

ECOVILLAGES, Ecocities and Transition Towns

LOCAL FUTURE

International Conference
on Peak Oil and Climate Change:
Paths to Sustainability
June 1, 2008



www.i4at.org
institute for appropriate technology

Albert Bates





ECOVILLAGE NETWORK of the AMERICAS

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Ecovillage Training Center

*researches, demonstrates, and trains in the
shift from
high consumption lifestyles to more satisfying,
high-quality, low environmental impact
lifestyles
and social structures.*

Community Sustainability Assessment Tool (CSA)





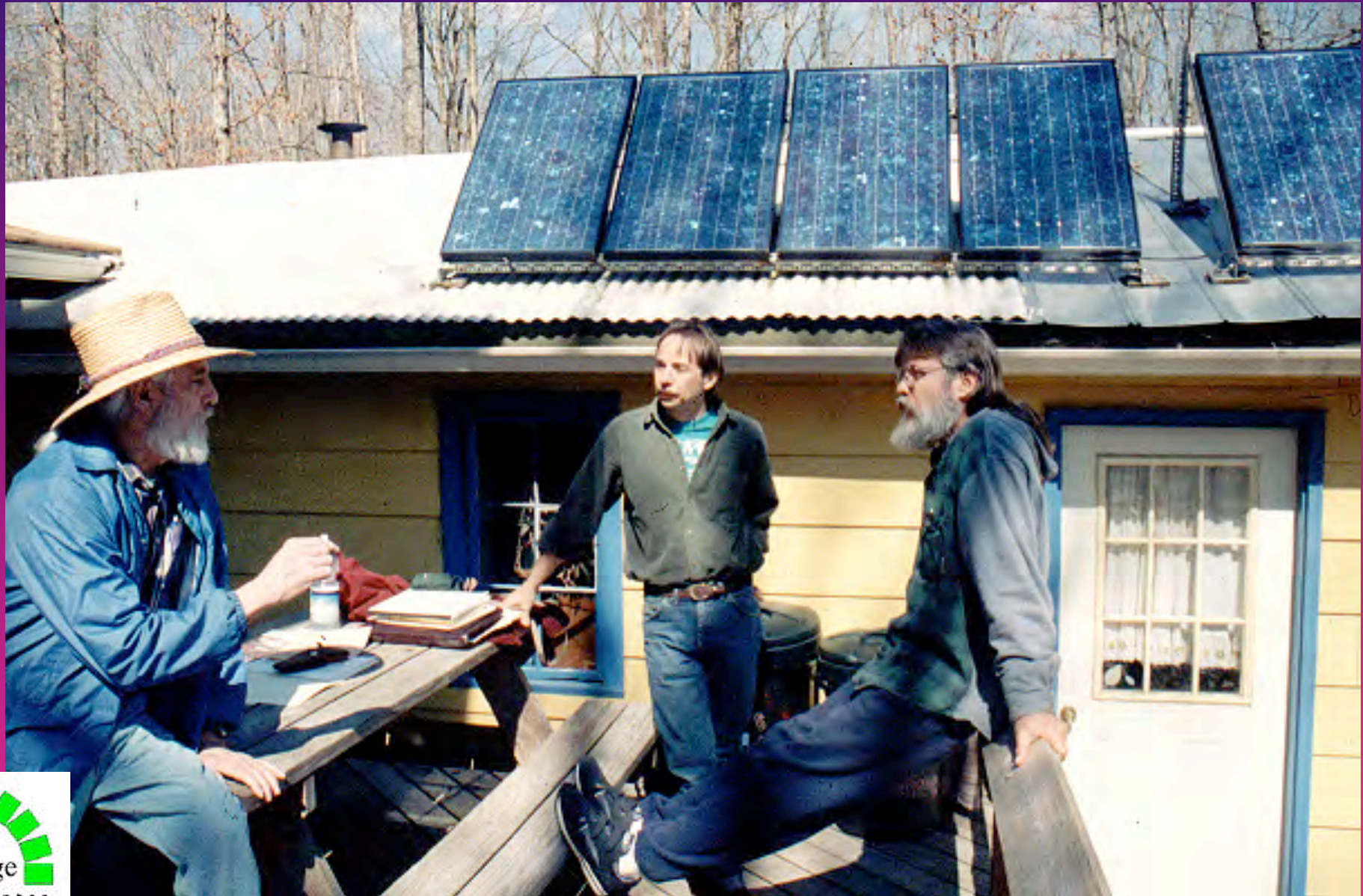
Ecovillage Training Center

The Farm
Tennessee

Ecovillage Training Center



Ecovillage Training Center





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How Yarrow Ecovillage Got "Ecovillage Zoning"

By Michael Hale

"What makes you different from any other developer?"

