

# SUSTAINABILITY IN COMMUNITY

(Wisdom of Communities, Volume 4)

## CONTENTS

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
 <b>I. FOOD, WATER, AND PERMACULTURE</b>	
<b>Community Composting: A Transformative Practice.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Communities</i> 143, 48–51	Jason Grubb and Mason Vollmer
At Camphill Soltane, composting is both a metaphor for and essential element in the process of building community.	
<b>Water Is Life .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Communities</i> 143, 42–43	Leila Dregger
In southern Portugal, the Tamera community creates a model for reversing desertification and enhancing regional food autonomy.	
<b>Food Security in Community.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Communities</i> 144, 54–56, 79	Blake Cothron
In increasingly difficult times, growing our own food in community can be the best form of food security. Lessons learned from other groups can help our own gardens and communities bloom.	
<b>To Learn Sustainability Is To Learn Community: An Example from South Portugal.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>Communities</i> 147, 26–29	Leila Dregger
Strained by difficult economic and ecological conditions, farmers Claudio and Fernando discover new avenues toward prosperity and land restoration through alliances with a peace community dedicated to regional renewal.	
<b>The Gift of Compost .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<i>Communities</i> 152, 37	Jesse Harasta
To the Compostmeister at a collective house, the cycles of compost embody a new economics that focuses upon human needs and relationships.	
<b>Permaculture at The Farm: Climate Prophylaxis.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<i>Communities</i> 153, 24–26	Albert Bates
Drawing on its long association with permaculture, The Farm in Tennessee institutes on-the-ground projects designed to provide resilience in times of climate change.	
<b>Hugelkultur on the Prairie, or Learning from Our Mistakes .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>Communities</i> 153, 30–31	Alyson Ewald
Degraded slopes, crumbling logs, plenty of trench-digging, seven blueberry plants, and an unanticipated drought combine to teach some important lessons.	
<b>The Future of Water:</b>	
<b>Halting desertification, restoring ecosystems, and nourishing communities .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>Communities</i> 153, 32, 74	Jeff Anderson
Working with permaculturalist Sepp Holzer, Tamera Peace Research Center in Portugal dramatically increases the water in its landscape, restoring soil fertility and demonstrating techniques with worldwide application.	



<b>Permaculture on Low to No Budget .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<i>Communities</i> 153, 33–35	Elizabeth Barrette
By following basic principles, taking advantage of money-saving ideas, and involving the local community, we can start functional permaculture landscapes with little or no money.	
<b>Permaculture as a Tool for Ecological Community Design.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<i>Communities</i> 153, 50–53	Ethan Hirsch-Tauber
A veteran of educational programs at Auroville in India and Sirius Community in Massachusetts applies permaculture principles to the creation of dynamic, regenerative communities.	
<b>How Permaculture Stole My Community! .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<i>Communities</i> 153, 54–55	Arjuna da Silva
After a painful period stranded in “permaculture heaven,” an Earthaven founder finds her community finally moving back towards balance with its eco-spiritual roots.	
<b>Doing It, or Are We? .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<i>Communities</i> 153, 46–47	Tracy Matfin with Dona Willoughby
On Hawaii’s Big Island, La’akea Community explores sustainability through myriad experiments—from keeping wild pet pigs in the garden to eating 100 percent locally to mowing with sheep.	
<b>Southern Exposure Seed Exchange Wrestles with Growth.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<i>Communities</i> 163, 16–17	Irena Hollowell
For an income-sharing group in Virginia, economic success presents challenges and opportunities.	
<b>The Dirty Business of Growing a Cohousing Community Farm.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<i>Communities</i> 163, 29–33	Sandy Thomson
A farm is not a clod of dirt; it is more like mud that slips through your hands, gets on your boots, and is tracked all through the community.	
<b>Recipe for Community .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<i>Communities</i> 167, 8	Chris Roth
Food is often at the center of our interdependence as human beings—a potent force in bringing us together and in helping us understand and define who we are together.	
<b>How the Kitchen Is the Heart of a Community .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<i>Communities</i> 167, 10–11	Devon Bonady
A shared kitchen provides not just physical sustenance, but emotional benefits and greater connection to our food and one another.	
<b>Cookin’ Dinner for the Revolution .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<i>Communities</i> 167, 12–14	Jesika Feather
A vibrant, reliable, and nourishing home-base can provide activists with a much-needed feeling of sustainability.	
<b>Hot Topic, Raw Emotion, and the Spice of Life: Chewing over Food Choice in Community ....</b>	<b>56</b>
<i>Communities</i> 167, 18–21	Tracy Matfin
At La’akea, members’ various approaches to food reflect the quest for emotional as well as physical sustainability.	
<b>My Journey with Food in Community: A Banquet, in Five Courses.....</b>	<b>60</b>
<i>Communities</i> 167, 22–25	Gigi Wahba
Whether among families, friends, communitarians, or neighbors, food has many roles and provides critical context for community functioning.	



