

ECOVILLAGE AT ITHACA



GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT

**Revised Draft – May 2004
Yet to be approved by the EVI Board**

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NOTE: Still to be revised or created are guidelines for:
Transportation/Circulation (REVISED)
Education
Community Process
Community Outreach/Public Relations

HEALTH, PERSONAL GROWTH, & SPIRITUALITY GUIDELINES

HEALTH GUIDELINES

GOALS:

- To support & promote optimal physical/emotional/spiritual health for all individuals within the community
- To utilize sustainable methods to support and promote health
- To foster a level of caring about the health and quality of life of all inhabitants of our planet.

OBJECTIVES:

- To create and maintain an exercise facility as well as encourage exercising on the land
- To reach out to, inform, and support residents in times of physical and emotional need
- To provide periodic information and/or events promoting health & wellness
- To make health care more accessible and affordable here and in the wider community

PERSONAL GROWTH GUIDELINES

GOALS

- To promote self-esteem and self-actualization for all community members
- To promote communications that support good relationships and effective decision-making within the community
- To work towards non-violent solutions to conflicts within our community and throughout the wider world

OBJECTIVES

- To create activities or provide resources to help people see how they might be able to simplify their lives (towards having more time and energy to be in community)
- To provide contexts towards deepening relationships among residents
- To provide opportunities that inform, or offer dialogue (written or oral) on promoting and practicing personal growth and effective communicating

SPIRITUALITY GUIDELINES

GOALS: (i.e., our connections to our deeper humanity, to others, & to the sacred)

- ~~To support and deepen opportunities for residents who have or would like to have individual and shared spiritual practices~~
- To increase our connections to our own deeper humanity, to each other, to the sacred within our community
- ~~To maintain awareness of our interconnectedness with all beings~~

OBJECTIVES:

- To promote dialogues within the community regarding our spiritual and religious paths
- To offer spirituality focused programs, practices, and events, including workshops, seminars, and lectures on an ongoing basis

POSSIBLE HEALTH ACTION STEPS:

- Qualify as a health insurance group and/or create an in-house group
- Research and present the role that toxins play in our health
- Set up a “caring committee”
- Provide periodic health-related newsletters, workshops and/or events
- Create a health library in the CH

POSSIBLE PERSONAL GROWTH ACTION STEPS:

- Start (or resume) and coordinate talking-stick and deepening groups in each neighborhood
- Put out a periodic newsletter on the meaning and practice of personal growth
- Create a personal growth library in the CH

POSSIBLE SPIRITUALITY ACTION STEPS:

- Put out a periodic spirituality newsletter that solicits input and feedback
- Create a spiritual library in the Common House

WATER, WASTEWATER, MATERIALS, & ENERGY GUIDELINES

WATER AND WASTEWATER GUIDELINES

GOAL:

- Demonstrate a continuing trend of lower neighborhood water consumption over time through more widespread use of conservation practices

OBJECTIVES:

- Raise awareness of the need to conserve water and exchange ideas on simple and easy ways to lower water consumption
- Build incentives to conserve water into all future developments
- Install technologies that meter individual home water consumption so residents see the effects of their efforts at conservation
- Continue to monitor and provide feedback to neighborhoods on annual water consumption to determine the effectiveness of conservation efforts

GOAL:

- Use on-site sources of water in place of using municipal water

OBJECTIVES:

- Phase out use of municipal water for landscaping purposes and use onsite water exclusively for both agricultural and landscaping irrigation in existing neighborhoods and all new developments
- Use composting toilets wherever feasible especially in common facilities
- Use low-flow systems in all new toilets, showers and faucets and upgrade existing ones to lower-flow systems

GOAL:

- Increase efficiency of pumping facilities and substitute energy from renewable sources rather than from fossil fuels to pump water and wastewater

OBJECTIVES:

- Replace less efficient motors and pumps with more efficient ones in Frog Energy Centers, reduce waste heat production and lower heat loss in the hot water distribution system and provide more reliable metering of hot water usage by homes in the first neighborhood
- Design and determine the cost of installing photovoltaic panels on the Pump-House with batteries for electricity storage to reduce use of grid power to pump water (include use of night-time grid electricity for backup when solar power is inadequate)

GOAL:

- Recycle, reuse and reclaim water onsite from gray-water

OBJECTIVES:

