



Photo: Wikipedia

Resilient Communities Project Blogs

The Resilient Communities Project invites you to explore our blogs and evolving vision. Please read our source document at: <https://resilientcommunities.network/> for more information.

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Regeneration: Using Nature to Build Resilient Communities"

The Resilient Communities Project (RCP) defines a Resilient Community as one that:

- Nurtures the healing and well-being of members and the wider community
- Rejuvenates ecosystems while building soil and benefiting the climate
- Provides simple, affordable, low impact housing
- Regeneratively produces much or most of its own food and other necessities

The six principles (R's) of the Circular Economy are defined as:

- Retaining - holding a vision for change
- Rethinking - being critical of the status quo
- Regenerating - using Nature to revitalize a person or a system
- Reducing - eliminating waste
- Reusing - putting manufactured resources back in the system rather than in the garbage
- Recovering - creating a healthy community and/or ecosystem

Regenerating is using Nature to revitalize a person or a system. Espousing "whole systems thinking," or factoring in all inputs and outputs of a system. Call it self-sufficiency. Every species is capable of regeneration, from bacteria to humans. Recovering or creating a healthy community and/or ecosystem drives regeneration.

Examples of regeneration in a resilient community includes:

- Solar energy = renewing the Sun's energy
- Reducing Stream Pollution = restoring a pristine ecosystem
- Barter = alternative exchange tool
- Cobb Building = earthen materials for structures
- Gardens = healthy food for all
- Pasture Land = help create the commons
- Housing Coops = communal living
- People Care, Land Care, Fair Share = permaculture ethics
- Community Fund (Bank) = shared resource development
- Land Trust = shared ownership strategy

"Introduction to Personal Resilience"

"(Personal resilience) isn't just the absence of mental illness, but a state of well-being in which one can realize their potential and deal with life's challenges in a healthy way." Dr. Veronica Searles Quick, Montage Health

Some say that personal resilience is made up of seven integral components: Competence, confidence, connection, character, contribution, coping, and control. What resonates with you?

Personal resilience involves behaviors, thoughts, and actions that promote personal wellbeing and mental health. People can develop the ability to withstand, adapt to, and recover from stress and adversity - and maintain or return to a state of mental health wellbeing - by using effective coping strategies. It's also the ability to adapt to stressors while maintaining psychological well-being.

Here are some ways to develop personal resilience:

- Practice self-care: Take care of your needs and feelings. Do activities you enjoy, like hiking, photography, reading, watching movies, or writing in a journal. Also, get enough sleep, eat well, and exercise regularly.
- Practice stress management: Try yoga, meditation, guided imagery, deep breathing, or prayer.
- Take action: Figure out what you need to do, make a plan, and act.
- Consider the situation in a broader context: Avoid blowing the event out of proportion.
- Maintain social connections: Stay connected to people and groups that are meaningful to you.
- Have a good support system: Maintain positive relationships and have confidence in your strengths and abilities.
- Enjoy Nature: plant identification, hiking, camping, and star gazing are good ways to get away and destress.

(Main Source: Google Generative AI)

"The Commons in the Resilient Communities Project (RCP)"

The Resilient Communities Project is launching a permanent commons for living sustainably on the land within a regenerative economic system.

The original meaning of the term 'commons' comes from the way communities managed land that was held 'in common' in medieval Europe. Along with this shared land a clear set of rules was developed by the community about how it was to be used. Over time, the term 'commons' has taken on several meanings. Most generally, it can be used to refer to a broad set of resources, natural and cultural, that are shared by many people.

Traditional examples of commons include forests, fisheries, or groundwater resources, but increasingly we see the term commons used for a broader set of domains, such as knowledge commons, digital commons, urban commons, health commons, cultural commons, etc. <https://iasc-commons.org/about-commons>

A Resilient Community Land Trust establishes a permanent commons at the RCP as a basis for living sustainably on the land within a regenerative economic system. Members of the initial core team will help develop a binding land-use charter that will define how the Commons is created and stewarded for regenerative purposes.