<b>Make Food, Make Hygge, Make Happy.....</b>	<b>64</b>
<i>Communities 167, 26–27</i>	Jane Moran
The art of creating intimacy, conviviality, and contentment is an essential ingredient in vibrant community.	
<b>Discovering the Joy of Communal Food:</b>	
<b>Camaraderie and Work at Maitreya Mountain Village .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<i>Communities 167, 28</i>	Dan Schultz
A community pioneer finds greater satisfaction in becoming less independent.	
<b>The Community's Garden Orchestra.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<i>Communities 167, 32–35</i>	Chris Roth
Engaging in collective food-production is like making our own music together: it's both difficult and rewarding, especially with diverse players involved.	
<b>How Do We Eat As If We Plan to Be Here for Another 10,000 Years?</b>	
<b>Cultivating Food Culture in Stewardship of Place .....</b>	<b>72</b>
<i>Communities 167, 36–38</i>	Olivia Rathbone
The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center suggests that in addressing the eco-crisis (or "crisis of home"), the best place to start may be around the dinner table.	
<b>Fours Ways to Grow at Heartwood.....</b>	<b>75</b>
<i>Communities 167, 39–41</i>	Sandy Thomson
Small to large in scale, and solo to collective in orientation, a palette of gardening and farming options helps feed this cohousing community.	
<b>Belfast Ecovillage Produces Farm.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<i>Communities 167, 46</i>	Sarah Lozanova
Twenty-two members in a 36-unit ecovillage contribute to maintaining a Community Supported Agriculture farm on land that they own collectively.	
<b>The Balancing Act of Farming in Community.....</b>	<b>79</b>
<i>Communities 167, 47–51</i>	Coleen O'Connell
Is Cobb Hill a model of how to do community and farming cooperatively, or a case study in their challenges?	
<b>Cardboard, Control, and Catch-22s: Community and the Food Production Dilemma .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<i>Communities 167, 52–54</i>	Moss Mulligan
Even our best-intentioned gardening and farming methods may be more a part of the problem than the solution.	
<b>Glimpsing the Wild Within: the Sacred Violence of Eating .....</b>	<b>87</b>
<i>Communities 167, 55–57</i>	Lindsay Hagamen
Embracing the eternal dance of Life transforming itself from one form to another also means accepting our own sometimes-bloody struggle to survive.	
<b>Cool Pickles.....</b>	<b>90</b>
<i>Communities 167, 60</i>	Albert Bates
Good for the soil, the climate, and our digestive tracts, biochar often finds itself in a pickle at The Farm.	
<b>Small and Large Miracles: Food, Land, and Community at Kibbutz Lotan.....</b>	<b>91</b>
<i>Communities 167, 61–62</i>	Alex Cicelsky
Food production, permaculture, and communal meals are at the heart and economic center of this group's life.	



- Celebrating the Local, Shared Bounty at Groundswell Cohousing..... 93**  
*Communities* 167, 63 Julia Jongkind  
 The love of food—growing it, eating it, sharing and preserving it—has been what holds these cohousers together through thick and thin.

## II. SHELTER AND ECO-BUILDING

- Beyond Sustainability: Building for Health..... 97**

*Communities* 147, 60–64

Julie Genser

People with environmental intolerances could be a perfect match for intentional community living if their needs were better understood and met there. Are communities willing to educate themselves and perhaps stretch their definitions of “sustainability” in order to accommodate the environmentally ill?