- Determine the most feasible and cost-effective system for processing gray-water onsite from one of a combination of Watson's Wick, Living Machine and constructed wetlands. Include procedures for monitoring output from these systems to insure that water quality of local streams is not degraded
- Install one or more of these systems in the Frog or Song to test the feasibility of processing gray-water in an existing neighborhood
- Depending on the system used, investigate the possibility of using the reclaimed water to flush toilets

SOLID WASTE GUIDELINES**GOAL:**

- Demonstrate a continuing trend of reduction in generation of solid waste over time

OBJECTIVES:

- Exchange ideas on how to reduce purchase of items that become garbage
- Encourage the use of salvaged materials and Village-wide bulk-buying programs
- Build incentives to reduce acquisition of materials that become garbage into all new developments
- Monitor and provide feedback to each neighborhood on the amount of garbage produced to determine the effectiveness of practices to reduce generation of solid waste

GOAL:

- Recycle, compost and creatively re-use solid materials onsite so fewer solid wastes are sent to the dump

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote the development of a centralized Repair Center where anyone can come for assistance in learning how to repair broken items
- Expand the Re-Use Center and make it available to residents of all neighborhoods
- Explore creative ideas for cottage industries that turn solid wastes into useable and saleable products

ELECTRICITY AND HEAT GUIDELINES

GOAL:

- Aim for net-zero use of fossil fuels (can include purchase of alternative energy to offset use of energy from fossil fuels) in both existing neighborhoods and new developments by using onsite sources of energy while maintaining comfort, convenience and air quality

OBJECTIVES:

- Use solar energy in all new developments to preheat hot water
- Use solar energy for production of electricity in all new developments and consider retrofitting existing structures
- Monitor the performance of energy systems in Song houses so different approaches can be compared and information can be provided for the design of new developments and possible retrofitting of existing structures

GOAL:

- Demonstrate a continuing trend of lower electricity and natural gas use over time by raising awareness of levels of usage, the need to reduce use of fossil fuels and opportunities to conserve

OBJECTIVES:

- Continue to monitor and provide feedback on use of electricity and natural gas (or hot water) consumption so residents can determine the effectiveness of their efforts at conservation
- Use heat pumps to heat homes during the winter and cool them during the summer
- Develop neighborhood-specific Home-Owners' Manuals that contain instructions on how to operate and maintain heating, plumbing, electricity, ventilation and fire-alarm systems and insure that these manuals are transferred to new residents when houses are rented and sold
- Use a standardized Ecological Footprint calculation so residents and neighborhoods can evaluate their energy and resource-use over time and assess progress towards lowering their impact on the Earth's resources, find areas where greatest benefits can be obtained and identify footprint-reducing choices for new developments.

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS**CREATE AN ENERGY, WATER, WASTEWATER AND MATERIALS WORK GROUP**

This work group would:

- Encourage and coordinate the attainment of Goals and Objectives
- Seek to broaden our understanding of sustainability to include the energy and resources used to produce the materials we use, the size and durability of our

structures, the extent to which our buildings can accommodate changing needs and the impact of lifestyle decisions on the use of energy and resources.

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTING

- Develop a standard Ecological Footprint calculation to evaluate energy and resource-use over time and progress toward establishing a continuing trend over time of lower total water, natural gas, electricity and materials use in each neighborhood.
- Periodically re-examine neighborhood footprints to evaluate progress, identify areas where greatest benefits can be obtained and suggest footprint-reducing choices for future building projects.
- Periodically re-examine personal Ecological Footprints, evaluate progress, identify incentives to conserve, and ways of supporting each other to lower our impact on Earth's resources.

ENERGY CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

- Develop a short-range plan to provide more reliable metering of hot water usage by homes in the first neighborhood, replace less efficient motors and pumps with more efficient ones, reduce production of waste heat and lower heat loss in the hot water distribution systems.
- Develop a long-range plan to eliminate natural gas furnaces and replace them with furnaces that use energy from renewable sources in ways that do not degrade local air quality.

ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF SONG HOMES

- Monitor energy performance to compare the efficiency of the different types of energy systems in the second neighborhood and provide information for the design of new developments.

HOME-OWNERS MANUAL

- Develop neighborhood-specific Home-Owners Manuals that contain instructions on how to operate, maximize the efficiency and properly maintain home heating, plumbing, electricity, ventilation and fire alarm systems and how the manuals will be transferred to new residents when homes are rented and sold.

SOLAR ELECTRICITY FOR PUMP HOUSE

- Develop detailed labor and materials cost estimates for the installation of photovoltaic panels and batteries to pump water to the Village from the Pump House and for the use of night-time grid electricity as a backup for periods when battery electricity gets low.
- Include in these plans procedures for acquiring the funds to pay for installation of solar energy to pump water to the community.