The idea of a shared commons permeates life at the RCP, both legally and in everyday living. The Land Trust drives the governance at the evolving site. The site is held in commons. Equity shares replace the mortgage. This could be a difficult shift for new residents. Some form cooperative enterprises together. The daily activities and way of life of the community not only greatly reduce or eliminate harmful impacts on the local and planetary environment, but also actively heal and regenerate the land and natural world. This is no small feat and requires serious study and ongoing experimentation.

"Values, Creation, Play, Peace - Visioning a Sustainable Playground"

This is a menu for a child's dream place to play together. To build muscles and tolerance for each other. A combination of high tech and grass roots being. A teaching / learning space.

Water, air, chalk, vegetables. Where are your kids playing today?

ACTIVITIES

kite flying

pathway chalking

art projects

recess

FACILITIES

tiny house as playground hub: kitchen, supply / electrical cabinets, security, and water systems

solar panels

saltwater wading pool

vegetable garden

picnic tables - reused wood

outdoor playset: slides, crawl tube, swings, monkey bars, and ladders

bike racks

“The Resilient Community Land Trust”

The Resilient Community Land Trust (RCLT) is a model for communities to control land and development.

The RCLT is a nonprofit organization governed by a board of Resilient Community Project (RCP) residents, community citizens and public representatives that provides lasting community assets and shared equity homeownership opportunities for families and communities. The RCLT supports rural and urban agriculture projects, commercial spaces to serve local communities, affordable rental and cooperative housing projects, and conserves land or urban green spaces. However, the heart of the Trust is the creation of homes that remain permanently affordable, providing successful homeownership opportunities for generations of lower income families.

<https://groundedsolutions.org/strengthening-neighborhoods/community-land-trusts>

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Members of the Trust receive qualified permanent control over a specific housing unit and/or portion of the land subject to housing co-op rules and RCLT conditions. If they later wish to leave, they can sell their equity share to people vetted according to co-op and RCLT policies. The Resilient Community Land Trust establishes a permanent commons as a basis for living sustainably on the land within a regenerative economic system.

If through fair procedures anyone’s membership is terminated for serious violations of the housing co-op bylaws or the RCLT, their equity would be returned minus any mediation, arbitration, or other properly deductible costs. If members’ savings are kept in a community fund, they could invest their collective capital in developing community and financing community enterprises. With provisions for ongoing funding, long-term care in old age or disability could be included in the RCLT and/or housing co-op bylaws.

from: "The Resilient Communities Project" by Brad Smith, Founder, RCP (<https://resilientcommunities.network/>)

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See: Startup Community Land Trust Hub, <https://groundedsolutions.org/start-upclthub>

"Land for the People"

Question One: Do we first need a cohesive kindred group of people or does acquiring land come first? Is this a parallel process?

Question Two: What are some ways to acquire land where land trust members may start a resilient community? Some possibilities to start with are:

- * An existing landholder is bought out over time into a land trust.
- * Someone buys the land and is bought out over time into a land trust.
- * A group of people buy the land and are bought out over time into a land trust.
- * A person, organization, or government donates land to a land trust.
- * Funds are raised through a non-profit to buy the land for a land trust.
- * Seller financing by existing land owner is used to buy the land.
- * Land is leased with an option to buy.
- * A lease-to-own contract is created.
- * A fiscal partnership with a non-profit is created to buy land.
- * Grant money is obtained for land.
- * Land is willed to a land trust.
- * Win the lottery and buy some land.
- * Any combination of the above.

What are your ideas and/or experience on the above questions and ideas?

Helpful Source:

Land Seekers vs. Registered Land Holders

Oregon Farm Link:

<https://oregonfarmlink.org/find-land-seekers/>

"How routine creates trust and faith"

Routine is defined as "a sequence of actions regularly followed; a fixed program."

Trust is defined as "a firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of something."

Faith is defined as "a complete trust or confidence in something."