- Tiny Houses as Appropriate Technology ..... 102**

*Communities* 165, 54–59

Mary Murphy

Tiny houses are simple, homemade solutions that solve housing problems, increase our sustainability, and add a little more beauty and fun to the world.

- It Takes All Kinds to Raise a Village ..... 108**

*Communities* 168, 17–19

Melanie Rios

After an engaged local citizenry creates cultural shifts, a city endorses rather than prosecutes code-bending strategies that promote resilient community.

- My Struggle to Legalize Sustainable Living ..... 111**

*Communities* 168, 22–25

Graham Ellis

After nearly three decades of activity, a pioneering eco-community collapses under the weight of legal attacks by a small group of neighbors.

### Adventures of the Mini Moon:

- Realities of building your own earthen house with reused materials and volunteer labor..... 115**

*Communities* 179, 8–11

Jenny Leis

Becoming a general contractor for a project way beyond one's abilities can be a powerful, humbling, community-building learning adventure, especially when the house is made of horse manure.

- Building Collectively Is Greener, Easier, and Cheaper ..... 120**

*Communities* 179, 12–15

Jenny Pickerill

Eco-building in community offers both opportunities and challenges, benefits and potential drawbacks, as compared to doing it alone.

- Harmonious Homemade Habitat ..... 124**

*Communities* 179, 16–18

Laura Harris

Having built the strawbale house of her dreams, a Tolstoy Farm resident encourages others to use natural building and eco-materials to construct durable, nontoxic, low-impact, energy-efficient, and creative structures.

- Building in an Ecovillage: Lessons Learned..... 127**

*Communities* 179, 19–21

Tony “Papa Bear” Barrett

Yes, you can build your own house; you don't have to do it alone; you don't have to do it all...and 18 more tips from a professional builder who learned his trade at Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage.

- Ionia's Barn Project: Where Community and Natural Building Meet ..... 130**

*Communities* 179, 22–25

Eliza Eller

At this cooperative ecovillage, the barn is magical, a space that will make a liberating special meeting area, meditation nook, reading loft, and more...once, after nine long years of building, it is done.



<b>Building with Respect</b> .....	134
<i>Communities</i> 179, 26–28	Alexis Zeigler
Green building could be our salvation or hasten our destruction, depending on what we pursue and how. Here are a dozen suggestions to make the former more likely.	

<b>Eco-Building at the Ecovillage (I Have Built a Home)</b> .....	137
<i>Communities</i> 179, 29–31	Arjuna da Silva
At Earthaven Ecovillage, the experience of planning, building, working with others, and living in the sensual, earthy “Leela” — part temple, part hideaway — proves to be a dream come true.	

<b>Good Neighbours with Earth:</b>	
<b>Using natural building materials in community-scale construction</b> .....	140
<i>Communities</i> 179, 32–35	Robin Allison
Earthsong Eco-Neighbourhood offers their mistakes, successes, and learnings in the hope of encouraging the wider use of natural building materials and systems in cohousing projects.	

<b>A High-Performance Building for Cohousing: From Vision to Move-In</b> .....	145
<i>Communities</i> 179, 36–41	Michael Mariano
So you want to design, build, and live in community in the most ecologically positive building that can be built? After a decade-long pursuit of that goal, a co-creator of Capitol Hill Urban Cohousing recounts lessons learned along the way.	

<b>From Blight to Beautiful: Renovating an Urban House By and For Community</b> .....	151
<i>Communities</i> 179, 42–45	Lindsay Speer
An overgrown lot with a dilapidated house transforms into an urban permaculture oasis thanks to the efforts of the Bread and Roses Collective in Syracuse, New York.	

### III. ENERGY AND ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

<b>Sharing and Climate Change</b> .....	157
<i>Communities</i> 143, 16–17	Bucket Von Harmony
A simple solution could drastically reduce the energy consumption and carbon emissions of the modern citizen, and it does not require new technology or a drastic reduction in quality of life. We all learned about it in Kindergarten, and statistics from Twin Oaks prove its effectiveness.	

