

LOCAL COMMUNITY SELF-RELIANCE MANUAL

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State and market systems have increasingly left local communities without adequate support to meet human needs and, in response, there have been a growing number of local community initiatives that are seeking to meet them. This manual directs your attention to some of the more promising community undertakings.

This manual is a “work in progress” and so promising key words that have not yet been worked into the manual are provided at the end of the “other” section (page 41) and you are invited to follow these leads on your own.

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Intentional Community Networking Associations

The Cohousing Association of the United States

Available at: <http://www.cohousing.org/home.html>

The Cohousing Association of the United States (Coho/US) is dedicated to “promoting and encouraging the cohousing concept, supporting both individuals and groups in creating communities, providing assistance to completed groups for

improving their systems for living together in community, and creating networking opportunities for those involved or interested in cohousing.” In addition to publishing [Cohousing Magazine](#), Coho/US attempts to “document effective practices, coordinate research, conduct outreach and PR, host workshops, organize regional efforts, partner with aligned groups, maintain a database of people interested and involved in cohousing, and perform other educational activities.”

This site provides information about cohousing, a listing of professionals and organizations involved in the cohousing process, a small online library, and numerous other products and services. It also offers a Cohousing Community Index – a database of cohousing communities in the U.S., Canada, and other countries.

Global Ecovillage Network (GEN)

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

Ecovillages are “urban or rural communities of people, who strive to integrate a supportive social environment with a low-impact way of life. To achieve this, they integrate various aspects of ecological design, permaculture, ecological building, green production, alternative energy, community building practices, and much more.” The Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) is a grassroots, non-profit organization that links together ecovillages and related projects around the world. GEN does this through networking, project coordination, sharing technologies, and enhancing public awareness. Network members range from large associations like Sarvodaya (11,000 sustainable villages in Sri Lanka) to small rural ecovillages like Gaia Asociación in Argentina and Huehucoyotl in Mexico.

This site provides historical background on the emergence of ecovillages, a directory listing of ecovillages around the world, and a Resource Library that provides listings for sustainability-related publications, organizations and experts. In addition to information about books about ecovillages that can be purchased, the site also offers a useful collection of free news and articles. These include recent editions of *Permaculture Magazine* (featuring GEN news pages and a bulletin board of GEN events worldwide); a collection of articles on GEN and related topics accessible in pdf format; and the 2000 and 2001 editions of *Global Ecovillage Network Magazine*.

For online access to GEN’s Regional Offices, see the following sites:

GEN Europe

Available at: <http://www.gen-europe.org/>

GEN-Europe forms part of GEN International. It supports the development of ecovillages and networks in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, while promoting “environmental protection and restoration of nature through the concept of ecovillages as models for sustainable human settlements.”

GEN Oceania and Asia (GENOA)

Available at: <http://genoa.ecovillage.org/>

The GEN Oceania and Asia (GENOA) secretariat covers the region from Australia through the Pacific to Hawaii, and through Asia as far as South Africa. GENOA’s main activity is the facilitation of networks among those with an interest in the ecovillage and intentional communities movement. This site offers a good description of GENOA’s activities and products. It also contains newsletters, articles and other resources.

Ecovillage Network of the Americas (ENA)

Available at: <http://ena.ecovillage.org/>

The EcoVillage Network of the Americas (ENA) serves as the Western Hemisphere representative of the GEN. ENA promotes the development of new ecovillages within the Americas, connects existing ecovillages together, and educates the public about the ecovillage movement. This site includes an Ecovillage Directory, a listing of regional contacts, news and articles published by the ENA, as well as a detailed search engine that provides access to a large collection of other resources.

Eco-Village Network U.K.

Available at: <http://www.evnuke.org.uk/>

Eco-Village Network U.K. is an association of volunteers based around Bristol who provide current information on ecovillage theories and practices, alternative technologies, and legal and financial resources to assist emerging projects. This site details U.K. ecovillage projects and resources. It also contains a collection of news items and an index of publications, organizations and other eco-friendly networks.

Intentional Communities/Fellowship for Intentional Community (FIC)

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

Intentional communities is an inclusive term for “ecovillages, cohousing, residential land trusts, communes, student co-ops, urban housing cooperatives and other related projects and dreams.” This site provides access to resources for those involved in movements to construct intentional communities. Through this site, users can access information from the *Fellowship for Intentional Community (FIC)*, an organization devoted to “promoting community living and cooperative lifestyles across North America.” FIC offers publications, referrals, support services, and sharing opportunities for a wide range of communes, intentional communities, co-housing groups, student co-ops, urban housing cooperatives, ecovillages, and community networks.

The online “Communities Directory,” a project of the FIC, is a database of intentional communities, ecovillages, cohousing communities, communes, co-ops, and other cooperative living arrangements. Users can browse through the alphabetic list or search the database for specific organizations. Searches can be filtered on many key characteristics of each community such as location, size, etc. Other useful features of the site include, for example, an “Events Calendar” which lists upcoming meetings and conferences, and a “Resources” section that contains links to and information about local and global networking associations. See the “Community Classifieds” for a listing of land/houses/real estate for sale, as well as services, job opportunities, products, and publications offered by, and of interest to, communities.

Canadian Cohousing Network (CCN)

Available at: <http://www.cohousing.ca/index.htm>

The Canadian Cohousing Network (CCN) “is a registered non-profit organization that promotes the creation of cohousing communities as a model for sustainable development by raising public awareness about cohousing and by bringing people together to form communities ... CCN links individuals and cohousing groups together to share resources and make the process of creating a community easier and more economical.”

In addition to general information on cohousing, this site offers other cohousing resources including a newsletter, articles and links, and books and videos for purchase. It also provides information about cohousing locations and groups across Canada.

Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA)

Available at: <http://www.coopscanada.coop/>

The Canadian Cooperative Association (CAA) is a not-for-profit co-operative owned by its members. CCA provides leadership to “promote, develop, and unite

co-operatives and credit unions for the benefit of people in Canada and around the world.” This site offers information on CCA activities and projects, general information about cooperatives (including statistics), select profiles of Canadian co-ops, information on how to start a cooperative, and a useful collection of web links. The “Resources” section of the website contains press releases, annual reports, speeches, articles, research reports, presentations, and other select publications. Publications available through the CAA include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) **Co-operative News Briefs**: Provides a snapshot of co-operative sector activities in Canada and around the world. It is published every second Thursday and distributed by e-mail.
- b) **InterSector**: Although no longer published, back issues of InterSector are available on the website. InterSector provides CCA members and other Canadians with analysis of issues and trends facing the co-op sector.
- c) **International Development Digest**: Published three times a year, this publication discusses how Canadians and co-operators in Asia, Africa and the Americas are tackling poverty through their co-operatives and credit unions.
- d) **GAP Update**: Highlights key developments in public policy and government relations of interest to the co-operative sector. It is published monthly and distributed via e-mail with Word and PDF attachments.

National Association of Housing Cooperatives (NAHC)

Available at: <http://www.coophousing.org/>

The National Association of Housing Cooperatives (NAHC) is a “nonprofit national federation of housing cooperatives, mutual housing associations, member associations, other resident-owned or controlled housing, professionals, organizations, and individuals interested in promoting the interests of cooperative housing communities.” This site provides general information about housing cooperatives, starting or joining a cooperative, and living in a cooperative community.

The Federation of Egalitarian Communities (FEC)

Available at: <http://thefec.org/>

The Federation of Egalitarian Communities (FEC) is a network of communal groups spread across North America. These groups range in size from small agricultural homesteads to village-like communities to urban group houses. Members of the FEC share a set of core principles including non-violence, egalitarianism, and participatory decision-making. They have joined together to

cooperate on publications, conferences, recruitment efforts, community support systems, and a variety of other mutually supportive activities.

This site offers a number of useful features, including a listing of all FEC member organizations and current projects. FEC's resource pages contain community related guides, networks, related links, and publications. Available publications include *Soundings* (the FEC's newsletter) and an archive of documents used by FEC communities.