SOLID WASTE REDUCTION

- Develop a plan to reduce the amount of solid waste generated on-site that considers possibilities to enhance bulk-buying programs, reduce purchase of materials that become waste, find salvaged materials, promote more repair and recycling of wastes and develop creative ideas for re-use.
- Include in these plans a program for educating residents on the need to reduce solid wastes and how to make use of the opportunities to lower generation of solid waste.

GREYWATER PROCESSING

- Compare the relative advantages and limitations of different ways of processing gray water, i.e. Watson's Wick, Living Machine, constructed wetland. Develop a site-plan, design and cost-estimate for installation of the approach that seems most feasible. Include monitoring to insure that water quality of local streams is not degraded by effluents from the processing of gray water.

LAND STEWARDSHIP GUIDELINES

To honor the complex web of life on our land and in our bioregion, of which we are a part, we will endeavor:

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION GOALS:

- To support and encourage transforming our attitude of exclusive ownership of land and manipulation of nature to one of inclusiveness, reconciliation and harmonization with the natural world.
- To foster diverse native natural systems and species by preserving, restoring, and creating wildlife habitats (including woods and wetlands) to the greatest extent possible.
- To protect the Cayuga watershed by using water in such a way that it leaves our land in better condition than when it entered.
- To develop and implement comprehensive land and water management plans that will include control of invasive species, pond and water resource management (including aquaculture), and permaculture(1) systems that integrate animals in numbers limited by the carrying capacity of the land and/or water.
- To foster sustainable utilization of natural resources from our land, such as fibers, fuel, and natural building materials.
- To provide a rich interface for pedestrian interaction with our natural areas through an extensive trail system designed to allow the West Hill community recreational access to EcoVillage land while ensuring an adequate level of privacy for residents.

AGRICULTURE GOALS:

- To maximize sustainable agricultural use of our open land while protecting and fostering native species and systems in its natural areas.
- To produce a substantial part of the food for EcoVillage on site, including a wide variety of fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs, and ethically wild crafted products and possibly eggs and dairy products (such as goat milk).
- To support bioregionalism(2) by obtaining food that we cannot provide for ourselves from like-minded local/regional farmers.
- To develop, demonstrate, and teach sustainable technologies and methods, including organic farming, permaculture, wild crafting, minimal use of fossil fuels, and building long-term soil fertility.
- To foster economic vitality by providing livelihood for growers at EcoVillage and affordable food for its consumers.
- To support and encourage individual agricultural initiatives, land-based cottage industries, and synergies among these projects.
- To increase our awareness of our ties to the land by making agriculture and land stewardship a focal point of seasonal community activities.

LAND STEWARDSHIP OBJECTIVES:

- Establish and empower a Land Stewardship Committee on the Village level. The committee's mandates may include:
 - Guiding residents to broaden our understanding of the interdependence of all life on this planet and to build peaceful and mutually-enhancing relationships.
between humans, wildlife and our air, water and land resources.
 - Helping the Village to develop and implement its comprehensive land and water management plans
 - Archiving natural and agricultural areas as they are identified and developed.
 - Evaluating, prioritizing, and assisting in the development of new sustainable agricultural projects, permaculture systems, and land-based cottage industries.
 - Helping the VA form work teams that can undertake village-wide projects, such as control of invasive species.
- Continue to support West Haven Farm as a vital component of our community.
- Use on-site agricultural products in common meals and encourage on-site and bioregional growers to meet the needs of our Common House kitchens.
- Support on-site food processing and winter storage of food (e.g. Common House canning parties, root cellars).
- In each neighborhood, establish a community garden and encourage edible landscaping.
- In identifying and maintaining areas for community play and outdoor gatherings near each neighborhood, avoid negative impacts on natural habitats.
- Celebrate the changing seasons with land-related rituals and festivities (e.g. "guys baking pies," which coincides with blackberry season).

Action Steps

- Formation of a Land and/or Water Stewardship Committee/s
- Convene a meeting of cook team members and outdoor team and other interested individuals to facilitate innovative ways to provide meal ingredients on site (i.e., harvest garlic mustard, dandelion, etc. for occasional meals).