<b>Revolutionary Communitarianism?</b> .....	159
<i>Communities</i> 143, 18–19	Alexis Zeigler
The author’s activist friends in rural Virginia turn out to have <i>above</i> American average per-capita energy use. Intentional communities, with shockingly lower energy footprints, are the sleeping giant of the conservation movement.	

<b>Cars and Rabbits</b> .....	161
<i>Communities</i> 143, 20–21	Alline Anderson
What separates the men from the boys, the wheat from the chaff, the truly eco-concerned from the cotton-headed ninny-muggins? Car use. Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage has honed the practice of car-sharing to an art.	

<b>Ecovillages, How Ecological Are You?</b> .....	163
<i>Communities</i> 143, 22–24	Prudence-Elise Breton
The author finds that ecovillages can play powerful roles in the social transition to sustainability, but need to pay attention to quantification and evaluation to match their results to their intentions and become meaningful examples.	



<b>Findhorn's Incredible Shrinking Footprint</b> .....	166
<i>Communities</i> 143, 26–27, 71	Jonathan Dawson
With the lowest ecological footprint of any ever measured in the industrialized world, a Scottish community finds it's time to re-invent itself once again in response to climate change.	
<b>Svanholm in Denmark Goes Carbon-Neutral</b> .....	169
<i>Communities</i> 144, 57	Christina Adler Jensen
Denmark's largest intentional community and ecovillage adopts innovative technologies to save energy resources and become carbon-neutral.	
<b>Car-Reduced and Car-Free Rural Communities</b> .....	170
<i>Communities</i> 147, 58–59, 79	Greg Ramsey
In the quest to create eco-communities that can lead us toward a sustainable future, nothing is more important than reducing car dependence—and fortunately, we already know how.	
<b>Community Makes Renewable Energy Work</b> .....	173
<i>Communities</i> 161, 8–11	Alexis Zeigler
Living Energy Farm embodies the promise of renewable energy used cooperatively.	
<b>Putting Our Lives on the Line</b> .....	177
<i>Communities</i> 161, 12–13	Josina Guess
Jubilee Partners' clothesline does more than dry clothes with solar power; it helps build community.	
<b>Generating Your Own Electricity: Why and How</b> .....	179
<i>Communities</i> 161, 24–25	Mary Wildfire
Every community can benefit from producing renewable power.	
<b>Going For the Grid: A Community Ditches Energy Independence to Get Greener.</b> .....	181
<i>Communities</i> 161, 26–29, 75	Sarah Stoner
After three decades off-grid in Washington state, Walker Creek members decide on-grid living is more sustainable.	
<b>Burlington Cohousing's Excellent Solar Adventures</b> .....	186
<i>Communities</i> 161, 30–33	Don Schramm
When community members want to place "private" panels on "public" roofs, don't expect clear sailing.	
<b>Establishing and Incorporating Renewable Energy Technologies in Camphill Communities: A Personal Journey</b> .....	190
<i>Communities</i> 161, 34–35	Martin Sturm
Introducing renewable power can require not only technical expertise, but group dynamics skills.	
<b>Energy Efficient Heating, Renewable Electricity, and Community Renaissance at ZEGG</b> .....	192
<i>Communities</i> 161, 36–37, 77	Achim Ecker
A German ecovillage derives new energy from a solar-assisted biogas plant, photovoltaic panels, and holacracy.	
<b>Energy Efficiency in Cohousing</b> .....	195
<i>Communities</i> 161, 48–49	Charles Durrett
Sustainability is embedded in community—even without a minus-\$88-per-year electric bill.	
<b>The Sun Touches Heartwood</b> .....	197
<i>Communities</i> 161, 50–51	Richard Grossman
A Colorado cohousing group learns and grows along with its renewable energy systems.	
<b>The Personal and the Planetary: Spiritual and Planetary Renewal at Lama Foundation</b> .....	200
<i>Communities</i> 161, 52–53	Scott Shuker
In northern New Mexico, active and passive solar meet almost all of a community's energy needs.	