International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

Available at: <http://www.coop.org/>

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is an organization of the international co-operative movement. This site provides information on ICA mission, structure, members and activities. Other key features include an *International Cooperative Information Centre* (containing archives of ICA activities and publications), search engines to locate cooperatives by region or by sector, a "co-operatives and youth" section that includes information on youth issues and links to youth co-operatives, and a section called "co-ops for kids."

Civic Practices Network (CPN)

Available at: <http://www.cpn.org/>

Emerging from the "new citizenship" and "civic revitalization" movements, Civic Practices Network (CPN) is a "collaborative and non-partisan project bringing together a diverse array of organizations and perspectives within the civic renewal movement."

CPN maps community-based projects around the United States and helps to bring them together. CPN also provides a wide collection of freely accessible resources, such as articles and essays, research reports, training manuals and guides (see "Tools"), case studies and more. Much of the information contained on the site is organized into several broad categories, including:

- a) Community – features several essays on community organizing, social capital, and urban democracy.
- b) Environment – offers an overview of civic innovation and grassroots actions, and a wide variety of case studies.
- c) Youth – provides civic declarations, essays, and case studies from the community youth development movement, as well as the movements to renew the civic mission of K-12 schools and higher education.
- d) Health – provides several perspectives on how to build community capacities and responsible citizenship in health institutions and

behaviour, as well as how to strengthen the community-based health reform agenda.

- e) Civic Communication – features an overview of civic communication including the public journalism movement and the development of electronic networking as a tool for community problem solving.
- f) Religion – includes congregation-based community organizing, interfaith projects, inner-city and suburban ministries on homelessness and parenting, etc.
- g) Families, Gender and Children – provides essays and case studies on the empowerment of women and families on a broad range of issues such as the family violence, social services, and the civic role of family service professionals. Essays also examine the history of participatory democracy in the women's movement.
- h) Work – presents a variety of perspectives on worker empowerment through employee participation, working time innovation, and union organizing. Cases are drawn from innovative union strategies in the service sector, labour-management cooperation in industrial and service sectors, community-based models of job training and “welfare-to-work” programs.

North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO)

Available at: <http://www.nasco.coop/>

NASCO is a bi-national association of student cooperatives in Canada and the United States, “providing student cooperatives with operational assistance, encouraging the development of new student cooperatives, and serving as an advocate for student cooperatives.” This site includes general information on cooperatives, outlines NASCO’s products and services, offers links to other organizations and resources, and contains a comprehensive online guide to student cooperatives across Canada and the U.S.

The Anarchist Communitarian Network (CAN)

Available at: <http://www.anarchistcommunitarian.net/>

“The purpose of the Anarchist Communitarian Network is to facilitate the integration of the anarchist (“libertarian socialist”) and the intentional communities (“cooperative living”) movements.” The organization is composed of an international network of individuals, groups and intentional communities who support “all forms of nonhierarchical, democratic, intentional communities – housing co-ops, squats, co-housing, communes, land trusts, collective houses, intentional neighborhoods, eco-villages, etc.”

This site contains articles and position papers on anarchism and intentional communities, as well as a large list of links to related organizations. Users can

subscribe to the general and theoretical discussion e-mail list on anarchism and intentional communities, or join the organizational listserv.

International Communes Desk (ICD)

Available at: <http://www.communa.org.il/welcome.shtml>

“The International Communes Desk is a contact body between the communes of the world – where the term "commune" covers the wide spectrum of intentional communities, kibbutzim and other types of communal living.” This site offers information about communal living, including publications, articles, and the most recent editions of CALL, ICD’s bi-annual journal. CALL contains articles, newspaper excerpts, notices and other information, taken from commune and community publications from all over the world. It also has a separate section dealing with the communal scene in Israel.

National Community Capital Association (NCCA)

Available at: <http://www.communitycapital.org/>

The National Community Capital Association (NCCA) is a network of more than 170 private-sector community development financial institutions (CDFIs) that provide financing, training, consulting and advocacy for CDFIs. Active in all 50 U.S. states, the NCCA network “invests in small businesses, quality affordable housing, and vital community services that benefit economically disadvantaged people and communities.” National Community Capital’s membership includes community development credit unions, community development venture capital funds, micro-enterprise lenders, and community development loan funds.

This is a valuable website for individuals directly involved in community development, and for those looking to learn more about CDFIs and related activities. See the “NCAA Store” at the top of the home page for a listing of products and services grouped by type and by subject. Some of these are freely available while others can be ordered for a fee. Other useful resources can be found under the “Policy” link at the top of the page. For example, NCCA’s *Policy Update* is a quarterly newsletter (freely available) focusing on developments in the financial services industry and regulatory and legislative activity at both the federal and state levels that affect CDFIs. Users can also access the “Policy Action Centre,” as well as many free publications under “Policy Resources and Policy Priorities.”

Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet)

Available at: <http://ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/pages/home.asp>

“The Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) is a national member-based, democratic organization ... The membership of CCEDNet is made up of Community Economic Development (CED) community-based organizations and practitioners from every region of Canada.” Its mission is to “promote and support community economic development for the social, economic and environmental betterment of communities within Canada.”

The CCEDNet publishes a variety of resources about community economic development, including *CCEDNet E-News*, a newsletter covering the work of the Network, and articles and reports in pdf format. Visit the *CED Portal*, a web portal on community economic development in Canada. (Visitors can visit the site and read all information posted on the portal, but to participate in discussions or suggest new information, users must create a "member account.") The *CCDNet Online Directory* contains over 350 organizations from across Canada, along with a description of their activities and practices. The directory is available for updating and additions, and is open to both members and non-members of CCEDNet. There is also a useful collection of links to other websites dealing with community economic development in Canada.

Radical Routes

Available at: <http://radicalroutes.org.uk/>

Radical Routes is a network of housing cooperatives, worker cooperatives, and social centres in the United Kingdom whose members are committed to working for progressive social change. This site provides a directory of Radical Routes co-op members, as well as publications on how to construct housing and worker cooperatives.

National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA)

Available at: <http://www.ncba.org/>

NCBA is a democratically-organized membership association representing cooperatives of all types and in all industries in the U.S. This site contains basic information about cooperatives, including recent news and publications.

For more information on cooperatives, visit the Cooperative Web Site (<http://www.cooperative.org/>), a product of the NCBA. The Cooperative Web Site includes a co-op directory and provides information about cooperatives to help people understand how they can use the cooperative model to improve their communities.

Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC)

Available at: <http://www.copacgva.org/index.html>

COPAC is an “on-going partnership between representatives of the cooperative movement, farmers’ organizations, and the United Nations and its agencies. Members work together on equal terms to promote and coordinate sustainable cooperative development through policy dialogues, technical cooperation and information, and concrete collaborative activities.”

This site provides information on cooperatives and grassroots networks through COPAC publications and those from its member organizations. It also contains hundreds of links to other online resources to assist both cooperatives and policy-makers.

Squat!net

Available at: <http://www.squat.net/>

Squat!net is an international internet magazine focusing on squatted houses, car sites and other free spaces. The organization is composed of a diverse group of individuals who collect news and information relevant to the squatter scene, and to bring together the international squatter movement. The “News” link contains hundreds of items of relevance to the squatter direct action movement. The website’s “Archive” contains publications in a number of different languages (including two English language books). See “Links” for general information on squatting around the world.

Northwest Intentional Communities Association

Available at: <http://www.ic.org/nica/>

The Northwest Intentional Communities Association was formed by a coalition of intentional communities in 1992 following the Sustainable Communities gathering held in Seattle. The goal of the Association is to connect people interested in intentional communities across the Pacific Northwest.

The website’s “Intentional Community Resource Page” contains a comprehensive collection of online and offline information about all aspects of intentional communities. Much of the page is devoted to informing the public about the steps involved in starting an intentional community. The General Resources section houses a collection of books, articles, papers, websites and videos about intentional communities. There is also a collection of resources specific to cohousing. Overall, a great website for those interesting in developing an intentional community, as well as for individuals looking to learn more about the intentional communities movement.