Repetitiveness and reliability create routines; routines create trust; trust creates faith:

1. (repetitiveness) Maintenance is mandatory and expected.
2. (routine) Frequent recharging is necessary; but sometimes routines can get stale?
3. (trust) Tesla cars will never run out of power. Is trust built on experience and subject to change?
4. (faith) Resale value will remain high. Faith might be a stronger belief based on experience (1. - 3.).

Trust and faith built by routines can give us a sense of security and stability in a world that can be unpredictable.

"A Moral Compass"

A moral compass is a set of beliefs about what is right and wrong that guides a resilient community's actions. A moral compass can help the community make decisions in daily life, but it can also help the group find meaning and purpose in life. The Resilient Communities Project defines a Resilient Community that:

- * nurtures the healing and well-being of members and the wider community
- * rejuvenates ecosystems while building soil and benefiting the climate
- * provides simple, affordable, low impact housing
- * regeneratively produces much or most of its own food and other necessities

A resilient community's moral compass is the foundation for ethical decision-making and involves some basic principles and values to support the moral compass. They are:

- * We are all in this together
- * People Care, Land Care, Fair Share
- * Love of the natural world
- * Roots in land and community
- * Healthy bodies, minds, and interpersonal relationships
- * Individual or collective spiritual foundation
- * Self-motivation and resourcefulness
- * Integrity and financial responsibility
- * Creativity, collaboration, and courage

It seems self-evident that the RCP moral compass is largely fueled by Nature and the land. By joining a Resilient Community, ecosystem and settlement are coupled together, a moral compass driven by Mother Nature.

"Building Trust Together"

"The Resilient Communities Project is forming a network of small socially and economically cooperative communities that can survive and thrive as the currently dominant neoliberal system continues to unravel. Together we will innovate and demonstrate the transformative power of a truly convivial, equitable, and sustainable way of life." (Framework for Resilient Communities)

Creating cooperative, high-trust communities will not be easy. However, the components are clear: care, communication, character, consistency, and competence. Applying these on a day-to-day basis requires a powerful commitment. Trust is definitely an action. Not buying goods or running up debt. Instead, it's tending the fire at the morning coals; providing water for the meal, showing up and doing your chores for the community.

According to betterup.com, some effective ways to build trust in a community include:

- * Valuing long-term relationships
- * Being honest
- * Admitting when you're wrong
- * Being vulnerable
- * Being helpful
- * Showing people that you care

A little trust goes a long way. In fact, scholars link trust in communities to successes such as stronger volunteerism, healthier residents, and economic prosperity. That means building trust in communities is worth some time and patience.

"To be a Food Forest?"

'Food forests mimic how plant guilds operate in natural settings. Instead of competing, each of the plants that occupy a layer in the Food Forest provides a service that benefits another layer, while also improving soil quality and producing an abundance of edible food in a small, densely packed space. This makes planting a food forest a great option for those with little space to work with!' - Julia Herring, Santa Cruz Permaculture, Food Forest Course Participant

A Food Forest is comprised of seven layers:

1. Tree canopy layer, composed of large fruit trees.
2. Low tree layer, composed of small nut trees and fruit trees
3. Shrub layer, composed of fruit bushes, such as currants and berries.
4. Herbaceous layer, composed of herbs and perennial vegetables.
5. Rhizosphere, or subterranean dimension, composed of plants grown for their roots and tubers.
6. Ground cover layer, composed of edible plants that spread horizontally above the ground.
7. Vertical layer, with vines and climbing plants.

"There are more than 70 'food forests' in the US as part of a growing movement to tackle food insecurity and promote urban agriculture." ([theguardian.com/environment/](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/))

"Conflict Resolution"

"If we identify the conditions that allow groups to thrive and flourish, we can consciously design them into our group structures. We can commit to learning and practicing better communication skills and using conflict resolution tools ("Embrace Conflict"). We can seed our groups in healthy soil, and create movements that are truly inclusive and welcoming to all of us, in the full complexity of who we are. And when we do, all of our important work becomes more effective." ~ Starhawk

What are the 3 C's for resolving conflict?