The speaker, a middle-aged man with longish hair, was clearly on the offensive. It was October, 2002, and this was the first of our public meetings in the small, conservative farming community of Yarrow in southwestern British Columbia. We'd purchased a 25-acre former dairy farm right in the middle of town; whatever we did on the property would clearly affect



Author Michael Hale in the 25-acre field where Yarrow Ecovillagers are practicing sustainable farming. Their dairy barn and silo in background.

Mission & Purpose

To encourage and inspire new and existing ecovillage projects with news about ecovillages and related projects worldwide.

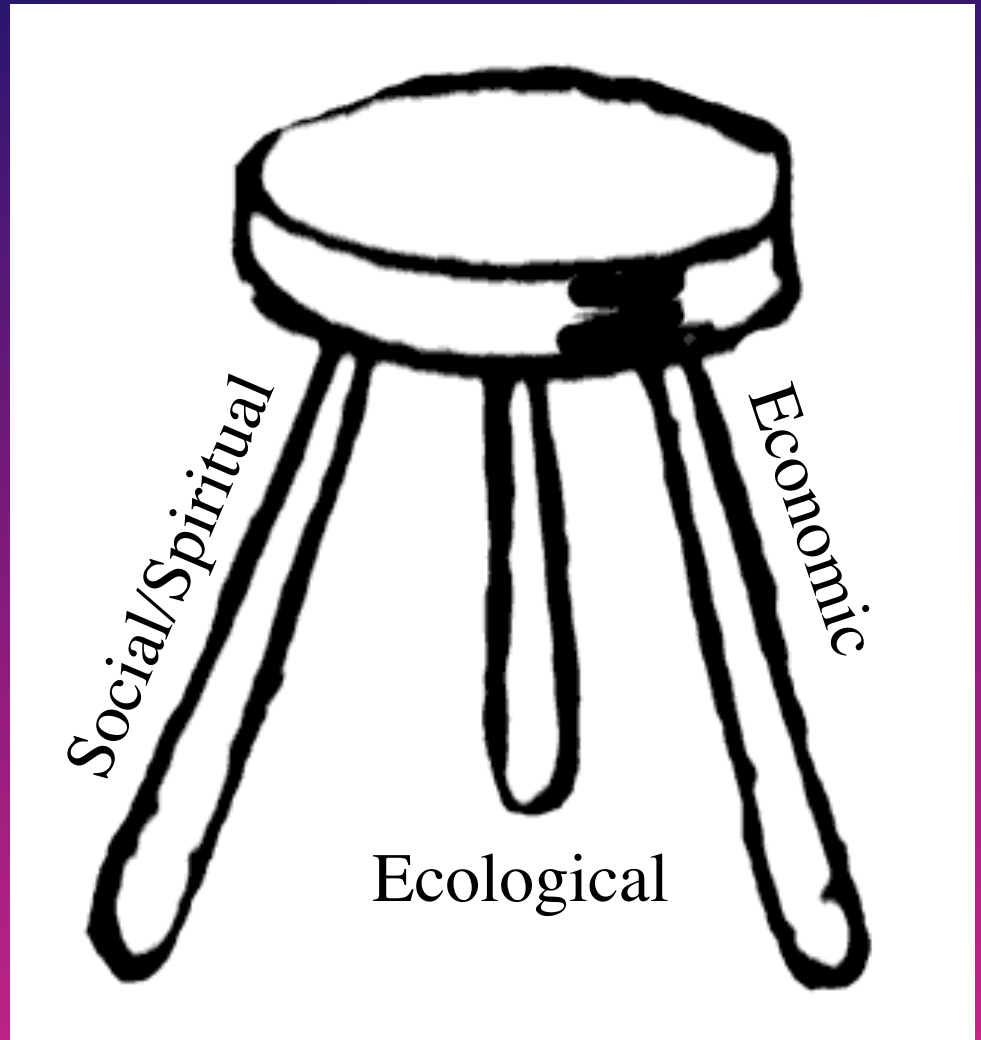
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Co-founder, GEN; *Post-Petroleum Survival Guide*; Director, Ecovillage Training Center at The Farm, US

transparent government
egalitarian and open access
freedom of thought and expression
right livelihood
clean and safe workplace
healthy homes
fair wage
non-exploitative business practices
race, ethnic and gender neutrality
clean renewable energy
full cycle re-use
soil and climate restoring
responsible water use
progressive full-life education
life-cycle costing
pursuit of happiness
truth and justice



Ecovillages

An “*ecovillage*” is...