Intentional Community Database (icdb.org)

Available at: <http://icdb.org/index.php>

icdb.org is a free, self-serve, multi-lingual database/directory serving intentional communities and their organizations, as well as individuals and groups searching for intentional communities. Communities and networks can advertise themselves by creating and maintaining a record in the database and filling in the various categories. “Community seekers” can search for communities and other like-minded individuals.

Canadian Worker Co-op Federation (CWCF)

Available at: http://www.canadianworker.coop/english/index_e.html

The CWCF strives to be a “growing, cohesive network of democratically-controlled worker co-ops that provide a high quality of worklife, and support the development of healthy and sustainable local economies, based on cooperative principles.” Its multifaceted mission is to secure and coordinate national development resources in order to support the development of worker co-ops; develop awareness of and support for the worker cooperatives throughout Canada; and provide business services to its member worker co-ops. This site provides information about the services of the federation, basic information about workers co-ops and start up procedures, and a useful collection of links to other cooperative organizations and businesses across Canada, the U.S., and around the world.

Queer in Community (QIC)

Available at: <http://www.ic.org/qic/>

Queer in Community “is formed of individuals who identify as queer or queer-positive, who either live in intentional community or would like to, and affiliated queer and queer-positive communities.”

The Democracy Collaborative

Available at: <http://www.democracycollaborative.org/>

“The Democracy Collaborative undertakes integrated activities aimed at leveraging the resources of higher education institutions in support of democratic renewal, civic participation, and community building.” It brings together an international consortium of more than twenty of the world's leading academic centers and citizen engagement organizations, who collectively work to strengthen democracy and civil society.

This site provides information on the organization’s programs and research projects. A few of these include an examination of global civil society as impacted by technology, the arts, markets and governance; a conference on domestic and international wealth gaps among different races and classes of people; and a survey of “what works” in encouraging higher levels of civic

engagement in communities. The site also includes a useful collection of publications in the form of reports, studies, working papers, speeches, essays, articles and press releases.

NeighborWorks America

Available at: <http://www.nw.org/network/home.asp>

NeighborWorks America is a national non-profit organization that provides financial support, technical assistance, and training for community-based revitalization efforts. The organization is composed of a nationwide network of more than 230 community development organizations working in nearly 2700 urban, suburban and rural communities across the U.S.

This site offers a wide range of resources and strategies for revitalizing urban and rural communities and fostering economic opportunities in low-income areas. The “Newsroom,” for example, contains a lengthy archive of recent press releases dealing with community development. “Community Strategies” discusses twelve unique strategies for revitalizing communities. The organization’s publications include an annual report, free access to NeighborWorks’ *Bright Ideas* periodical, and a large collection of reports and studies on affordable housing and community development topics. NeighborWorks’ data houses lists and charts containing data on NeighborWorks America and the NeighborWorks network.

Diggers and Dreamers: The Guide to Communal Living

Available at: <http://www.diggersanddreamers.org.uk/>

This website is for people “interested in joining or setting up some kind of intentional community.” It lists many publications about sustainable communities which are available for purchase, including the feature book, *Diggers & Dreamers, the Guide to Communal Living*. Users can access a searchable database of intentional communities in Britain, as well as an archive of related articles. The site also has a large and useful collection of links to other organizations involved with communal living, permaculture, alternative technology, and so on.

Research and Information Centres / Resource Institutes

Cohousing Resources, LLC

Available at: <http://www.cohousingresources.com/>

This site offers general information about cohousing, as well as other resources for individuals and groups interested in starting a cohousing community. To this end, the site features a *Membership and Outreach Manual*, designed to help communities develop a plan for increasing its cohousing membership and facilitating community involvement and interest. Users can also receive future newsletters from Cohousing Resources, free of charge, by providing their email address.

British Columbia Institute for Cooperative Studies (BCICS)

Available at: <http://web.uvic.ca/bcics/>

The British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies (BCICS) is a “catalyst for research, learning, and teaching about co-operative thought and practice through the development of Co-operative Studies as an established field of inquiry.” Founded in 2000, the Institute’s research attempts to explain how the co-operative model functions within different contexts around the world, how it can contribute to meeting economic and social needs, and how it can help to empower people and communities in controlling the forces that shape their lives.

This site offers a wealth of information about the co-operative movement. It features the BCICS Newsletter, a discussion forum, and an index of co-op case studies undertaken by the BCICS. It also includes a “general” co-op section which offers an extensive collection of reports and documents, papers available in pdf format, a “youth co-op zone,” as well as links to co-op organizations, resources and research centres around the world. The BCICS database contains bibliographical references used by BCICS researchers.

British Columbia Cooperative Association (BCCA)

Available at: <http://www.bcca.coop/>

BCCA is the umbrella organization that works on behalf of co-ops and credit unions in British Columbia. Its membership includes co-ops and credit unions from all sectors of the economy. BCCA promotes co-ops as tools for community control over local economies and as key strategies for economic and social

reform.

This site provides general information about cooperatives, their history, cooperative principles, and includes a step-by-step guide to building a cooperative community. Users can view information on BCCA programs and projects, search the online directory of B.C. co-ops and credit unions, and view the index and products and services offered by these same organizations. See “Resources” for online access to the *Co-op Perspective Newsletter*, as well as numerous publications in pdf format.

Note: Some of these publications focus on the “Emilian Model.” Emilia Romagna is a region of nearly 4 million people in Northern Italy which has transformed itself into a successful example of community and economic democracy. At a general level, the Emilian Model refers to the region’s diverse entrepreneurial structure, and its systems for supporting cooperative relations among small firms in local production systems serving global markets. It demonstrates the possibilities of integrating the values of a vibrant and just civil society with a highly successful commercial economy.

Institute for Community Economics

Available at: <http://www.iceclt.org/>

“The Institute for Community Economics (ICE) is a national community development organization promoting economic justice through community land trusts (CLTs) and community investment. As the originator of the CLT model, ICE has supported the growth of CLTs across the United States and Canada. ICE is also a certified Community Development Financial Institution with a \$13 million loan fund which provides financing to CLTs and other non-profit groups.”

The ICE’s [Revolving Loan Fund](#) provides critical project financing to CLTs and other community organizations. ICE has assisted hundreds of grassroots organizations to build or rehabilitate affordable housing in both rural and urban neighbourhoods. The website provides useful information on community land trusts (CLT), affordable housing and community economic development issues. Also included are technical guides for CLTs and those interested in establishing CLTs. See the “Useful Links” section for related information and organizations.

The Context Institute

Available at: <http://www.context.org/index.html#>

Since its founding in 1979, the Context Institute has explored how human society can become sustainable and has served as a catalyst for voluntary change toward a more humane and sustainable culture. Because members of the Institute believe that most of the world’s unsustainable practices have their roots in the globally

dominant societies, much of the Institute's work concentrates on encouraging the sustainable redevelopment of the rich countries of the North.

This site links to a quarterly magazine of “humane sustainable culture” called *In Context*. Each issue of *In Context* includes articles, interviews, and resource material focusing on a particular theme. All of the written material in each issue can be easily accessed through the *In Context* Library (see <http://www.context.org/ICLIB/backi.htm>). Overall, the library houses over 1000 articles from 44 different issues. Printed copies of many issues are available for purchase at the Institute’s Web Store.

For articles dealing specifically with community design (Eco-cities, Urban Ecosystems, Cohousing, etc.), see the following link:
<http://www.context.org/GUIDES/comdesgn.htm>

Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

Available at: <http://www.coop-studies.usask.ca/>

The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan is an interdisciplinary teaching and research institute dedicated to developing university courses on co-op theory, principles, development, structures, and legislation. The Centre also conducts and publishes co-operative research and maintains a resource centre of co-op materials.

This site offers a large collection of publications, many of which are freely available in electronic format (some must be purchased). Other electronic resources include direct access to news sources, legislation, reports, proceedings, and publicly accessible electronic journals and newsletters. Users can obtain information about the Centre’s current research projects and browse a series of links to other research centres. Also available are links to co-op organizations from many different economic sectors including agriculture, communications/media, energy, finance, health and housing. Finally, the website contains a separate section on “New Generation Cooperatives.”

