

Community Economics Education & Enrichment Program

the way to a better future for all...



*Past economics was
disconnected from humanity and nature...
Community Economics is new, combining the best of
transformational psychology, community development,
economics and earth care...*



Community Economics Education & Enrichment Program



This program seeks to support a *community of collaborative educators, researchers and practitioners in Community Economics.*

Without *Community Economics*, there is no hope for families and communities, only endless wars due to the growth in world population, massive weaponry being sold worldwide for great profit, and many disenfranchised angry young people being drawn into extremist causes because they lack *decent work, a loving family and a thriving, creative community to enrich their creative and social lives.*

1% of the people of the world own 50% of the world's wealth.
10% own 85% of the world's wealth.

Currently, many wealthy people are *mentally stuck with making more and more money and being involved with issues of power and status.*

We need ways to inspire them to become *creatively involved in social entrepreneurship to help families and communities become sustainable and thrive.*

They can help people develop *worker cooperatives – worker-owned businesses.* They can make *community investments to create sustainable, thriving families and communities worldwide.*

There are [16 Research Areas](#) your local *Community Economics Group* can study and practice, contributing to your greater understanding of how to improve the economics of your people, families, community and region.

You can help your people, families and community thrive through understanding *Community Economics.*

To form a local group, or to become involved globally with spreading the awareness of *Community Economics*, use the contact information below.



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Human Enlightenment

<p>1. Creative, Compassionate Community of Support.</p> <p>A <i>Creative, Compassionate Community of Support</i> meets weekly to support its members and is open to all. It asks each member to write <i>Three Actions for the Day</i> in an <i>Action Journal</i> that addresses their personal needs for well-being and development. The group encourages each member to make progress each week.</p>	<p>2. Greater Community Currency</p> <p>Your personal consciousness, emotions and energy, and the high-quality information you share create a COMMUNITY CURRENCY that benefits everyone in your <i>Compassionate, Creative Community of Support</i> in your weekly <i>Community Economics Group</i> meeting. You feel a GREATER CURRENCY for the whole week. You are supported to live an <i>inspired, creative life</i> to PRODUCE your DREAMS and GOALS..</p>
<p>3. Positive Energy</p> <p>As a community organizer you will learn the how to use positive energy each day. There are rejections and disappointments, obstacles to overcome. It is all a learning process that includes how to be resilient and how to re-energize each day.</p>	<p>4. Content and Process</p> <p>As we get more of what we focus on ther era certain qualities and processes needed to live a good life. Community economics would reallocate funding so people may consciously acquire them in all families and communities..</p>

New Community Economics Initiatives

<p>5. Community Investment Trust</p> <p>The Community Investment Trust Program seeks legislation to establish a CIT in each community to receive contributions of money, annuities, insurance policies and property for a tax-deduction. The Community Investment Trust will then give grants to qualified community members for businesses and community ventures that benefit the community.</p>	<p>6. Annual Community Economic Summits ~ Local, National & Global</p> <p>Community Economic Summits on a local, national and global level explore the methods on this page and provide education, skills training and connections in the community, nationally and globally to further Community Economics and the wellbeing of all involved.</p>
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Existing Methods

<p>7. Social Entrepreneurship</p> <p><u>Social entrepreneurship</u> is the process of pursuing innovative solutions to social problems. Social entrepreneurs adopt a mission to create and sustain social value.</p> <p>Conscious Business</p> <p>Providing high-quality goods and services to the community and the world, and sharing the profits with the community and nature. More and more business people are aligned with sustainability and thriving for all.</p>	<p>8. Worker Cooperatives Worker-Owned Businesses</p> <p><u>Worker cooperatives</u> are business entities that are owned and controlled by their members, the people who work in them. All cooperatives operate in accordance with the Cooperative Principles and Values. The two central characteristics of worker cooperatives are: (1) worker-members invest in and own the business together, and it distributes surplus to them and (2) decision-making is democratic, adhering to the general principle of one member-one vote.</p>
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9. Credit Unions

A [credit union](#) is a member-owned financial cooperative, democratically controlled by its members, and operated for the purpose of promoting thrift, providing credit at competitive rates, and providing other financial services to its members. Many credit unions also provide services intended to support community development or sustainable international development on a local level.

10. Cooperative Housing with Community Recreation Centers

[In cooperative housing](#), people join together to own and control the building or community in which they live. Members form a co-op corporation in which they jointly own the building, land and common areas of the cooperative. Members join the cooperative by purchasing a share which allows them to occupy a unit in the cooperative. Members do not pay rent, but pay a monthly carrying fee to cover the operating expenses of the co-op. Members elect a board of directors to govern the co-op.

11. Food Cooperatives

A [food cooperative](#) or food co-op is a food distribution outlet organized as a cooperative. Food cooperatives are usually consumer cooperatives where the decisions regarding the production and distribution of its food is chosen by its members. Food cooperatives follow the 7 Cooperative Principles and typically offer natural foods. Since decisions about how to run a cooperative are not made by outside shareholders, cooperatives often exhibit a higher degree of social responsibility.

12. Community-Supported Agriculture

[Community-supported agriculture](#) (CSA; sometimes known as community-shared agriculture) is an alternative, locally-based economic model of agriculture and food distribution. A CSA also refers to a particular network or association of individuals who have pledged to support one or more local farms, with growers and consumers sharing the risks and benefits of food production. CSA members or subscribers pay at the onset of the growing season for a share of the anticipated harvest; once harvesting begins, they receive weekly shares of vegetables and fruit, in a vegetable box scheme.

13. Urban Farming & Creativity Center

[The Urban Farming Guys](#) is an excellent model. Their mission is to establish sustainable communities in the most difficult and overlooked places on earth. It begins with local food and water security, alternative energy, and local economic resilience. UFG works to empower indigenous groups. Partnering to build economic forces from the inside out, creating jobs, building resilient communities with affordable healthy food access, and to establishing alternative water and energy solutions that ultimately preserve life in many geographic situations.