Successfully resolving conflicts sets the stage for success. Conflict itself is not necessarily a bad thing; it's all about how we handle it that truly matters. To effectively resolve conflicts in the workplace one useful approach is to rely on what are called the Three C's: Communication, Collaboration and Compromise.

7 Strategies to Handle and Resolve Conflicts are:

- 1) Determine if the problem is worth discussing. ...
- 2) Use the right body language. ...
- 3) Focus on the facts, not personal opinions. ...
- 4) Allow everyone to speak. ...
- 5) Be mindful of the language you use. ...
- 6) Approach the problem with empathy. ...
- 7) Refocus the conversation on solutions.

"Ideas from a Values Discussion"

The three core values of permaculture:

1. Care for the earth: Provision for all life systems to continue and multiply
2. Care for the people: Provision for people to access those resources necessary for their existence
3. Fair Share: Return of surplus

A partial list of core values different participants wanted in a Resilient Community:

Ecological orientation

Cooperation

Mysticism

Supporting life

Commitment to scientific method

Humility: honor what we don't know

Intuition

Emotional intelligence

Sustainability on all levels

Permaculture

Land Stewardship

Clear written processes, agreements, and practices

Growing healthy food

Resolving conflict

How can we determine and verify who is living such values?

Trial periods

Experience

Assessing priorities

Extensive values exploration

Review values yearly

Practicing values

Culture of Responsibility and Accountability

Common interpersonal tools

Written agreements

Fair conflict resolution processes

Fair expulsion process

"Constructive Criticism"

There are three main types of criticism: destructive, constructive, and instructive. Destructive criticism tears down; constructive criticism builds together, and it identifies a problem and offers solutions. Instructive criticism adds on to what someone already knows.

Four Key Elements for Offering Constructive Criticism:

- Demonstrate the qualities you want to see in others.
- Use real, specific examples.
- Describe your reaction.
- Give the other person a chance to respond.

"The collaborative mentoring approach to constructive criticism demonstrates to your supervisees (particularly those early in their careers) that you care enough about their development that you are spending the time to work with them. It also communicates clearly that you have high expectations, but that you believe that they can meet those expectations in the future. This also helps you to feel better about your interactions with your direct reports, because the criticism is given in a context of being helpful, rather than in a context of tearing someone down." (www.fastcompany.com)

"Small-scale Prototype Solutions for New Villages"

The concept for this project arises out of the desire to develop and prove small-scale prototype solutions to resolve our most pressing current crises, all at the same time.

RCP small-scale prototype solutions for new villages include:

- secure, decent, affordable housing
- a healthy environment that supports healing, growth, and social stability
- localized low energy systems for meeting our essential material needs
- a sharp reduction in our destructive impact on the Earth
- an increase in our regenerative impact upon the Earth

"Potential Infrastructure Elements to Start an RCP Village"

- * Mission Statement
- * Land Trust
- * Organizational Structure
- * Ethics - Permaculture
- * Safe water - aquifer
- * Truck, tools, compost
- * Field kitchen
- * Housing - temporary
- * Internet - Ordering supplies, tracking events
- * Online community tool
- * Power supply for heat and cooking - solar, wood
- * Food Crops - Permaculture + Regenerative Agriculture
- * Soil - Regenerative Agriculture
- * Day Care
- * Capital
- * Economic engine - 7 R's of Circular Economy
- * Security

"The Extractive vs. Regenerative Economy"

An extractive economy is a capitalist system that prioritizes consumerism, money, and colonialism over the planet and people. It's characterized by the extraction of resources, such as labor, money, and resources, from local, regional, and national economies. Extractive activities are often used to concentrate resources and build power. In turn, size, strength and power helps make organizations more risk-absorbing, that is, it improves the organization's ability to withstand crises and absorb shocks.