- Loving Earth Sanctuary: Two Women's Quest for a Low-Tech Life** ..... 202  
*Communities* 165, 38–41 Gloria Wilson  
 A forming community in the hills of California's Central Coast encounters both challenges and blessings in the pursuit of radical simplicity.
- Technology in Service of Community** ..... 207  
*Communities* 165, 47–51 Lindsay Hagamen and Walt Patrick  
 Windward develops appropriate technology with the goal of creating a localized village-scale energy system that can be replicated by rural communities around the world.
- Life with the Solar Kitchen** ..... 212  
*Communities* 165, 52–53, 75 Frederick Weihe  
 The Tamera Solar Village combines solar thermal and biogas technologies to create a kitchen that not only promotes responsible relationships to the earth and sky, but also builds human community.
- Living Energy Farm: An Answer for Climate Change** ..... 216  
*Communities* 174, 12–15 Alexis Zeigler  
 A fossil-fuel-free community empowers its members to dramatically reduce their dependence on the corporate economy.
- Limiting the Damage of Climate Change: Lessons from Dancing Rabbit** ..... 220  
*Communities* 174, 16–21 Ma'ikwe Ludwig  
 Committed communitarians cut their carbon emissions to around 10 percent of the American average.
- Addressing Climate Change: Two Generations at Heart-Culture Farm Community** ..... 226  
*Communities* 174, 25–27 Kara Huntermoon  
 For the next generation, planting trees, growing food, and living in community are only the start.
- Eco-Energy at Heartwood Cohousing** ..... 229  
*Communities* 179, 66–67 Richard Grossman and the Common Facilities Team  
 of Heartwood Cohousing  
 Even if a person or community cannot afford the infrastructure to provide renewable energy at the time of building, they can build in such a way that it is easy to add later.
- **Creating Budgetary Line Items for Ecological Upgrades**—Maraiah Lynn Nadeau

#### IV. ECOVILLAGE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Triumphs and Struggles at Los Angeles Eco-Village** ..... 233  
*Communities* 140, 16–20 Alison Rosenblatt and Lois Arkin  
 An urban community engages with its neighborhood to confront local issues.
- Ecologically Speaking Communities** ..... 238  
*Communities* 141, 55–57 Kate Reidel  
 Awakening to their society's environmental impacts, residents of Enright Ridge Urban Eco-Village build community while fostering a sustainable urban neighborhood.
- An Ecovillage Future** ..... 241  
*Communities* 156, 11 Chris Roth  
 For the health of our species and the planet, we need ecovillages.
- Off the Grid and Out of the Trash Can** ..... 242  
*Communities* 156, 14–16 Arjuna da Silva  
 Earthaven members derive sustenance, energy, interconnection, and inspiration from Earth, Wind, Sun, Water, and Fire.



<b>Aspiring to the Working Class</b> .....	245
<i>Communities</i> 156, 17–19	Lee Walker Warren
By learning necessary physical skills, these ecovillagers transcend the limitations of their middle-class educations.	
<b>Ecovillage Infrastructure: The Skeleton of Community</b> .....	248
<i>Communities</i> 156, 22–23, 74	Gwendolyn Hallsmith
Water supply, human waste treatment, zoning regulations, legal structure, homeownership models, and other core technical issues are essential in ecovillage planning.	
<b>From Camp to Village</b> .....	251
<i>Communities</i> 156, 24–25, 75	Andrew Heben
The ecovillage movement can assist organized tent villages to address homelessness and sustainability together.	
<b>Good Neighbors: Top 10 Reasons to Live Next to an Ecovillage</b> .....	254
<i>Communities</i> 156, 26–28	Alyson Ewald
A communitarian discovers the best place on Earth to live.	
<b>Getting Ecovillages Noticed</b> .....	257
<i>Communities</i> 156, 29–33	Alex Whitcroft
Minor cultural shifts, including overcoming fear of specialists and regulations, could help ecovillages increase their public influence in major ways.	
<b>Creating eCohousing</b> .....	262
<i>Communities</i> 156, 34–35	Vivian Vaillant
The Yarrow Ecovillage uses the cohousing model to create ecological buildings that meet their occupants' needs.	
<b>Coming of Age: 21 Years of EcoVillage Planning and Living</b> .....	264
<i>Communities</i> 156, 36–40	Liz Walker
In Ithaca, New York, a pioneering project continues to break new ground in ecological design, education, and community.	
<b>Growing Up in EcoVillage at Ithaca</b> .....	269
<i>Communities</i> 156, 41	Allegra Willett
A homeschooler appreciates her ecovillage childhood and the love of exploration it has nurtured in her.	
<b>Fifty Years On: Living Now in the Findhorn Foundation Community</b> .....	270
<i>Communities</i> 156, 42–43, 76	Lisa Sutherland
This influential Scottish ecovillage pursues sustainability that is not just environmental, but also spiritual, social, and economic.	
<b>Earthsong Eco-Neighbourhood— Rebuilding Community within the City</b> .....	273
<i>Communities</i> 156, 44–46	Robin Allison
In a neighborhood outside Auckland, Australia, community and eco-living prove mutually reinforcing.	
<b>Dandelion Village: Building an Ecovillage in Town</b> .....	276
<i>Communities</i> 156, 47–48, 77	Maggie Sullivan
Aspiring communitarians rally support and navigate the legal hoops to establish an ecovillage in Bloomington, Indiana.	
<b>Living the Questions</b> .....	279
<i>Communities</i> 156, 52–54	Coleen O'Connell
Belfast Cohousing & Ecovillage grapples with obstacles to create a visionary housing project in rural Maine.	