1) Permaculture is the conscious design of "cultivated" ecosystems that have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is a harmonious integration of people into the landscape in such a way that the land grows in richness, productivity, and aesthetic beauty. It is an approach to planning human settlements that uses intelligent design to increase the abundance of natural systems and the efficiency of human activities. It is rooted in the careful observation of the natural patterns characteristic of a particular site. The integration of human environments with natural cycles is key to permaculture. Permaculture applies techniques and principles from ecology, cooperative economics, appropriate technology, sustainable agriculture, and the wisdom of indigenous people to create sustainable human environments, at home, at work, at play, and in our communities. Permaculture is an ethical design system for creating human environments that are ecologically sound and economically viable. Permaculture systems provide

for their own needs, do not exploit or pollute, and are therefore sustainable. (From Heathcote Community's Permaculture Web Page)

2) Sometimes called "living in place," bioregionalism means you are aware of the ecology, economy and culture of the place where you live, and are committed to making choices that enhance them. (From Great River Earth Institute Web Page)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (BUILT ENVIRONMENT) GUIDELINES

*Note: Items in bold need substantial village and EVI Board discussion.

RESIDENTIAL GOALS:

- To foster the formation and ongoing development of a strong sense of community, both within neighborhoods and within the Village as a whole, while respecting residents' privacy.
- To establish respectful interrelationships between human habitation on the land and the living matrix of plant and animal life.
- To encourage pedestrian and bicycle circulation, and to restrict vehicle access into residential areas.
- To minimize the ecological footprint of the residential community by using green building techniques and materials, and minimizing energy use.
- To maximize contiguous open space.

RESIDENTIAL OBJECTIVES:

- **Three to five neighborhoods will be built in the residential area, with the timing, size and focus to be determined by the needs and values of the EVI community.**
- **Total number of homes on site is projected to range between 75-120.**
- Housing will be clustered, with a maximum area of 2 to 4 acres per neighborhood, including Common House and buffer areas.
- Neighborhoods will connect to a central pedestrian green, and will be tied together by a network of pedestrian paths.
- **Each neighborhood will accommodate 15-35 households, plus common facilities.**
- The Common House will include facilities to foster a sense of community (for example dining, laundry, and other neighborhood-wide activities).
- Neighborhood common facilities may include specialized functions shared by the entire village.
- Household dwelling units will be self-contained, but access to Common House facilities is meant to reduce the individual unit's size and cost.
- Neighborhoods will have a pedestrian emphasis, and motor vehicles will be excluded from the neighborhood proper. Limited access will be provided for emergency and service vehicles.
- Limited parking for residents and visitors will be provided on the periphery of the neighborhoods.
- Neighborhoods will be designed to allow for the possibility of home occupations and cottage industries.
- Future neighborhoods will be encouraged to use less offsite, non-renewable sources of water, electricity and natural gas and more onsite, renewable sources of water and energy than the first two neighborhoods.
- Buildings and neighborhood sites will be designed for durability and low maintenance.

Design and Development Process:

- Attention will be given to fostering cooperation and creating a sense of community among residents during the design and development process of neighborhoods.
- Future residents have the freedom to plan their neighborhood's housing, exterior spaces, and amenities according to their own desires and needs.
- Future residents will choose the professional assistance they wish to engage on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis.

Cohousing Model:

- Danish style co-housing provides a proven residential community model consistent with EcoVillage's goals, and will be the basis for the first neighborhoods.
- Other housing models may be considered, if they provide at least as much basis for community as co-housing.

Special Needs:

- Design will support the needs of children, the elderly, and the differently abled.
- To the extent possible make buildings and other facilities wheelchair accessible.

VILLAGE CENTER COMPLEX GOALS (OVERALL):

- To fulfill spatial needs for education, recreation, village wide gatherings, small businesses, and visitors.
- To encourage simplicity, beauty, and sustainability in non-residential buildings.
- To minimize the ecological impact of non-residential buildings.
- To promote a dynamic Village atmosphere by encouraging movement and activity.
- To provide a buffer between residential life and visitor activity.
- To provide a gateway to the Village and an arrival sequence that is welcoming, aesthetic and calming.
- To develop a building process that reflects respect for the environment and the community, and does not overtax our resources.

VILLAGE CENTER COMPLEX OBJECTIVES (OVERALL):

- One or more buildings will combine as many functions as appropriate, in order to minimize footprint, and maximize efficient use of space. For instance, the Education Center and the Visitor's Center could be combined. The buildings may or may not be clustered.
- Buildings will be designed to maximize use of green building materials and technologies and to minimize energy and water use.
- Buildings and grounds will be designed for durability and low maintenance.
- Open space may include such amenities as a water feature, sculpture, a playground, bandstand, amphitheater and gardens.
- Buildings should be designed to adapt to changing village needs.
- Buildings may be built incrementally.
- The impact of noise will be considered when locating facilities.