The Urban Institute: Publications on Community Building and Development

Available at: <http://www.urban.org/Template.cfm?Section=ByTopic&NavMenuID=62&TopicID=59&TopicName=Community%20Building%2C%20Development>

From this site, users can access nearly 150 articles, press releases, research reports, and policy briefs on issues related to Community Building and Development, one of the many researchable topics found on the Urban Institute website. All publications contain a short abstract as well as links to the main text

in either html or pdf format (or both). A hardcopy of many publications can also be ordered online.

The Loka Institute

Available at: <http://www.loka.org/>

The Loka Institute is a non-profit research and advocacy organization concerned with the social, political, and environmental repercussions of research, science and technology. Loka's core commitment is its emphasis on "community." Staff at the Institute believes that "community-initiated and community-directed policies for research and technology are among the most powerful new tools available to nurture the health of families, communities, and the local ecologies they depend upon." See the "Publications" link at the top of the page for access to a wide collection of community-based articles and reports, many of which are freely accessible.

International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR)

Available at: <http://www.istr.org/>

"Founded in 1992, the International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) is a major international association promoting research and education in the fields of philanthropy, civil society and the nonprofit sector. The Society's mission is to promote the development of high quality research and education internationally on Third Sector related issues, theories, and policies; and to enhance the dissemination and application of knowledge about the Third Sector as widely as possible throughout the world."

The ISTR Listserv offers an electronic mail network to facilitate communication with ISTR members and other interested parties. Many ISTR publications are also freely available through this site. For example, the *ISTR Quarterly Newsletter* informs members about Third Sector developments, activities, research in progress, and recent publications. The *ISTR Report* highlights thematic and regional Third Sector issues. The *ISTR Conference Working Paper Series* provides access to hundreds of papers from ISTR international conferences.

Centre for Community Enterprise

Available at: <http://www.cedworks.com/>

The Centre for Community Enterprise is a source of expertise and resources in community economic development (CED) for practitioners, researchers, students and government agencies. It offers consulting services in starting and strengthening CED organizations, revitalising communities, developing

community-minded businesses, CED curriculum design and delivery, and publishing – including the quarterly CED magazine, *Making Waves*.

This website offers a range of useful publications about community renewal, resilience, benchmarking and enterprise. The *CED Digital Bookshop* is an online index of hundreds of articles, papers, and books concerning community and economic development, searchable by subject, author and date. *Tools & Techniques for Community Recovery & Renewal* is a catalogue of over 60 specific methods that communities have used to enhance their economic and social well-being, as well as a selection of people and publications for further guidance. *The Community Resilience Manual: A Resource for Rural Recovery & Renewal* is available free of charge from this website in pdf format.

Center for Democracy and Citizenship (CDC)

Available at: <http://www.publicwork.org/>

The Center for Democracy and Citizenship is a research center at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. Much of the Center's work is centred around creating space for citizens, organizations, and governmental agencies to reclaim an active democratic spirit through public work projects, research and dissemination projects, and conceptual organizing.

This site contains information on democracy and citizenship. Learn about CDC projects and visit the “Research” area for case studies, editorials, interviews, speeches and working papers. CDC also offers publications and videos which can be purchased.

Pew Partnership for Civic Change

Available at: <http://www.pew-partnership.org/>

“The Pew Partnership for Civic Change is a civic research organization that provides consulting and program support to communities, governments, foundations and nonprofit agencies. We help clients identify and implement solutions and strategies crucial to making communities stronger.” See the “Resources” link for access to publications which discuss community-based organizing tools and strategies, and issues surrounding university and community partnerships. Most publications are freely available in pdf format.

About Planning Directory

Available at: <http://www.aboutplanning.org/directory.html>

The About Planning Directory is a “clearinghouse for information about websites, publications, essays and news related to land use planning, growth management,

comprehensive planning, smart growth, new urbanism and much more.” According to the website, it represents “the single largest, comprehensive, exhaustive and current listing of urban planning websites on the Internet.”

Progressive Living

Available at: <http://www.progressiveliving.org/>

The members of Progressive Living have a simple objective: “to provide you with carefully selected resources that we hope will help you to live a better life – *and* that we hope will also help you to build a better world.” This unique website contains alternative critiques of media, government and corporations, including a guide to alternative forms of governance. There are also general resources pertaining to values (such as progressivism and humanism), politics, economics, religion and philosophy. To get a better understanding of the contents of this site, visit the [site map](#).

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Available at: <http://www.lincolninst.edu/index-high.asp>

Established in 1974, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is a non-profit and tax-exempt educational institution. Its mission is to study, teach and disseminate knowledge in the field of land policy (including land economics and land taxation). While the majority of the Institute's programs focus on land policy in the United States, it has established affiliations with academic institutions and community-based organizations around the world. The Institute publishes and disseminates the work of its fellows and faculty members in five formats: books, policy reports, working papers, a quarterly newsletter, and multimedia resources. Many of these works and additional papers and articles are available on this website (some are free, others must be paid for). Creating a user profile will expedite the process of ordering publications and downloading working papers and other documents.

KnowledgePlex

Available at: <http://www.knowledgeplex.org/>

“KnowledgePlex is designed to support the efforts of practitioners, grantors, policy makers, scholars, investors, and others involved or interested in the fields of affordable housing and community development.” Users can access research, case studies, scholarly articles, opinion pieces, and other material related to the affordable housing and community development fields. See the “News” section for thousands of relevant news items and stories, most of which discuss cases in the United States. The KnowledgePlex calendar displays events of interest to those working on affordable housing and community development issues. The

website also provides a set of discussion forums, organized along the same set of topics found at the left of the home page.

Institute for Social Ecology (ISE)

Available at: <http://www.social-ecology.org/>

Established in 1974, the Institute for Social Ecology (ISE) is an independent institution of higher education dedicated to the study of social ecology. As both an educational and activist organization, the ISE is committed to the social and ecological transformation of society, and to fostering communities free from hierarchy, social inequity and ecological degradation. This site offers information on ISE's various projects and contains an [Online Library](#) featuring articles from a variety of writers within the field of social ecology, such as Murray Bookchin, Janet Biehl, Cindy Milstein and Brian Tokar. The ISE also produces *Harbinger*, a journal of social ecology, which publishes analysis relevant to the growing social ecology movement. Select issues of *Harbinger* are freely available online. Users can also subscribe to the ISE Newsletter by entering their email addresses.

International Communal Studies Association (ICSA)

Available at: <http://www.ic.org/icsa/>

“The International Communal Studies Association is a multidisciplinary organization providing a common framework for scholarly exchange regarding communes, intentional communities, collective settlements and kibbutz throughout the world. The ICSA functions as a clearinghouse for research projects, encourages comparative studies, and maintains a list of communal organizations and individuals active in communal and kibbutz research.” Through this site, users can obtain information about the ICSA, download the proceedings of its most recent conference, find out about the next conference, and join or make contact with other community-related organizations.

The Big Idea

Available at: <http://www.emmett.ca/bigidea/>

This site contains information and readings about the co-operative movement, as well as online links.

Essential Information

Available at: <http://www.essential.org/>

Essential Information is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization involved in “a variety of projects to encourage citizens to become active and engaged in their

communities” by providing information on key topics that are often neglected by the mass media and policy makers. Essential Information publishes a monthly magazine, books and research reports. It also maintains a collection of databases and maps, and operates clearinghouses which disseminate information to grassroots organizations around the world.

Institute for the Study of Civic Values

Available at: <http://www.iscv.org/index.html>

The Philadelphia-based Institute for the Study of Civic Values was established in 1973 to “build a new politics of community.” The staff at the Institute fight to extend economic opportunity to all American citizens, support community services for welfare recipients and campaigns for economic justice, and strengthen democracy through youth civic engagement. This site contains numerous articles, reports, opinion pieces, and other resources dealing with community and civil society.

Group Dynamics and Community Building

Available at: <http://www.community4me.com/>

“The purpose of this site is to provide detailed information that enhance personal communications and group dynamics including small "share" groups and community building.” See the “Resources” link for dozens of articles containing information about group dynamics in small groups, intentional communities, support groups, etc.