14. Creative & Friendly Shopkeeper Training for Livable Downtowns

A [shopkeeper](#) owns, runs and manages one or more independent shops/stores or retail outlets. This is a hands-on role. Shopkeepers are involved in every aspect of the business, from ordering stock and merchandising, to serving customers and balancing the books. It is important to understand how to run a business and handle profit and loss accounts, and book-keeping. Many downtown areas were harmed by big box stores and malls. Downtowns need revitalizing by creative, friendly community-oriented shopkeepers that will hire young people in the community.

15. Local Currencies

[Deli Dollars and Berkshire Farm Preserve Notes](#) are self-financing scrip issued with the assistance of the E. F. Schumacher Society. Residents of the southern Berkshires of Massachusetts purchased the notes from the merchant to be redeemed at a later date, providing money for the business when it is most needed. This local scrip represents early developments in local currency and led to the current [BerkShares program](#). See more on [local currencies here](#) and [here](#).

16. Time Banks

[Time Banking](#) is a way of giving and receiving to build supportive networks and strong communities. One hour helping another earns one Time Bank Hour (also called time credits, service credits or time dollars.) Time Banking builds on the magic of “pay it forward,” one good turn leading to another and another. A Time Bank is formed whenever individuals or organizations agree to earn and spend Time Bank Hours to meet the needs of friends, neighbors, and the larger community. Time Banks range from Small (15 – 20 members) to large (2,000 or more). They can connect with other Time Banks.

Community Investments

Over the long run, through *global demilitarization*, funds will become available for investment in the community and nature for *Earth repair, infrastructure, social stabilization* and *human enlightenment* to create *sustainable families, sustainable communities* and a *sustainable world*.

EARTH REPAIR

THE ENVIRONMENT Renewable energy, Reducing carbon emissions and pollution, Tree planting, Home renewable energy retrofitting, Recycling, Natural containment of pests, Eco-villages, Land preservation.

INFRASTRUCTURE

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT Downtown redevelopment, Roads, parkway, highway, Bridges, Firehouses renovated, Bringing electricity to rural areas, Public facilities, Parks, Buildings, Utilities, Airports, Transportation projects.

WATER Water mains, Desalinization plants, Water pipelines, Sanitation, Flood control, sea walls, Water conservation, Construction of the lake method of water conservation.

AGRICULTURE Permaculture, Greenhouse farming, Local gardens, Farmers' markets, Production of soil, Local seed banks, Local Food Hubs to facilitate regionally produce food by small farmers.

SOCIAL STABILIZATION

PUBLIC BUILDINGS Hospitals, Schools, Community centers, Public recreation buildings, Theater, Observatory, Lodge, Publicly owned or operated utilities, Shop buildings.

HUMAN ENLIGHTENMENT

ENLIGHTENMENT Quality education for all, Teaching social, emotional and environmental skills, character development and ethics, Teaching nutrition and wellness.

LIBRARIES State-level library service, New areas of library service to underserved populations, Extend rural service, Computer access, Meeting facilities for the community, Teleconferencing, Loan tools and technology, Promote sharing and caring.

ARTS, CULTURE & CREATIVITY Enlightening cultural activities, Teaching visual arts, Theater, Musical performance, Dance, Computer arts, Innovation, Invention, Software for the arts.

Community Sustainability Index

	INDICATOR	MEASUREMENT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	POPULATION	The community has enough work, housing, open space, schools and medical facilities for the population.										
2	TRANSPORTATION	The community has enough public transportation for all who need it at an affordable rate.										
3	EDUCATION	The community has effective schools for all.										
4	WORK, EMPLOYMENT	The community has enough job opportunities for all who need work.										
5	RENEWABLE ENERGY	The community has effective means for providing access to energy sources for all.										
6	HEALTHY FOOD, GARDENING	The community has sufficient access to healthy food, grown locally.										
7	WATER, SANITATION	The community has adequate supplies of clean water and sanitation facilities.										
8	HEALTHCARE	The community has enough health care providers and high standard facilities for delivering it. There are adequate avenues for education, especially in preventative measures.										
9	GOOD GOVERNMENT	The community has well-established guidelines for a system of government that provides checks and balances as well as methods for ensuring accountability.										
10	RELATIONSHIP TO PEOPLE	People of different races, religions, nationalities and walks of life are welcomed and free to associate with whomever they want.										
11	RELATIONSHIP TO NATURE	The community provides educational avenues for teaching a respectful approach to nature in schools as well as business practices and develops standards for ensuring those guidelines are met.										
12	VOLUNTEERISM BY ALL	The community provides opportunities for all to assess their skills and encourages its members to participate generously.										
13	GENEROSITY AND CONTRIBUTION OF TIME, TALENT, KNOWLEDGE	The educated, successful, financially fortunate people in the community participate in contributing time, talent, knowledge and money to causes in the community.										
14	APPRECIATION FOR ART, CREATIVITY, SCIENCE, NATURE, WONDER, THE SACRED, THE HOLY (WITHIN AND BETWEEN ALL FAITHS)	The community provides opportunities for creativity, faith-sharing and encourages its members to participate in deepening their spiritual lives.										
15	PEACE, TRANSCENDENCE, ALIGNMENT WITH POSITIVE ENERGY	The community encourages non-violent methods of communication and provides educational opportunities for learning to develop these skills as well as offering incentives for implementing non-violent communication skills in schools and businesses.										
TOTAL WHOLE SYSTEM, SUSTAINABLE, HEALTHY COMMUNITY INDEX			Score of _____ out of 150 _____ %									