Village Center (Town Hall?) Goals:

- To provide recreational, social gathering, performance and meeting space for residents and the broader community.

Village Center Objectives:

- Building will include a large multi-purpose space with a stage that can serve as a gym, basketball court, dance floor, and auditorium.

Village Commerce Facilities Goals:

- To reduce vehicle travel by establishing on-site access to goods and services.
- To develop on-site employment opportunities for village residents.
- To provide office space for on-site businesses.

Village Commerce Facilities Objectives:

- Buildings may include shops, cottage industries, offices, bed & breakfast inn, a cafe, bookstore, restaurant, and mail facility.
- Businesses will be owned and operated by residents, individually or collectively.
- Preference will be given to businesses that primarily employ and/or serve residents or otherwise demonstrably reduce our ecological footprint, while promoting EVI values.
- Second-story residential units may be included.

Visitor's Center Goals:

- To provide an introduction to EcoVillage for casual visitors.
- To provide more privacy for village residents by controlling the flow of visitor activity.

Visitor's Center Objectives:

- Includes informational materials, EVI model, videos.
- Will serve as a gathering place for tours.
- Center will be staffed with volunteers or paid personnel.

ECOVILLAGE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (EVER) CENTER GOALS :

- To serve as a focal point for teaching about sustainability in all its aspects by developing and implementing educational programs for all ages.
- To provide a source of inspiration and information for people who would like to replicate the model of EcoVillage at Ithaca.
- To support research activities.
- To provide housing for interns.

EVER CENTER OBJECTIVES:

- The EVER Center will include an EVI office, some classrooms, research area, and a large multi-purpose room that may serve as an auditorium, meeting room and dining hall.
- The EVER Center may include an alternative school.
- The EVER Center may include some student housing
- The Center's facilities will demonstrate green building techniques, alternative energy, permaculture applications, alternative wastewater treatment, and other best practices, which will be explained through educational signage.
- Laboratory space will be built in increments as resources are available.

Note: we assume that there will be a separate set of Guidelines on Educational Programs, thus this just addresses the built environment.

Action Items:

1) To discuss and begin to resolve major questions about future development (see "Big Questions" below) at both the village level and the EVI Board level over the next six months.

2) To hold workshops in the fall to "program" the site plan for the field north of the CH, which is the place designated for future residential and village/education functions.

3) To identify a local professional (planner/landscape architect/ or architect) who may help us with step #2. Community Viz software may also help.

Big Questions:

1. **Residential development:** What is the optimum # of homes for EVI? How will these be clustered into neighborhoods? What is the minimum/maximum size of a neighborhood?
2. **Non-Residential development:** there are at least four different functions that we envision fulfilling: a) EVI Education Center, b) Visitor's Center, c) Offices, d) Village gathering/recreation/performance Center. How many of these functions can be combined in a multi-purpose building? How do we minimize ecological footprint? Who will pay for this development? What kind of public/private balance do we want to have?

RELATIONSHIP, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY CHARACTER GUIDELINES

We strive to create a community in which people of differing backgrounds (racial, cultural, religious, ethnic), genders, sexual orientations, abilities, incomes, and ages, feel respected, empowered, and welcome.

CULTURAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

GOALS:

- To increase the current level of cultural and ethnic diversity to reflect the diversity of the City of Ithaca and Tompkins County.
- To include groups seeking to maintain or create a distinct cultural identity.
- To promote cultural and ethnic diversity in our community by including groups of ethnically/culturally diverse people, who do not live here, in events and enjoyment of our land.

***SOME FELT THE ABOVE NEEDS MORE THOUGHT**

OBJECTIVES:

- Conduct outreach and community involvement programs, such as sister neighborhood/partnership in Ithaca (GIAC, South Side community center, Tibetan - Monastery), plan educational and/or fun events at Ecovillage for these communities to enjoy.
- Work with a consultant to help us attract a more diverse population and to form alliances with other communities.
- Explore the connection between environmental degradation and racism and connecting our vision of sustainability to issues of environmental and social justice.

INTERGENERATIONAL DIVERSITY

GOALS:

- To be a birth to death community, where people live here from the time they're born until they die.
- To treat people of all ages with respect.
- For members of different generations to interact more richly/deeply with each other in mutually beneficial ways.

