly local person to iron out the details. Help us all get past traditional obstacles to financing.

Any community could start something like this on a shoestring and it can grow over time into managing a larger amount of properties. It naturally follows that this could be a way to finance the birth and growth of a Planned Homesteading Community.

Church - Affordable Housing is as important as fulfilling spiritual needs

Lily of the Valley, a church in Covert Michigan purchased a dilapidated residential property for one dollar. Surprisingly, it is possible to buy real estate; a house and land for a dollar. The bank named Chemical Bank was kind enough to basically donate a property that was hard to sell anyway. The church community worked together, raised funds for repairs and paid some homeless folks to do the work. The home was given to a homeless family. They don't pay rent; they pay into a fund to buy and repair more homes like this. The family will never be evicted if they can not pay rent. The church is continuing to acquire more homes, creating a thriving neighborhood where before it was not.

Now they are turning a church into apartments.

"Our church mission is to empower people to propel to the next dimension both naturally and spiritually," he said.

Helping to ensure people in Covert can live in well-built affordable homes is just as important as fulfilling their spiritual needs, Rev. Darryl Williams said.

It's not what the pastor pictured

But turning Covert church into housing might honor his calling

http://www.heraldpalladium.com/news/local/it-s-not-what-the-pastor-pictured/article_dce3f431-c21b-57ce-ad0b-690c00e88cda.html

Well House, believes the solution to homelessness is housing

Well House in Grand Rapids Michigan is working with the Community Foundation to buy dilapidated homes and fix them up. They are doing a great job.

<http://www.wellhousegr.org/>

“There are hundreds of abandoned houses in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There are also hundreds of homeless people. A local nonprofit made the obvious connection: With a relatively small investment, it realized, it could buy the houses, fix them up, and give homeless people a very cheap place to live.”

“Since 2013, the organization has purchased 10 houses from a local land bank and plans to purchase another next month”

In Grand Rapids, This Nonprofit Buys Abandoned Houses For The Homeless For Well House, the model is simple: give people a decent place to live and the rest will follow.

<https://www.fastcoexist.com/3064104/in-grand-rapids-this-nonprofit-buys-abandoned-houses-for-the-homeless>

Considering Alternative Economic Arrangements

Rolling Jubilee -

Alternative approaches to alleviating debt can be applied to managing the acquisition of property for the Planned Homesteading Community Rolling Jubilee

<http://rollingjubilee.org/>

Debt Collective

<https://debtcollective.org/>

A 99 year lease

Land Contract

Land Trust



Well House – Grand Rapids Michigan

From Humble Roots

Marion Meade purchased the first home in 1977 for \$350. Yes, three hundred and fifty US dollars bought this home.

She called it Well House.

“The inspiration for the name Well House, was Wallhouse located in

Land Banks

Revitalizing Blighted Communities with Land Banks

<http://www.umich.edu/~econdev/landbank/>

What is a land bank?

A land bank is a public authority created to efficiently hold, manage and develop tax-foreclosed property.(1) Land banks act as a legal and financial mechanism to transform vacant, abandoned and tax-foreclosed property back to productive use. Generally, land banks are funded by local governments' budgets or the management and disposition of tax-foreclosed property.(2) In addition, a land bank is a powerful locational incentive, which encourages redevelopment in older communities that generally have little available land and neighborhoods that have been blighted by an out-migration of residents and businesses.(3) While a land bank provides short-term fiscal benefits, it can also act as a tool for planning long-term community development. Successful land bank programs revitalize blighted neighborhoods and direct reinvestment back into these neighborhoods to support their long-term community vision.

Tiny Homes – Got to LOVE them, so cute!

Austin Texas has already started a tiny home community. While not planned specifically to be sustainable or self-sufficient, yet offers insight about getting a similar project in motion.

<https://austintlivework.com/>

Torpichen, Scotland. Wallhouse belonged to Marian’s family for more than three hundred years until its sale in 1904, and offered ‘protection and refuge.’ In keeping with the mission of the original Well House, Marian opened her home to others in need of comfort and protection.”

An Urban Homesteader

Marian’s style of living emphasized living gently on the earth and with each other. Marian repaired her home using recycled materials, and heated it with a wood furnace. She showered in her greenhouse, and composted under the sink, recycling water to water the greenhouse garden, kept goats for milk and cheese, and maintained a garden growing alongside the house. She purchased an adjacent lot for \$1.00 and planted fruit trees, and used a 55-gallon metal drum to create a sawdust commode, in which the sawdust organically decomposed waste in an environmentally friendly way. What’s more she did all this on an SSI stipend.

The Community Expands

In 1991, the Well House community expanded with the purchase of a second house, and in 1992, the city of Grand Rapids donated a third home—in an unusual manner. The home was scheduled for demolition, but Marian requested that the money allocated for its demolition be used to move it to the Well House campus, where it was renovated using funds from area supporters.

