



DECLARATION
OF INTENT
TO WORK TOWARDS
COMMUNITY
CENTRED
ECONOMIES



We offer this declaration as a 'starting point' in our shared commitment to foster Community Centred Economies.

OUR VISION

Economies are for everyone, and are everyone's responsibility

They are valuable to the extent that they achieve genuine, equitable wealth in all its forms including cultural, economic, social, environmental and spiritual wealth. The health and abundance of such things as relationships, spirit, happiness, food, housing, clean water and soil, biodiversity, and livelihoods must be primary, to, and served by, our economies.

We call for a move to community centred economies to achieve such wealth. These economies will nourish, and be nourished by, the people within them. But we envisage them not as 'alternative' economies, but as the essential building blocks of national and global economies.

We therefore declare that...

1: Learn; Re-think; Lead.

We:

- ❖ Open ourselves and others to different possibilities - to an understanding of the damage being done by existing systems, and the potential to transform them through community centred economies. We will be leaders, and learners, together. We will create time and space to foster our leadership and our learning.
- ❖ Recognize the economic and environmental crises that face us, and will use these to foster our creativity, collaboration and growth.
- ❖ Begin with ourselves, and grow through our relationships. We are powerful together.

2: Think Local/Community First

Community initiatives, not imposed ideas or programs, will be the starting point for community and economic development.

We will, therefore:

- ❖ Think first (but not only) of our community – as we understand it, asking:
 - What are our strengths and assets, and how can we build them?
 - What are our needs and aspirations, and how can we resource them?
 - What are the needs of the local ecosystem we rely on, and how can we heal and sustain it?
 - How can we invest our wealth, in all its forms, back into our community?
 - How can we support the genuine wealth of other communities?
 - How can we support local community decision making?
- ❖ Begin, where possible, by listening to the original custodians of the land we are on.

3: Foster and Structure Local Relationship

- ❖ Any community or locality has knowledge, skills, assets and resources within it, which, when brought together, can create new possibilities. Indeed, there are many examples, past and present, of community centred economies at work.
- ❖ We will encourage people within our communities and within the government and private sectors to join together in face-to-face relationship to identify and foster the potential that lies within. In turn, community centred economies will foster these relationships.

4: Resource community centred economies

- ❖ As there are many communities, so there will be many answers. No one answer will work for all communities. Outsiders can play a role in offering ideas and knowledge. But they cannot know as well as we ourselves what is right for our particular community. We call encourage those from outside communities to respond to and resource community agendas, rather than seeking to direct them.
- ❖ Community initiatives may be funded from various sources within and beyond the community. We encourage our communities to be strategic in determining the best source for different purposes. We encourage funding sources, as far as possible, to be responsive and flexible to community circumstances.

5: Commit to Justice

- ❖ As we build strong and just communities, we also strive to foster equity within and between communities. Particular attention must be given to the voiceless or powerless.
- ❖ We will work to reduce inequality. Communities with greater resources will choose to support the economies of those with less.

6: Build a network of courage and support

- ❖ We seek to build an ever-growing network of people who understand the importance and possibility of community centred economies, and who are striving toward it. We will learn from each others' successes and challenges.
- ❖ We want to create, identify and/or join appropriate networks and alliances so that, together we can develop Community Centred Economies that provide genuine wealth and livelihood for all.