OBJECTIVES:

- To bring the generations together more.
- Implement a skills/hobby/interest database with information regarding: a person's willingness to share knowledge/mentor/do hobby with others as a way of mixing the generations.

PARENTING

GOALS:

- The community commits to safeguarding the well-being of children and supporting parents in conscious, loving parenting.
- Parents and other adults work together to discuss child-related issues, reflecting the community's commitment to good communication and conflict resolution skills.

OBJECTIVES:

- Children are included in community events whenever possible, and given appropriate roles and responsibilities in the community.
- The community provides adequate childcare at adult-focused events, such as business meetings.
- **THIS AREA NEEDS MORE DISCUSSION; THE KID'S COUNCIL SHOULD PROBABLY BE MENTIONED.**

PRIVACY

Proposed background statement (very rough draft):

We recognize the challenge of creating a coherent personal and family life based on deeply felt values and intuition in the midst of a stimulating, complex, and densely clustered social environment. We support exploring ways to support community members in discovering that ever-shifting balance, as it is essential to the sustainability of members' lives and the richness of their contribution to the community.

GOALS:

- To respect the privacy of people's homes and personal lives, and to respect that each person sets the boundary for his/her personal space.
- To encourage and support members to consciously balance individual, family and community life.

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop principles, guidelines, and/or communication strategies that make it easy for members to signal to community members when someone needs "space" both inside and outside their homes.

DISABILITIES

GOALS:

- To be wholly accessible where people with disabilities can use all common facilities (indoors and outdoors). **MAY NEED SOME DISCUSSION ON THE CONCEPT OF "WHOLLY ACCESSIBLE": WHAT LEVEL OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENT IS THERE FOR ALREADY CONSTRUCTED SPACES?**

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide safe and negotiable pathways for people with disabilities.
- To provide housing that is accessible to people with disabilities.
- To retrofit the Frog Common House so it is wholly accessible.
- To make all newly-built common facilities wholly accessible

INCLUSION

We would like to include a statement that reflects the community's feelings about inclusion versus exclusion but are unsure of what to say.

VISITORS

A question was raised as to whether we should include a statement about visitors, what kind of flow we'd like, etc.

Possible Action Steps:

- Create an elder-child Legacy Project which would have interested youth interview elders about their life story and create a response (art, writing, etc.) to what they've heard.
 - Implement a skills/hobby/interest database with information regarding: a person's willingness to share knowledge/mentor/do hobby with others as a way of mixing the generations.
 - Improve accessibility of Frog Common House
 - Improve the pathways (in process in Frog)

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMICS GUIDELINES

GOAL:

- **EVOLUTION:** toward an Ecovillage economy of local self-reliance, and self-sufficiency

OBJECTIVES:

- Reduce need for income
- Encourage economic equity and community self-reliance by exploring the possibilities & feasibility of cooperative models such as voluntarily shared income and cooperative health insurance
- Create alternatives to a cash economy such as barter systems and resource sharing
- Encourage the use/support of local resources such as food cooperatives, Ithaca Hours, the Ithaca Health Fund, and small-business enterprises

Possible actions steps for “Evolution” goal:

- create discussion groups to explore the above
- create a survey to assess the needs/desires for cooperative health insurance

GOAL:

- **SUPPORT:**
People in discerning their right livelihood
People in creating and manifesting meaningful work

OBJECTIVES:

- Create opportunities to share support, experience, tools and resources to discern and manifest work within or outside the Ecovillage community

Possible “Support” action steps:

- Create a job discernment/search support group
- Create a task force to explore the possibilities for a village-wide cottage industry

GOAL:

- **EDUCATION:** being a living laboratory where we:

OBJECTIVES:

- Create dialogues to deepen and share our understanding of concepts such as right livelihood, simplicity, equity, wealth, worth, and interdependence
- Explore the systemic implications of diverse cultural economic models and paradigms
- Experiment with alternative economic models and share our learning with others
- Encourage and model a culture of valuing, supporting, and celebrating un-paid work such as parenting, volunteering, & eldercare

Possible “Education” action steps:
(The possibilities are endless..)

GOAL:

- **ACTIVISM:** Explore and promote economic equity/sustainability & social/environmental justice

OBJECTIVES:

- Connect with and support local and global efforts toward sustainable economics
- Support a life-affirming economy through, for example, socially responsible investing, informed purchasing choices, and promotion of fair trade & fair wages

Possible “Activism” action steps:

- Create a resource/reading list for people interested in exploring these issues
- Share occasional informational/thought pieces through email or other media