A regenerative economy refers to the self-feeding, self-renewing processes that natural systems use to nourish their capacity to thrive for long periods of time and their ability to adapt to unexpected, sometimes threatening circumstances. Regenerative economies pump money, information, energy and resources back into developing internal capacities and capital, particularly the human kind, so as to maintain its vitality and learning long-term. Instead of trying to absorb risks afterwards, regenerative institutions are solution-seeking (risk-mitigating): they try to eliminate or mitigate risks before they happen, as for example, trying to switch to renewable energy before the reserve of fossil fuels becomes critical. (Key source: <https://capitalinstitute.org>)

RCP is building a regenerative economy that includes many Principles of a Circular Economic System:

- * Retaining - holding a vision for change
- * Rethinking - being critical of the status quo
- * Regenerating - using Nature to revitalize a person or a system
- * Reducing - eliminating waste
- * Reusing - putting manufactured resources back in the system rather than in the garbage
- * Recovering - creating a healthy community and/or ecosystem
- * Redesigning - products with new holistic designs that create innovative, circular functions (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circular_economy)

"Responsible" and "Accountable" as defined through Regenerative Agriculture

1. Regenerative Agriculture is Responsible for the Soil

Definition of Responsible: "Answering for one's conduct and obligations; trustworthy, able to choose for oneself between right and wrong."

"Conventional, or industrial, agriculture uses chemicals to defend crops from weeds, certain insect species, and diseases. However, these chemicals harm the very thing the crops rely on: soil. Harsh chemical fertilizers disrupt natural soil networks made up of plants and fungi. The commonly used salt-based formulas reduce essential soil minerals and nutrients, increasing acid levels and decreasing plant growth. Due to the prevalence of conventional agriculture, a significant amount of vital topsoil has vanished." How to renew the soil? Compost, Organic fertilizers, Mulch and Cover Cropping. (<https://www.sustainableharvest.org/>)

2. Regenerative Agriculture is Accountable to the Community

Definition of Accountable: "Taking ownership of the results of a task; answering for your actions and the results."

"The holistic principles in Regenerative Agriculture are meant to restore soil and (community) health, address inequity, and leave our land, waters, and climate in better shape for future generations." (<https://www.nrdc.org/>)

“Resilient Communities Project - Virtual Gathering”

Discussion about wants and needs 7/11/24

The following ideas and concerns are summarized from a recent virtual gathering of the RCP.

Question One: "What do you want to know about the people you might start a Resilient Community with?"

Member Input:

- Their moral compass
- Do I feel safe with them?
- Core agreements we can make
- Ability to navigate unknowns
- Mutual passion

Member Input:

- Some degree of living their dream
- Healthy choices
- Unifying goals
- A record of good relationships
- Compassion and forgiveness
- Self-acceptance
- Self-acknowledgement
- Being present
- Building trust together

Member Input:

- Common values, interests, visions, and goals
- Trust

Member Input:

- Ability to flexibly collaborate
- Willingness to learn new skills and awareness
- Values

Member Input:

- Interests and lifestyles
- Shared interest in Nature
- Capacity for appreciation and consideration
- Focus on solutions
- Individual respect

Member Input:

- Shared core values
- Ability to keep agreements and resolve conflicts
- Integrity
- Do they admit mistakes and take responsibility?

Member Input:

- Can they cook?!
- Spiritual compatibility

Member Input:

- Shared values
- Ability to follow specific processes for certain situations
- Record of responsibility
- Ability to move past mistakes
- Member Input:
- Ability to work out problems
- Emotional intelligence and functionality
- Health practices

Question Two: "What are key ways to get to know each other..."

Group Input:

- Values discussion
- Communicating with each other
- Explore stories from when things were difficult
- Discuss hypothetical situations
- Simulation of a hypothetical project
- Read about emotional intelligence and discuss
- Resolving disagreements (or not)
- Test levels of trust

Camping and traveling together

“Interview with Brad Smith, Co-Founder”

How Does RCP intend to grow a more sustainable and equitable alternative economic system?

We will eliminate extractive or exploitive “economic rent” that perpetuates and increases inequitable economic disparities. Examples are extracting rent for housing and interest for loans. Instead, we will build a regenerative commons that serves people and planet rather than the haves at the expense of the have nots. How this will be structured and operates will be worked out by the community members with the assistance of the Resilient Communities Project, community by community and among communities. There are many examples of commons-based economies to draw upon, now and throughout history. Elinor Ostrom won the Nobel Prize for her work on commons-based economic systems.