For websites with similar information, see the following links:

Community Crossroads

Available at: <http://communityx-roads.org/>

Community Building in Britain

Available at: <http://www.cbib.org.uk/>

Study Circles Resource Center

Available at: <http://www.studycircles.org/>

“The Study Circles Resource Center is dedicated to finding ways for all kinds of people to engage in dialogue and problem solving on critical social and political issues. SCRC helps communities by giving them the tools to organize productive dialogue, recruit diverse participants, find solutions, and work for action and

change.” SCRC has worked with hundreds of communities across the U.S., from small neighbourhoods to large cities, to develop and organize community dialogue that leads to social action and change.

This site includes information about Study Circle projects, activities and “success stories.” See the “Resources” section for descriptions and full-text versions of the Center's most popular publications, including discussion guides, advice on how to organize community-wide study circles and train facilitators, and articles from their quarterly newsletter, *Focus on Study Circles*.

PICCED Links

Available at: <http://www.pratt.edu/picced/resource/links.htm>

This site is a product of the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development (PRATT). It houses a collection of links to organizations and resources of interest to community development practitioners.

Sustainable Community Development / Design

Sustainable Community Design

Available at: <http://www.umanitoba.ca/academic/faculties/architecture/la/sustainable/contents.htm>

“Sustainable Community Design refers essentially to a practice of planning, designing, building and managing, and the social-economic development of communities following the precepts of sustainable development set out by the UN Brundtland Commission in 1986.”

According to the website, the authors at Sustainable Community Design have identified “some 150 features of community organization and built environment, housing architecture, urban design and servicing systems and land use planning that tend to distinguish community projects as ecological or sustainable design.” These features are grouped into nine major categories. Information on each can be accessed through the “Design Features” link. They include Building Ecology, Land Use/Landscape Ecology, Community Design, Energy, Water and Sewage, Transportation, Waste and Recycling, Community Management, and Economic Viability. Each category links to a page that briefly describes each feature in terms of performance criteria. The site also offers links to real world case studies in a number of different countries, as well as links to a large collection of related organizations and informational resources.

Online Resources for Sustainable Community Development

Available at: <http://www.skaggs-island.org/sustainable/econlinks.html>

This site houses a large collection of links dealing with sustainable community development, community economics, complementary currencies, micro-banking, urban development, worker ownership, etc.

International Institute for Sustainable Development

Available at: <http://www.iisd.org/>

To help meet the challenges of sustainable development, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) advances policy recommendations on international trade and investment, economic policy, climate change and natural resource management.

A key feature of this site is the *IISD Publications Centre* which includes books, papers, and other materials capturing much of IISD's institutional and research

history. Nearly all publications are freely available in pdf format. Publications are sorted by different themes such as: Business, Climate Change, Communities and Livelihoods, Economic Policy, Energy, Environment and Security, Indigenous Peoples, Investment, Natural Resources, Poverty, Trade and Youth.

Housing Assistance Council (HAC)

Available at: <http://www.ruralhome.org/index.php>

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) is a non-profit corporation that helps local organizations build and design affordable housing across rural America. Emphasizing local solutions, the empowerment of the poor, and self-help strategies, HAC assists in the development of both single and multiple family homes, and promotes homeownership for low-income families through a “sweat equity” construction method. This site provides an overview of HAC services, as well as numerous publications in the form of reports, manuals, information sheets, a newsletter, and back issues of its magazine, *Rural Voices*. Publications are organized by topic and include, for example, information on community land trusts, cooperative housing, rural housing, community reinvestment, development case studies, and environmental issues.

New Community Design to the Rescue

Available at: <http://www.nga.org/cda/files/072001NCDFULL.pdf>

New Community Design is a form of community development that is distinctly different from the developmental “sprawl” that has dominated real estate growth over the past 50 years. The seven chapter report by Joel Hirschhorn and Paul Souza explains how states and communities can encourage NCD by eliminating institutional barriers in the marketplace. Key features of NCD include mixed land use, reduced land consumption, community centres, transportation alternatives, alternative building designs, and walkable development.

Sustainable Communities Network (SCN)

Available at: <http://www.sustainable.org/index.html>

“The Sustainable Communities Network is for those who want to help make their communities more livable. Here a broad range of issues are addressed and resources are provided to help make this happen. This website is being developed to increase the visibility of what has worked for other communities, and to promote a lively exchange of information to help create community sustainability in both urban and rural areas.”

See the “About Sustainable Communities” link in the middle of the home page for a large collection of related organizations and readings, as well as access to the

[SCN Case Studies Index](#). The Index provides case studies of sustainable communities across the United States and highlights a broad range of sustainable community development strategies. The six topical areas found on the site each contain listings of organizations, publications and related websites. These topics include:

- a) Creating Community: information on approaches and techniques used successfully in communities to involve citizens.
- b) Smart Growth: direct link to “Smart Growth Online.”
<http://www.smartgrowth.org/>
- c) Growing a Sustainable Economy: information from a variety of sources on approaches and techniques used successfully in different communities to develop key aspects of their local economies on a sustainable basis.
- d) Protecting Natural Resources: approaches and techniques used successfully in different communities to protect and restore their natural resources.
- e) Governing Sustainably: approaches and techniques that different communities have employed to make constructive use of local government policies and services to promote community sustainability.
- f) Living Sustainably: examples of activities which develop and maintain a community's human resources, as well as provide assistance to facilitate the use of sustainable practices in people's homes and neighbourhoods.

Center for Neighbourhood Technology (CNT)

Available at: <http://www.cnt.org/>

The mission of the CNT is to “invent and implement new tools and methods that create livable urban communities for everyone.” This site features news reports, information about CNT projects, and a clearinghouse of online publications (mainly in pdf format). It also contains links to many other CNT websites dealing with issues such as energy use, housing and pollution. Users can freely subscribe to CNT’s monthly e-newsletter, *CNT Update*

Sustainable Building Sources

Available at: <http://www.greenbuilder.com/general/BuildingSources.html>

This website offers a wealth of information about sustainable building design, including a Green Building Professionals Directory, a Sustainable Building Sourcebook, a Green Buildings Materials Database, a listing of projects and case studies, a collection of freely accessible articles, and much more.

Equity Trust Inc.

Available at: <http://www.equitytrust.org/>

“Equity Trust Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, committed to promoting equity in the world by changing the way people think about and hold property. ETI provides a forum for exploring the balance of public and private interests in property, land tenure counselling and financing for community supported agriculture, and develops and supports alternative models and tools of land tenure.” This site describes Equity Trust programs and projects, such as alternative land tenure models and community land trusts. It also features a number of resources on alternative economics, alternative agricultural models, community supported agriculture, community land trusts, and community investment.

Ecological Farming Association

Available at: www.eco-farm.org

Eco-Farm is a nonprofit educational organization that promotes ecologically sound agriculture. Eco-Farm offers special events that bring people together from all over the world to share ideas and experiences in producing healthful food from a healthy earth. These include the Eco-Farm Conference and various organic farm tours open to the community.

Community Food Security Coalition

Available at: www.foodsecurity.org

CFSC is a nonprofit, membership-based national coalition of over 600 organizations and individuals that focus on food and agriculture issues. CFSC’s mission is to bring about lasting social change by promoting community-based solutions to hunger, poor nutrition, and the globalization of the food system.

Local Government Commission (LGC)

Available at: <http://www.lgc.org/index.html>

“The Local Government Commission (LGC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership organization that provides inspiration, technical assistance, and networking to local elected officials and other dedicated community leaders who are working to create healthy, walkable, and resource-efficient communities.” The LGC is involved in a wide range of activities and services. It organizes conferences, workshops, and training sessions on land use and transportation-related issues. It trains local agencies and organizations in how to use visual

surveys, develops area-specific surveys, and helps communities develop their own surveys. (Sample surveys will soon be available for sale through the LGC Bookstore.)