<b>Nashira: An Ecovillage from the Grassroots.</b> .....	282
<i>Communities</i> 156, 56–57	Giovanni Ciarlo
Founded and run by low-income women heads of households, an urban ecovillage in Colombia shows the promise of cooperative local self-empowerment.	
<b>Ecovillages and the FIC.</b> .....	284
<i>Communities</i> 171, 6–7	Sky Blue
Ecovillages embody one of the most contemporary and nuanced approaches to collective living.	
<b>Around the World in 80 Pages.</b> .....	286
<i>Communities</i> 171, 8	Chris Roth
To understand the scope and the potential of the ecovillage movement, we need to look worldwide.	
<b>Overcoming Apartheid—the Global Ecovillage Network.</b> .....	287
<i>Communities</i> 171, 10–12	Kosha Anja Joubert
Communities worldwide are exploring how to heal our separation from each other and the natural world.	
<b>Ecovillages Worldwide—Local Solutions for Global Problems.</b> .....	291
<i>Communities</i> 171, 18–20	Leila Dregger
A wide array of ecovillages throughout the Global North and South address our shared challenges.	
<b>Creating Carbon-Negative Communities:</b>	
<b>Ecovillages and the UN's New Sustainable Development Goals</b> .....	294
<i>Communities</i> 171, 24–27	Rob Wheeler
Diverse ecovillages are modeling how to create more just, equitable, and sustainable human societies.	
<b>Learning in Ecovillages AND Getting a College Degree</b> .....	298
<i>Communities</i> 171, 32–35, 76	Karen Stupski and Giovanni Ciarlo
Pursuing holistic education through ecovillage immersion experiences can be both challenging and rewarding.	
<b>Yarrow Ecovillage: Cohousing as a Building Block to the Ecovillage</b> .....	303
<i>Communities</i> 171, 41–43, 77	Charles Durrett and Katie McCamant
A Canadian community pioneers ecovillage zoning while incorporating both intergenerational and senior cohousing.	
<b>Want an Ecovillage? Stay Put!</b> .....	307
<i>Communities</i> 171, 44	Abeja Hummel
How can we care for a place if we're not there, day after day, year after year, paying attention?	
<b>Land and Culture Collaboration.</b> .....	309
<i>Communities</i> 171, 45–48	Tom Shaver
Emerald Earth Sanctuary explores how to engage constructively with its northern California ecosystem.	
<b>Cloughjordan Ecovillage:</b>	
<b>Modeling the Transition to a Low-Carbon Society.</b> .....	313
<i>Communities</i> 171, 49–53	Peadar Kirby
Irish ecovillagers achieve the smallest ecological footprints recorded in their country.	
<b>True Sustainability: Indigenous Pathways.</b> .....	318
<i>Communities</i> 171, 54–55	Dan Schultz
At Maitreya Mountain Village, mainstream pragmatism meets radical idealism.	