What is the extractive economy?

The extractive economy is the current global system whereby economic elites establish and increase their wealth and power by exploiting people and the Earth.

Who is selling us this scheme?

The economic elites promote their scheme by using their inordinate wealth to control the government and thus the laws, legal system, police, military, and the economic system itself that is structured and enforced through all these means. To establish, maintain, and bolster their political power they also use their wealth to control the major media, the education system, most employers, and major non-profits, and to a large extent certain influential religious institutions.

What are the components of RCP's cooperative land tenure model?

The Resilient Community Land Trust (RCLT) holds the land in perpetuity with binding principles and rules that ensure that the land is stewarded regeneratively and that the cooperative values of the community are maintained.

The Resilient Community Housing Co-ops offer memberships in simple, affordable limited equity housing co-ops situated on RCLT land. Limited equity means that the housing is kept affordable by limiting any increase in paid-in equity to no more than the consumer price index plus the value of any legitimate permanent improvements made by the member.

What is an alternative to paying rent or a mortgage?

Part of housing co-op members' affordable monthly payments will go into equity shares the members can take with them when they leave the co-op. These equity shares will be used to compensate (without interest) the original landholders and funders of housing and other shared infrastructure. The shares can only be sold to people thoroughly vetted and accepted by the other members of the co-op. We expect there will be a waiting list of qualified people wishing to join each community.

The other part of the monthly payments will fund operating costs to develop and manage the land, housing, infrastructure, and community operations. The landholders and infrastructure funders get their money back over time, but instead of interest they get a healthier and more convivial way of life than they could get any other way. And they gain the inestimable satisfaction of helping to build a regenerative culture and economic system from the wreckage of the currently disintegrating system.

What RCP values does this support?

Our model supports equity in both of its senses: equity as fairness and equity as a financial stake. It allows ordinary people with or without initial assets to gain an equity stake in where they live from the very beginning while at the same time helping fund the development of Resilient Communities. It also supports regenerative values such as social solidarity, love of nature, roots in land and community, and healthy bodies, minds, and interpersonal relationships.

"Yurts for the People" (Fictional Story)

New Mythology: "The stages involved in creating a New Myth are a creative community that undertakes a journey, is victorious in crisis, receives a reward, and is transformed as a Hero."

A yurt (from the Turkic languages) or ger (Mongolian) is a portable, round tent covered and insulated with skins or felt and traditionally used as a dwelling by several distinct nomadic groups in the steppes and mountains of Inner Asia.

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Samartha Smith is a visionary in a RCP Village near Eugene, OR. Her community has a shortage of housing for every demographic: the homeless, Moms with kids, young couples, and seniors. The entire community needs to take a journey together, to be the Hero. The Housing Committee has located a housing grant.

In public workshops, Samartha stresses "Rethinking" or being critical of the status quo, from the Circular Economy folks, one of 7 R's.

Permaculture ethics are sought:

Earth Care: Permaculture is built on an ethic of caring for the Earth.

People Care: Permaculture supports communities.

Fair Share: Permaculture has an open-source ethic with regard to knowledge and information.

The Permaculture solution is to design with Nature and community. The community might use multi-sized Yurts as a temporary housing solution? Many think that they are excellent, eco-friendly, and sustainable dwellings.

The grant featured "Yurts for the People" and was funded. The City has transitory housing and is the Hero.

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Thank you to Moon's Gift Gers.

"Resilience is Community and Trust"

By: Brick de Bois, FB

Sponsored by Resilience Communities Project

"Resilience is born from linking the interaction of today to the potential interaction of the future even when that future is impossible to know.

Resilience is based on community. Community is based on mutual trust. Trust is based on giving without accounting, without keeping eye on some tab, it doesn't work that way.