The LGC maintains a growing collection of articles grouped in 120 subject areas – from "Adaptive Re-Use" to "Youth Planning". See the "Free Resources" section for access to selected items, including publications, fact sheets, reports, model projects, and articles. Several newsletters are available as well, including back issues of the monthly *Livable Places Update*, a progress report made by local governments across the United States. The LGC Bookstore also contains materials that can be purchased, including user-friendly guidebooks that explore models and tools for improving land use and transportation planning, and a catalogue of videos, slides and presentations about transit-and pedestrian-oriented land use planning.

Green Home Building

Available at: <http://www.greenhomebuilding.com>

Greenhomebuilding.com is a unique website that provides information on "eco-housing," natural building, sustainable architecture and related topics. Current news and a list of available workshops and conferences can be found under "News and Workshops." In the "Ask the Experts" section, users are invited to ask questions and read the responses to others' questions. Many of the books, videos, DVDs and other products listed have direct purchase links. Most pages also have links to other useful websites.

Gaia Trust

Available at: <http://www.gaia.org/>

Gaia Trust is a Danish-based charitable association which supports the transition to a sustainable future society through grants and other initiatives. One of Gaia's main areas of interest is the modern ecovillage movement. Many of the articles and other information on this website focus on ecovillages, particularly those located in Denmark. For years, the Gaia Trust website served as the homepage for the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN).

Grassroots Community Organizing / Economic Democracy

Grassroots Economic Organizing (GEO)

Available at: <http://www.geo.coop/>

Grassroots Economic Organizing (GEO) provides information and a bi-monthly newsletter on grassroots organizing in order to “build and finance worker-owned, democratically run, community based, ecologically sustainable enterprises.” GEO’s mission is to build “a nation and worldwide movement for a cooperative social economy based on democratic and responsible production, conscientious consumption, and use of capital to further social and economic justice.”

This site contains hundreds of freely accessible articles on worker cooperatives, economic/workplace democracy, community-based economics, grassroots organizing, and globalization. It also provides links to other organizations with similar values and commitments.

Community for Creative Chaos

Available at: <http://www.geocities.com/johnny58203/>

Community for Creative Chaos is a virtual community for people to share and disseminate information about environmental and progressive activism. This site contains information about the organization’s three major projects, all of which involve tax-forfeited land in North Dakota: the residential and commercial buildings project, the prairie reclamation project, and the industrial hemp project.

Economic Democracy for the Americas

Available at: <http://www.pierreducasse.ca/ecodema/>

Economic Democracy for the Americas is a web blog on economic democracy created by New Democratic Party (NDP) leadership candidate Pierre Ducasse. The site contains articles, guides, essays, etc.

Centre for Labor and Community Research (CLCR)

Available at: <http://www.clcr.org/>

Founded in 1982 by union and community leaders concerned with plant closings and the impact this had on communities, CLCR is a consulting and research

organization that specializes in new approaches to community development. Combining research skills with education and organizing, CLCR members provide research and analysis to unions, communities, and local governments in order to facilitate understanding about economic problems and viable community-based solutions. See the website's publications section for free access to numerous articles and documents on labour organizing and community development.

Building Community: Profiles from Community Directions & the Downtown Eastside Community Development Project

Available at: http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/commsvcs/planning/dtes/pdf/building_community.pdf

“The profiles that make up this document tell the stories of nine individuals, how they came to the Downtown Eastside [of Vancouver], what they have done both before and since they came to the neighbourhood, and their involvement in the Downtown Eastside Community Development Project. They also tell the story of a community and how that community works on the ground through the efforts and solidarity of people who strive to make a home for themselves in frequently adverse circumstances.” The project funds a variety of community building initiatives, including the Chinatown Revitalization Program and Community Directions.

Auroville

Available at: <http://www.auroville.org/>

"Auroville wants to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities. The purpose of Auroville is to realise human unity." Auroville is an area in South India where an increasing number of people from all over the world have been working on the construction of alternative forms of living. Intended as a city for up to 50,000 inhabitants, its population currently sits at over 1,500 (with residents drawn from some thirty countries.) Their activities are multifarious and include “afforestation, organic agriculture, educational research, health care, village development, appropriate technology and building construction, information technology, small and medium scale businesses, town planning, water table management, cultural activities and community services.” This website provides a glimpse into life in Auroville today.” In terms of physical development, it aims at becoming a model for the “city of the future.”

Downtown Eastside Residents' Association (DERA)

Available at: <http://www.dera.bc.ca/>

“The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association (DERA) is a community-directed, charitable society formed in 1973 by residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Located in the poorest urban neighbourhood in the nation, DERA has fought for 31 years to focus the attention of government, industry and the public on the key components of poverty and homelessness.” Through community-based neighbourhood planning, DERA works to ensure that community residents have affordable housing, decent employment, liveable incomes, community and recreational facilities, and a safe environment. This site provides information about DERA’s activities and services.

National Civic League (NCL)

Available at: <http://www.ncl.org/>

“The National Civic League (NCL) is America's original advocate for community democracy. It is a non-profit, non-partisan, membership organization dedicated to strengthening citizen democracy by transforming democratic institutions. NCL fosters innovative community building and political reform, assists local governments, and recognizes collaborative community achievement. NCL accomplishes its mission through technical assistance, training, publishing, research, and the All-America City Awards, America's original and most prestigious community recognition program.”

One of this website’s most useful features is its collection of online publications, such as the *Community Visioning and Strategic Planning Handbook* and select articles from the *National Civic Review* (the quarterly journal of NCL), which features essays on democratic governance and civic engagement. The NCL’s email newsletter provides information on the activities and accomplishments of NCL and links to information on many related topics. Also available are select issues of NCL newsletters – *Civic Action* and *New Politics Quarterly*.

Anarchism in Action: Methods, Tactics, Skills and Ideas

Available at: <http://www.radio4all.org/aia/>

“This book is an attempt at a convenient and straightforward guide to anarchist organizing and action. It is a collection and condensation of the collective wisdom of countless activists and others who took the effort to write down what they learned from experience for the rest of us to share and put into practice. This book is designed to be a tool in the effort to build an Anarchist movement and, ultimately, a free society. However, all radicals, Anarchist or not, who fight for the ideals of autonomy, direct democracy, and freedom for all will find that virtually everything contained in this book is useful to them as well.”

For direct access to the book in pdf format, visit the following link:
<http://www.radio4all.org/aia/AnarchismInAction-2.pdf>

Grameen Bank (GB)

Available at: <http://www.grameen-info.org/>

“Grameen Bank (GB) has reversed conventional banking practice by removing the need for collateral and created a banking system based on mutual trust, accountability, participation and creativity. GB provides credit to the poorest of the poor in rural Bangladesh, without any collateral. At GB, credit is a cost effective weapon to fight poverty and it serves as a catalyst in the over all development of socio-economic conditions of the poor who have been kept outside the banking orbit.”

The Bank’s objectives are to extend banking facilities to poor men and women, eliminate the exploitation of the poor by money lenders, and create opportunities for self-employment for the huge multitude of unemployed people in rural Bangladesh. This site provides information on the Bank’s history, philosophy, and operations. See the Bibliography for a listing of books, articles, working papers, newsletters, and other publications related to GB activities.

Citizen Works

Available at: <http://www.citizenworks.org/>

Citizen Works is a nonprofit organization (founded by Ralph Nader in 2001) that works to strengthen democratic, grassroots participation in decision-making and advance genuine democracy. Citizen Works recruits and trains citizens to fight for democracy and self-management, and enhances the work of existing organizations by helping them to share information and build coalitions among activists.

This site has a useful collection of citizenship tools, including a wide collection of news items, a searchable database of training organizations, an organizer’s toolkit, a comprehensive calendar of events, a progressive reading list, and a large collection of documents. See the [main corporate crime page](#) for a guide to challenging corporate crime, fraud, and abuse and to producing meaningful corporate accountability reforms.

The Gift Economy

Available at: <http://www.gift-economy.com/>

A gift economy is an economic system in which goods and services are given rather than traded. Social status is given to individuals on the basis of how much one shares or gives to one's community, as opposed to an "exchange economy" where status is given to those who own or control the most wealth. Gift economies can exist outside of hunter-gatherer societies or small, ungoverned

groups; in certain forms, they thrive today even in huge subpopulations of advanced industrial nations. This website provides information about the gift economy, both the theory and the practice. It has a discussion board and mailing list, as well as numerous articles and essays.