## V. ECO-EDUCATION

- Seeking an Alternative Education** ..... 323  
*Communities* 143, 58–59 Alison Cole  
What's a verb to do in a land of harsh nouns, industrial adjectives, and wasteful superlatives? Two students look for answers in an Indian reforestation project.
- Education for Sustainability** ..... 326  
*Communities* 147, 14–15 Chris Roth  
Eco-educational programs in community give us direct experience of a hopeful reality: one person at a time, one step at a time, from the ground up, the world does change.
- Live and Learn: O.U.R. Ecovillage Builds Learning Community** ..... 328  
*Communities* 147, 16–17, 74 Elke Cole with Javan Kerby Bernakevitch  
The residents of an eco-oriented, education-focused intentional community and demonstration site wear many hats, both public and private.
- Teaching Hands-On Workshops in Community** ..... 331  
*Communities* 147, 18–25 Michael G. Smith  
One-day workshops, two-week intensives, two-month apprenticeships, season-long internships, work parties, work exchanges, and other hands-on learning programs all offer unique benefits and challenges for both participants and intentional community members. A veteran teacher and natural builder shares his experiences from Emerald Earth Sanctuary.
- Seeing the Good in the World:**  
**Connecting Communities and Students for Sustainability Education and Transformation** .... 339  
*Communities* 147, 30–31, 75 Joshua Lockyer  
After several years teaching about community in the abstract, an anthropologist and environmental studies teacher finds that direct student engagement with intentional communities provides the spark needed for personal inspiration, connection, and the potential for social transformation.
- Sustainability: Reflections from an Eco-Warrior** ..... 342  
*Communities* 147, 32–33, 76 Bruce Davidson  
A cofounder of Sirius Community traces his path to a broadened understanding of sustainability—one which depends, more than anything else, on a change of consciousness.
- Ecovillages and Academia** ..... 345  
*Communities* 147, 34–37 Daniel Greenberg  
Ecovillages offer ideal campuses for sustainability education, but cannot fulfill their potential if cloistered from academia. Building bridges between the two is essential for the survival and relevance of both.
- Leadership for Social Change: Living Routes in Action at Huehucoyotl** ..... 350  
*Communities* 147, 38–39 Giovanni Ciarlo  
An action learning program at a Mexican ecovillage offers students real-world lessons in project implementation and community service, while also benefiting residents and neighbors.
- Olympic-Sized Community** ..... 352  
*Communities* 147, 40–41 Satyama Dawn Lasby  
The sustainability coordinator for the biggest event in the world realizes that catering with washable dishware and eliminating bottled water from the green rooms, while laudable, are ultimately just drops in the bucket.
- Intentional "Colonies" and Tropical Sustainability** ..... 354  
*Communities* 147, 42–44 Jon Kohl  
Intentional communities in developing countries often seem like intentional colonies instead, appealing to the rich and the mobile but inaccessible to local people. Effective sustainability education requires an alternative model.



<b>Towards a Seventh Generation</b> .....	357
<i>Communities</i> 147, 45, 77	Understanding Israel, M.A. Education
Tracing results within her own community, a lifelong educator suggests that time spent teaching children now to love and respect the earth will help us all move towards a sustainable future.	

### **Busted, Almost Bludgeoned, Possibly Broke:**

<b>Hard Lessons from the Trenches of Sustainability Education</b> .....	359
<i>Communities</i> 147, 52–55	Lee Icterus
Making your community a home base for sustainability education programs can bring unanticipated challenges, potential pitfalls, and learning experiences no one thought they had signed up for. A survivor shares cautionary tales and tips.	

## **VI. FINDING RESILIENCE IN COOPERATIVE CULTURE**

<b>The Nature of Our Work</b> .....	365
<i>Communities</i> 143, 28–29	Stacie Whitney
The path to sustainability involves not only technological solutions, but a willingness and ability to continually evolve, adapt, and create—to break old patterns of behavior and attitude and accept that change is not only inevitable, but it is also <i>good</i> .	

<b>How Ecology Led Me to Community</b> .....	367
<i>Communities</i> 143, 30–33, 73	Chris Roth
The author recounts some of the off-beat marching orders he received from an eco-oriented “different drummer”—and how, instead of becoming a hermit, he became a communitarian.	