Money is not the issue, is not the currency of resilience. Billions of people in the world live resiliently by helping each other. Because if they don't, they all perish. From our privileged perspective we tend to forget that resilience abides in the commons." (credit: Brick de Bois, FB)

"Scientific Method and Land Stewardship"

What can be gleaned from the juxtaposition of The Scientific Method and Land Stewardship? Do you use both ideas to tackle challenges and make decisions?

Steps of the Scientific Method:

1. Frame a Question
2. Do Background Research
3. Construct a Hypothesis
4. Test your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment
5. Analyze Your Data and Draw a Conclusion
6. Communicate your Results

Land Stewardship has various connotations across the world but a common definition is caring for a piece of land regardless of its ownership; taking into consideration its ecological, economic, social, and cultural dimensions. Stewardship implies conservation of the land. Farm land is to be nurtured carefully so that it might retain its topsoil and its nutrients, and the productive power given to it through Nature.

One observation: data and the spiritual. Scientific Method and Land Stewardship.

Caring for a piece of land is a nurturing act or spiritual. Not data-driven.

Another observation: Both Scientific Method and Land Stewardship use different parts of the brain: Left (creative) vs. Right (data-driven). Do we need a whole brain approach now?

A third observation is that both Scientific Method and Land Stewardship can test a hypothesis by doing experiments (like applying self-regulation & accepting feedback per the Permaculture Principle).

"Money vs. Barter vs. Sharing"

Three Definitions from Wikipedia:

* Money is any item or verifiable record that is generally accepted as payment for goods and services and repayment of debts, such as taxes, in a particular country or socio-economic context. It must be accepted as a form of payment within the boundaries of the country, for "all debts, public and private", in the case of the United States dollar.

* Barter is a system of exchange in which participants in a transaction directly exchange goods or services for other goods or services without using a medium of exchange, such as money. In most developed countries, barter usually exists parallel to monetary systems only to a very limited extent. Market actors use barter as a replacement for money as the method of exchange in times of monetary crisis, such as when currency becomes unstable or simply unavailable for conducting commerce.

* Sharing is the joint use of a resource or space. It is also the process of dividing and distributing. In its narrow sense, it refers to joint or alternating use of inherently finite goods, such as a common pasture or a shared residence. Still more loosely, "sharing" can actually mean giving something as an outright gift. For example, to "share" one's food really means to give some of it as a gift. Sharing is a basic component of human interaction, and is responsible for strengthening social ties and ensuring a person's well-being.

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When do we Pay, Barter or Share in the RCP?

We Pay when we want something outright, a one-way transaction for private ownership.

Barter is for the collective good, a give and take transaction that supports the community as a whole.

Sharing is an unselfish act that removes the Self in the transaction and puts love for humanity in its place.

"Contemplation, Play, and Passion!"

Here we have different levels of active involvement. Definitions:

Contemplation:

the action of looking thoughtfully at something for a long time.

Example: Permaculture Zones and Garden Plans

Play:

engaged in an activity for enjoyment and recreation rather than for a serious or practical purpose.

Example: Frisbee Golf

Passion:

a strong liking or desire for, or devotion to, some activity, object, or concept.

Example: Global Warming

Questions:

How do you define Contemplation, Play, and Passion?

Do you incorporate more than one of these ideas at the same time?

Can you have passion for a game?

Do you think that frisbee golf represents a revolution in play?

What are you devoted to? Is it spiritual?

Do you have a passion to solve global warming?

Do you think that resilient communities should consider these three ideas?

"Agroecology"

Agroecology is an academic discipline that studies ecological processes applied to agricultural production systems. Bringing ecological principles to bear can suggest new management approaches in agroecosystems. The term can refer to a science, a movement, or an agricultural practice. Agroecologists study a variety of agroecosystems. The field of agroecology is not associated with any one particular method of farming, whether it be organic, regenerative, integrated, or industrial, intensive, or extensive, although some use the name specifically for alternative agriculture.

Questions:

Who is practicing agroecology in the world today?

How does it compare to permaculture?

How does it compare to regenerative agriculture?

Would you agree that agroecology must be an academic discipline?