For more on the Gift Economy, see the following links:

<http://hubcap.clemson.edu/~sparks/giftecon.html>

<http://www.context.org/ICLIB/IC41/PinchotG.htm>

http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue3_12/barbrook/

[http://futurepositive.synearth.net/stories/storyReader\\$223](http://futurepositive.synearth.net/stories/storyReader$223)

<http://www.southerncrossreview.org/4/schwartz.html>

<http://www.octapod.org/gifteconomy/>

<http://www.transaction.net/biz/models/opensource/>

<http://www.pinchot.com/MainPages/BooksArticles/OtherArticles/GiftEconomy.html>

On the Commons.org

Available at: <http://onthecommons.org/>

“OntheCommons.org is web portal and blog that explores activism on behalf of the commons in all its variety. The commons is a powerful organizing principle for understanding countless aspects of nature, creativity and knowledge, local community and everyday experience. One of the great problems of our time, however, is the enclosure of the commons by market forces, often with the support of government. The purpose of this site is to explore the value of diverse commons, probe their distinctive dynamics and re-invent mechanisms for strengthening them. OntheCommons.org investigates these issues through blogging, essays, book reviews, online archives, discussions and other resources.” The website is a project of the Tomales Bay Institute, which is affiliated with Earth Island Institute.

Users can access useful information on many different topics including economics and property, commercialization, gift economies, stakeholder trusts, indigenous knowledge, community supported agriculture, local currencies, and the “slow food” movement.

Managing the Spiritual Neighborhood

Available at: <http://www.spiritualneighborhood.org/>

Garden Zone Management is a program for constructive social activism. It includes a spiritual aspect and involves back-to-the-earth civic responsibility and neighborhood management. It proposes an alternative grassroots government that relies on the voluntary cooperation of community residents. This site offers information about the Garden Zone Management Program and its community-

centered philosophy. See the “Resources” section of the website for a useful collection of links to other websites and organizations.

A guidebook for the program, entitled *Managing the Spiritual Neighborhood*, is available for download. It is linked directly through the main site and can be found at: <http://www.spiritualneighborhood.org/guidebook.htm>
Individual chapters of the book in pdf format are available at:
<http://www.gardenzonemanagement.org/msn/>

New Liberty Village

Available at: <http://www.geocities.com/~newliberty/>

“This website is strictly an educational endeavour ... a cyber imagination illustrating principles and insights which can change our real-world realities for the better.” Users can browse discussion and content about social invention, intentional communities, alternative housing and shelters, health, education, gardening and food, alternative economics, etc.

EcoNomads

Available at: <http://economads.com/>

This site contains travelogue reports on visits to ecovillages, intentional communities, communes, and other co-living projects around the world. Users can also visit the “Library-of-Awareness” for articles, stories, poems, websites, books, recipes, and other resources for those interested in the intentional communities movement and eco-friendly living.

Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)

Available at: www.caff.org

Founded in 1978, the CAFF is a non-profit activist organization. CAFF’s political and educational campaigns are building a movement of rural and urban people who foster family-scale agriculture that cares for the land, sustains local economies, and promotes social justice. Members are urbanites, farmers, environmentalists, rural activists, students, and anyone concerned with the social and environmental dimensions of agriculture.

Movement for Beloved Community

Available at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~rflyer/>

“The mission of Movement for Beloved Community is to promote the awakening of individuals, families, neighborhoods, communities, villages, regions, and the world as a whole. The approach is to encourage the growth of spiritually-based and comprehensive local community building efforts around the world – linked together in a global network.” This site provides many examples of and information about multi-faith social action efforts and [spiritually-based community movements](#). It also covers secular community building efforts. As well, users can access a large series of links to other organizations and websites.

See the section on “Cooperative Economics” for information on community-based development, cooperatives, land trusts, bioregionalism, cohousing, local currency, and micro-enterprise development.

Ithaca HOURS Online

Available at: <http://www.lightlink.com/hours/ithacahours/home.html>

Ithaca HOURS is a local currency system developed in Ithaca, New York. It represents an attempt to gain control of the social and environmental effects of commerce by issuing local paper money to thousands of community residents. In contrast to conventional dollars, HOURS reinforce community trading and expand commerce that is more accountable to ecological sustainability and social justice. This website contains information about the development and history of Ithaca HOURS, media coverage over the years, archives, etc.

Open Democracy

Available at: <http://www.opendemocracy.net>

Open Democracy.net is an online global magazine of politics and culture. This site provides discussion and analysis of the prospects for transition from global corporate rule to genuine democracy.

People’s Global Action (PGA)

Available at: <http://www.agp.org/>

People’s Global Action functions as an information network and activism coordination centre for grassroots movements around the world. The network supports the global movement against economic liberalization and global capitalism, as well as the struggles of indigenous people. This site offers a number of useful resources for researchers and activists, including analysis and commentary grouped into a number of related themes such as Gender, Land and Water, Oil, Migration, Trade Agreements, International Financial Institutions, Globalization and War.

Common Dreams News Center

Available at: <http://www.commondreams.org/>

Common Dreams is a non-profit citizens' organization working to organize an open discussion of current events with a rich diversity of viewpoints. This site offers comprehensive news coverage on a variety of national and international topics. See the *Progressive Newswire* for hundreds of up-to-the-minute reports and commentaries. It also provides links to a wide variety of other news services and periodicals, including print media, radio and television. Founded in 1997, Common Dreams is committed to using the Internet as a political organizing tool and creating new models for online activism.

eActivist

Web Address at: <http://www.eactivist.org/>

eActivist works to encourage electronic activism and civic participation by providing an extensive collection of progressive links and tools.

Radio 4 All

Available at: <http://www.radio4all.org/>

This website connects users to the movement to reclaim the airwaves. Includes links to groups and stations around the world.

Local Intentional Community Associations/Networks

Cooperatives

The Chicago Mutual Housing Network

Available at: <http://www.chicagomutual.org/>

A federation of mutual housing organizations – cooperatives, condominiums, and resident management groups – and their supporters and allies.

Council of New York Cooperatives

Available at: <http://www.cnyc.com/>

A not-for-profit membership organization for housing cooperatives and condominiums in the New York area.

Inter-Cooperative Council

Available at: <http://www.icc.coop/index.html>

An organization devoted to student cooperative housing in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Inter-cooperative Council (ICC) Student Co-ops

Available at: <http://iccaustin.coop/>

A non-profit organization that operates low-cost housing facilities for college students in Austin, Texas.

Madison Community Cooperative

Available at: <http://www.madisoncommunity.coop/>

An organization in Madison, Wisconsin that provides low cost, not-for-profit cooperative housing for very low to moderate income people.

Students' Cooperative Association

Available at: <http://gladstone.uoregon.edu/~asuosch/index.php>

A non-profit, student owned and governed housing cooperative in Eugene, Oregon.

Ohio Co-ops

Available at: <http://www.nasco.coop/guide/Ohio.html>

A short guide to cooperatives in Ohio.

Coventry Peace House

Available at: <http://www.covpeacehouse.org.uk/>

A housing co-operative and “peace and environmental centre.”

The Federation of Workplace Democracies in Minnesota

Available at: <http://www.mncooperate.org/>

University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives

Available at: <http://www.wisc.edu/uwcc/>

Portland Alliance of Worker Collectives (PAWC)

Available at: <http://www.pawc.net/>

Footprint Worker Co-operative

Available at: <http://footprinters.co.uk/index.htm>

Cornerstone Housing Co-op

Available at: <http://www.cornerstonehousing.org.uk/index.htm>

Keval Co-operatives

Available at: <http://ofek.com/keval/>

Stepping Stones Housing Co-operative

Available at: www.highburyfarm.freeseve.co.uk

Community Land Trusts

Burlington Community Land Trust

Available at: <http://www.bclt.net/>

Portland Community Land Trust

Available at: <http://www.pclt.org/>

Madison Area Community Land Trust

Available at: <http://www.affordablehome.org/>

Laconia Area Community Land Trust, Inc.