In 1994, Marian received the Jefferson Award for Public Service, garnering her national recognition for her long-term dedication to help others. Unfortunately, in 1996, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, which she fought for a year,

<p>Tiny House - Community First Village Austin, TX https://youtu.be/N_6BWKgbrHw</p>	<p>entering the hospital only one day prior to her passing. Marian Clements literally helped others until the day she died.</p>
<p>For This Texas Town, Tiny Houses May Signal a Return to Relevance NBC Nightly News https://youtu.be/riHcQDJZmPE</p>	<p>“I didn’t want to be at the end of my life and say I’d done nothing with it.” http://www.wellhousegr.org/about/from-humble-roots/</p>

Some communities may choose to be religious or spiritual in nature and use land already held as non-profit. The Hare Krishna communities are an example of community styled with a shared religious focus. The Amish are another example of living a sustainable lifestyle in a community with a shared religious focus.

The journey to become RENT FREE and TAX FREE may turn out to be easier than expected. It is a process to move from one way of being to another. Take baby steps in the right direction.

Look at alternate local economic models

A gift economy, gift culture, or gift exchange is a mode of exchange where valuables are not traded or sold, but rather given without an explicit agreement for immediate or future rewards. This contrasts with a barter economy or a market economy, where goods and services are primarily exchanged for value received. – Wikipedia

Raising community awareness and support

Each community that wants to move in the direction of sustainability will want to find out who is already doing what. It is surprising how many people are already involved in one way or another. Many communities have a variety of groups in place already. Permaculture programs and related activities are occurring around the globe. Get to know your neighbors and their interests. Offer programs to show some of the available videos followed by discussion.

For example, KoKo attended a permaculture gathering in Florida in March of 2017. One fellow talked about his 40 acres and how he would like to use it for this sort of thing, but hasn’t a solid idea of how that might work. Another woman mentioned that she owns about 5 acres that she inherited and is paying taxes on, and it is filled with bamboo. Singularly, we bring different skills and property to the table. Bonding into community makes us stronger. Take time to look for what is already available in your home community.

Get as many people involved at the start. Listen and respond to every person’s needs and fears. Move toward working together as a win-win situation for all.

FUNDING KICKSTART

This plan comes with a gift we are calling SEED MONEY. Anonymous donors have already sweetened the ante. Three million dollars have been pledged to assist making this VISION into a reality. Starting the first few Planned Homesteading Communities will require extra effort. After that the way will be paved for others to see how necessary, sensible and affordable this really IS. We will be carefully selecting three sites based on the community, goals and nature of plan. Each site will receive one million dollars and additional mentoring services to assure success for all.

Interested communities can inquire for more details about preparing a proposal. We have Permaculture consultants available to provide mentoring in preparing a plan and simply kicking around ideas specific to your climate and culture. Intention to prepare a plan is the first step in getting invited to be considered for this award. We have experts in newer technologies eager for a platform to implement solutions.

Short Documentary

This short documentary is an inspiration and will help us realize just how straightforward and beneficial it can be to implement Permaculture principles, anywhere in the world.

From the Mara Soil - a Film About Simple and Natural Solutions to Poverty, Hunger and Disease 40 minute video

Global hunger, poverty and disease could be solved with resources already at our disposal. Film transports us to a community in rural Tanzania that is doing just that - solving humanity's greatest challenges with simple, natural and affordable solutions.

<https://youtu.be/5AaYsZYz3VI>

IN CONCLUSION

In order to live in a manner that honors the earth, natural law, and a more mature approach to harvesting the bounty and sharing it, we must look at every aspect of our current approach to living together on a small planet. Expecting that there will always be more, especially of fossil fuels, is folly. Infinite growth, financial pyramid-Ponzi schemes must eventually fall apart. In this time of great change, much is new or different. The information age has brought an intriguing set of possibilities.

Money is worshiped like a God. Those who have lots of money are treated as superiors and encouraged to continue pillaging for profit. Most decisions are based on profitability; little thought is given to benefits to the Planet or the many life forms living here.

The natural balance has been disturbed enough to warrant actually thinking about the possibility of Near Term Extinction. Not extinction of a few exotic

species of bugs and lizards, rather we are looking at death to the entire web of life from the mess released by the 'business as usual' of EMPIRE.

As EMPIRES will rise, so will they *fail*. Those of us watching the demise of the 'Trumped UP EMPIRE' long for a SAFE PLACE TO BE. We are NOT in agreement with an EMPIRE that believes in FEAR and WORRY, GREED and HATE. We require common land for living in a better way. The biggest obstacles, mostly just zoning issues, and cultural constraints will not hold us back. Natural law will guide us, the ridiculous and wasteful human laws and practices will fall away. Just leave behind what no longer serves US. The outdated culture of domination has corralled many into believing there is no other way AND the 'toxic' way things are now...is how things will always be.

We CAN do better, living rent free in a safe place to be.

This is Grandma KoKo, Ambassador of the Shift, your scout in the emerging culture of Conscious Compassion and this is my report.

April 17, 2017

Updated May 26, 2017