<b>Environmental Activism: Securing Your Community’s Quality of Life into the Future</b> .....	372
<i>Communities</i> 143, 44–46, 75	Chant Thomas
With a long history of protecting the local watershed, Trillium Farm Community in southern Oregon grows not only organic food, but ecological activists.	

<b>Software, Hardware, and Ecology at Ganas</b> .....	377
<i>Communities</i> 143, 55–57	Tom Reichert with Peggy Wonder
Internal attitudes and willingness to change behaviors can be more powerful than simple technological solutions in shifting a community toward sustainability.	

<b>The Transition Initiative Comes to Cohousing</b> .....	380
<i>Communities</i> 144, 51–53	Sonja Eriksson
A cohousing group joins the Transition Town movement in response to peak oil and climate change, and discovers many collateral benefits.	

<b>Work Less, Simplify More</b> .....	384
<i>Communities</i> 152, 16–19	Kim Scheidt
By reducing our economic impact, we can shrink our ecological footprint, while freeing up time and energy to contribute to community and a more sustainable world.	

<b>Social Permaculture</b> .....	388
<i>Communities</i> 153, 14–16	Starhawk
While expert at understanding ecological connections, permaculturalists often founder in relating with one another. Applying permaculture principles to group dynamics can help us work together more effectively.	

<b>Self-Reliance, Right Livelihood, and Economic “Realities”: Finding Peace in Compromise. . .</b>	392
<i>Communities</i> 158, 12–15	Abeja Hummel
Life in a small rural ecovillage can mean embracing complex choices while balancing idealism with necessity.	



<b>Communities, Political Empowerment, and Collective Self-Sufficiency</b> .....	396
<i>Communities</i> 158, 16–17	Mary Wildfire
In the face of huge problems, what's an activist to do? Community provides answers.	
<b>Climate Changes: Turn to Face the Strange</b> .....	398
<i>Communities</i> 161, 14–18	Christopher Kindig
Intentional communities are in a unique position to respond to climate change.	
<b>Confessions of a Fallen Eco-Warrior</b> .....	403
<i>Communities</i> 161, 38–42	Chris Roth
A communitarian stops counting nanowatts, and starts counting blessings.	
<b>Land Management and Lifesharing at Innisfree Village</b> .....	408
<i>Communities</i> 161, 54–57	Rhonda Miska
Responsible stewardship of assets, meaningful engagement of community members, and financial sustainability are all key to Innisfree's land efforts.	
<b>Technology, Nature, and Community</b> .....	412
<i>Communities</i> 165, 8–9	Chris Roth
Technology may have a monopoly on modern attention, but its language is a young one compared to our shared evolutionary roots in the natural world.	
<b>Back to Life: Returning from the Virtual to the Real</b> .....	414
<i>Communities</i> 165, 14–19	Ethan Hughes
To shake our addiction to modern technology, we must understand its true costs. Stillwaters Sanctuary works to create a culture of greater connection, where it is easier to live without industrial society.	
<b>Technology on the Path to Reality: Snapshots from the Pre-Post-Digital Age</b> .....	421
<i>Communities</i> 165, 33–37	Chris Roth
Misadventures with a cell phone help the author dial into more enduring, meaningful adventures and relationships not dependent on an electronic-communications hamster wheel.	
<b>Ridgewood Ranch: A Mecca For Adaptive Community</b> .....	426
<i>Communities</i> 174, 30–33	Steve Hellman and Daniel Spiro
Numerous projects on a community's 5,000 acres contribute to climate-adaptive land stewardship.	
<b>Economy, Community, and Place</b> .....	431
<i>Communities</i> 175, 31–33	Lindsay Hagamen
<i>Economy and stewarding our home</i> were once synonymous, and can be again.	
<b>Together Resilient:</b>	
<b>Why This Book? Thoughts on Building Community in the Age of Climate Disruption</b> .....	434
<i>Communities</i> 175, 76	Sky Blue
Collectively, humanity has the answers, tools, and pieces of the puzzle—we just have to put them together.	
<b>The Virtues of Unsettling</b> .....	435
<i>Communities</i> 176, 75	Nancy Roth
<i>The Unsettlers: In Search of the Good Life in Today's America</i> takes us on a rewarding adventure, both without—from Northeast Missouri to Detroit to Montana—and within.	