Available at: <http://www.ruralisc.org/lact.htm>

Orange County Housing and Land Trust

Available at: <http://www.ochlt.org/>

Sawmill Community Land Trust

Available at: <http://www.sawmillclt.org/>

Cohousing

Earthsong Eco-neighbourhood

Available at: <http://www.earthsong.org.nz/>

This site discusses New Zealand's first sustainable Eco-Neighbourhood project, incorporating the principles of Cohousing and Permaculture.

Twin Cities Cohousing Network

Available at: <http://mn.cohousing.org/index.htm>

Chicago Cohousing Network

Available at: <http://www.chicagocohousing.net/>

Cohousing For San Diego

Available at: <http://www.cohousingforsandiego.org/>

N Street Cohousing

Available at: <http://www.nstreetcohousing.org/>

Eco-Village and Cohousing Association of New Zealand

Available at: <http://www.converge.org.nz/evcnz/>

United Kingdom Cohousing Network

Available at: <http://www.cohousing.co.uk/>

Swedish Cohousing

Available at: <http://www.kollektivhus.nu/>

Cohousing Australia

Available at: <http://www.cohousing.org.au/cohousing/default.asp>

Marsh Commons Cohousing

Available at: <http://redwood.northcoast.com/~startrak/welcome.html>

Cohousing Network Japan

Available at: <http://icdb.org/show.php?r=cohojapan>

Belgium Cohousing

Available at: <http://www.samenuizen.be/index.html>

Cohousing Network South Australia

Available at: <http://www.picknowl.com.au/homepages/dundas/>

The Cohousing Company

Available at: <http://www.cohousingco.com/>

Cohousing Company Ltd.

Available at: <http://www.cohouses.net/>

Other Cohousing

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative

Available at: <http://www.dsni.org/>

A non-profit community-based planning organization based in Boston.

Association of Camphill Communities in the British Isles Gawain House:

Available at: www.camphill.org.uk

Organization that builds intentional communities with people of all ages who live with disabilities

Brithdir Mawr

Available at: www.brithdirmawr.com

An Eco-village in West Wales

Camphill Community Mourne Grange

Available at: www.mournegrange.org

An intentional Community in Northern Ireland

Beech Hill Community

Available at: web.onetel.net.uk/~beechhill

A small intentional community in the U.K.

Redfield Community

Available at: www.redfieldcommunity.org.uk

An Intentional Community in North Buckinghamshire, England.

Other

YES! Magazine / Positive Futures Network

Available at: <http://www.yesmagazine.org/> or <http://futurenet.org/>

“Positive Futures Network is an independent, nonprofit organization supporting people’s active engagement in creating a just, sustainable, and compassionate world.” YES! is the magazine of the Positive Futures Network and is freely available through this site. Each issue focuses on a different theme and contains book reviews, practical advice and tools, special features, columns, and a short series of "indicators." Users can also search for articles by topic and discussion guides are posted for each issue.

In addition to YES! magazine, the website’s resource guides provide lists of links, books and organizations compiled by topic. See the “Education Connection” link for numerous resources that can be used by teachers and students. A new Speaker’s Bureau, now online, helps organizers find progressive speakers for their events.

The Real Utopias Project

Available at: <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~wright/RealUtopias.htm>

“The Real Utopias Project explores a wide range of proposals and models for radical social change. The basic idea is to combine serious normative discussions of the underlying principles and rationales for different emancipatory visions with the analysis of pragmatic problems of institutional design.” The project consists of a series of conferences, each of which is built around a relevant issue related to radical social change. Scholars from around the world are invited to write essays engaging the ideas of each manuscript, which are then circulated and discussed among conference participants. Following the conference, the papers are revised in light of these discussions and the author(s) of the original manuscript write a concluding essay. The collection of papers is then published in the *Real Utopias Project Series*.

This website contains the full text publication of Volume IV in the Real Utopias Project Series: [Deepening Democracy: Institutional Innovations in Empowered Participatory Governance](#) (Archon Fung and Erik Olin Wright 2003, Verso). The case studies and original papers presented at the conference are also accessible. Also available is a draft version of Volume V: [Redesigning Redistribution: Universal Basic Income, Stakeholder Grants and other proposals](#). The book will appear in the summer of 2005. Some information on upcoming conferences (now in the planning stages) is available as well.

A Civil Republic, by Severyn Bruyn

Available at: <http://www2.bc.edu/~bruyn/>

“In *A Civil Republic*, Severyn Bruyn argues that the United States, and the world at large, is on the verge of a radical shift – dangerous but also full of opportunity. In a world of injustice, ecological destruction, violence and instability, weapons of mass destruction, and the rise of authoritarian government, our ability to craft a secure future lies in creating a "civil republic." Bruyn envisions a system of governance that merges the core values of civil society into a political economy that has reigned supreme since the end of the Cold War. He sees a world in which religious institutions, health-care systems, businesses, media, and governments could support values of honesty, justice, and public health rather than stand subservient to corporate interests and nation-states. He explores ways to implement a new model – one of public policy that builds a civil society beyond the conventions of capitalism and nationalism. The above site contains a series of appendices linked to Bruyn’s book, *A Civil Republic*, as well as various other resources.

Mondragon Corporacion Cooperativa (MCC)

Available at: <http://www.mondragon.mcc.es/>

Mondragón Corporación Cooperativa’s mission “combines the basic objectives of a business organisation competing in international markets with the use of democratic methods in its organisation, job creation, promotion of its workers in human and professional terms and commitment to the development of its social environment.” This site describes the work of MCC, one of the world’s largest and most successful worker cooperative networks located in the Basque region of Spain.

For more information on Mondragon, see the following sites:

<http://www.justpeace.org/mondragon.htm>

<http://www.solbaram.org/articles/mondra.html>

[http://cog.kent.edu/lib/MathewsMondragon_\(COG\)_g.htm](http://cog.kent.edu/lib/MathewsMondragon_(COG)_g.htm)

Land Trust Jump Station

Available at: <http://www.possibility.com/LandTrust/Jump.html>

This site contains links to (and often short descriptions of) community land trusts and related organizations/resources across the United States.

Skaggs Island Foundation

Available at: <http://www.skaggs-island.org/>

“The mission of the Skaggs Island Foundation is to promote cultural, educational, environmental, economic, and recreational development of the North Bay region of California. Our concerns include sustainable community development, deep democracy, and community leadership grounded in the values of humanistic psychology and social science.”

Some other useful websites linked to the main page include:

(i) Sustainable Community Economics

Available at: <http://www.skaggs-island.org/sustainable/index.html>

This website is a product of the Skaggs Island Foundation. It discusses the economic and political advantages of complementary community and bioregional economies, and offers a comprehensive introduction and guide to an “economics of the commons.” More specifically, the site lists publications and other informational resources dealing with complementary or local currencies, micro-lending (e.g. Grameen Bank,) democratizing asset ownership, ecological economics, etc.

(ii) The Community Support Dollar (CSD) Project

Available at: <http://www.skaggs-island.org/csd/index.html>

While the CDS project specifically concerns the area of Sonoma County, this site provides descriptions of other alternative currency systems, as well as related essays and articles on sustainable community development.

(iii) The Deep Democracy Network Project

Available at: <http://www.skaggs-island.org/democracy/index.html>

This site provides articles and commentaries on participatory democracy and the redesign of democratic institutions.

Other Search Possibilities:

The following are a list of key words that are known to be of importance, but have not yet been worked into links for this manual.

Porto Alegre,
Curitiba,

Belo Horizonte,
Panchayat Raj,
Kerala,
Evangeline - P.E.I
Urban Agriculture
Sweat Equity
Genuine Progress Indicator
bio-regionalism
participatory budgeting
participatory governance
co-operation and self- organization (Christian Fuchs - Vienna site called Triple C)
confederal systems
self-reliance
anarchism (Bookchin, Benello)
communitarianism
principle of subsidiarity
local import substitution
local exchange trading system (LETS)
barter systems
paradox of size (Kirkpatrick Sale, Jane Mansbridge).