“A fully-featured human settlement, with independent sources of initiative, in which human activities are integrated into the natural environment in a way that is sustainable into the indefinite future.”

—Robert and Diane Gilman
Ecovillages and Sustainable Communities
(1991, updated)



Wallace and Gromit Paradigm

Small community

Neighborhood economics

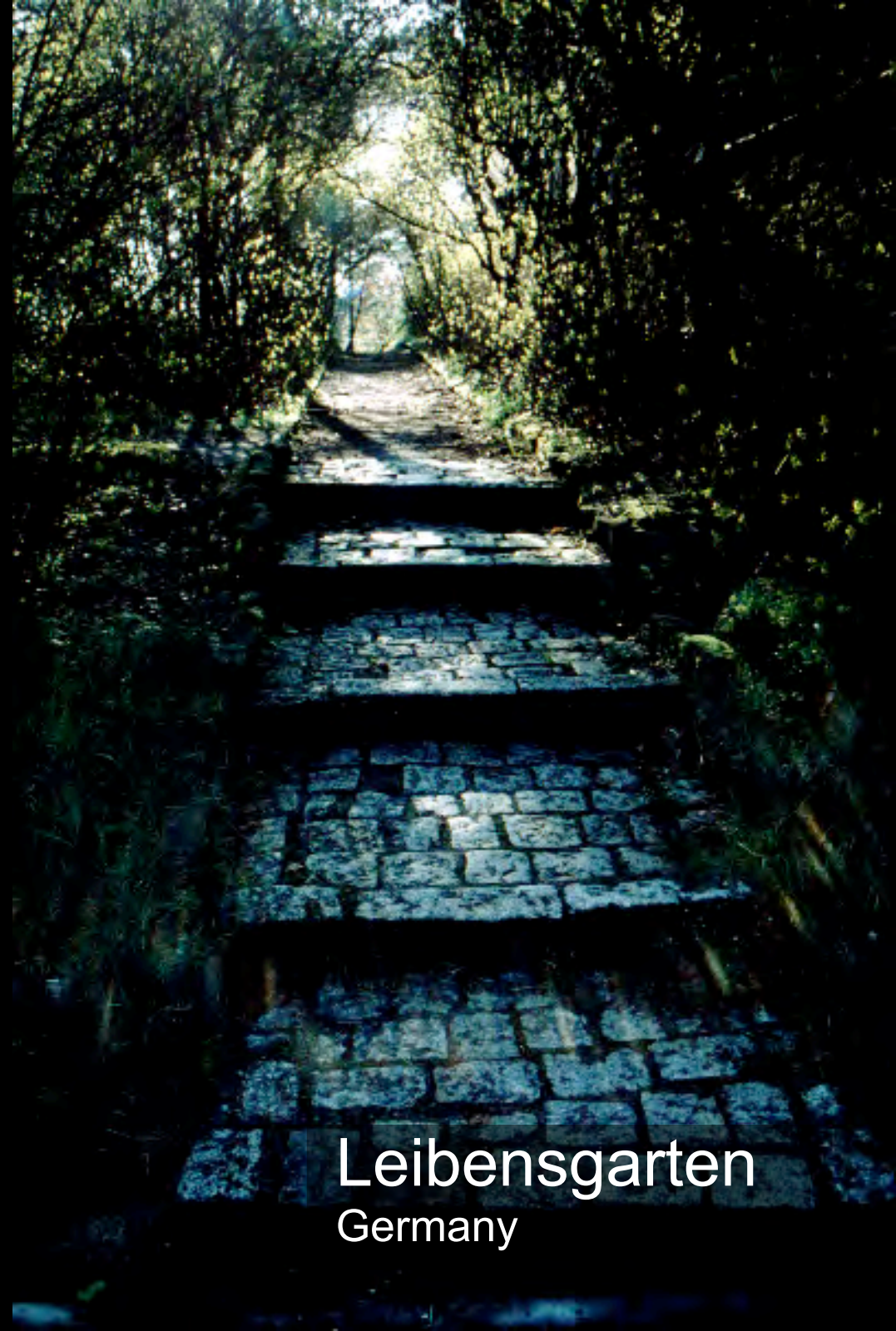
Vegetable Competitions

Devices based on counterweights, springs, wind-up, gravity flow, magnets, wheels

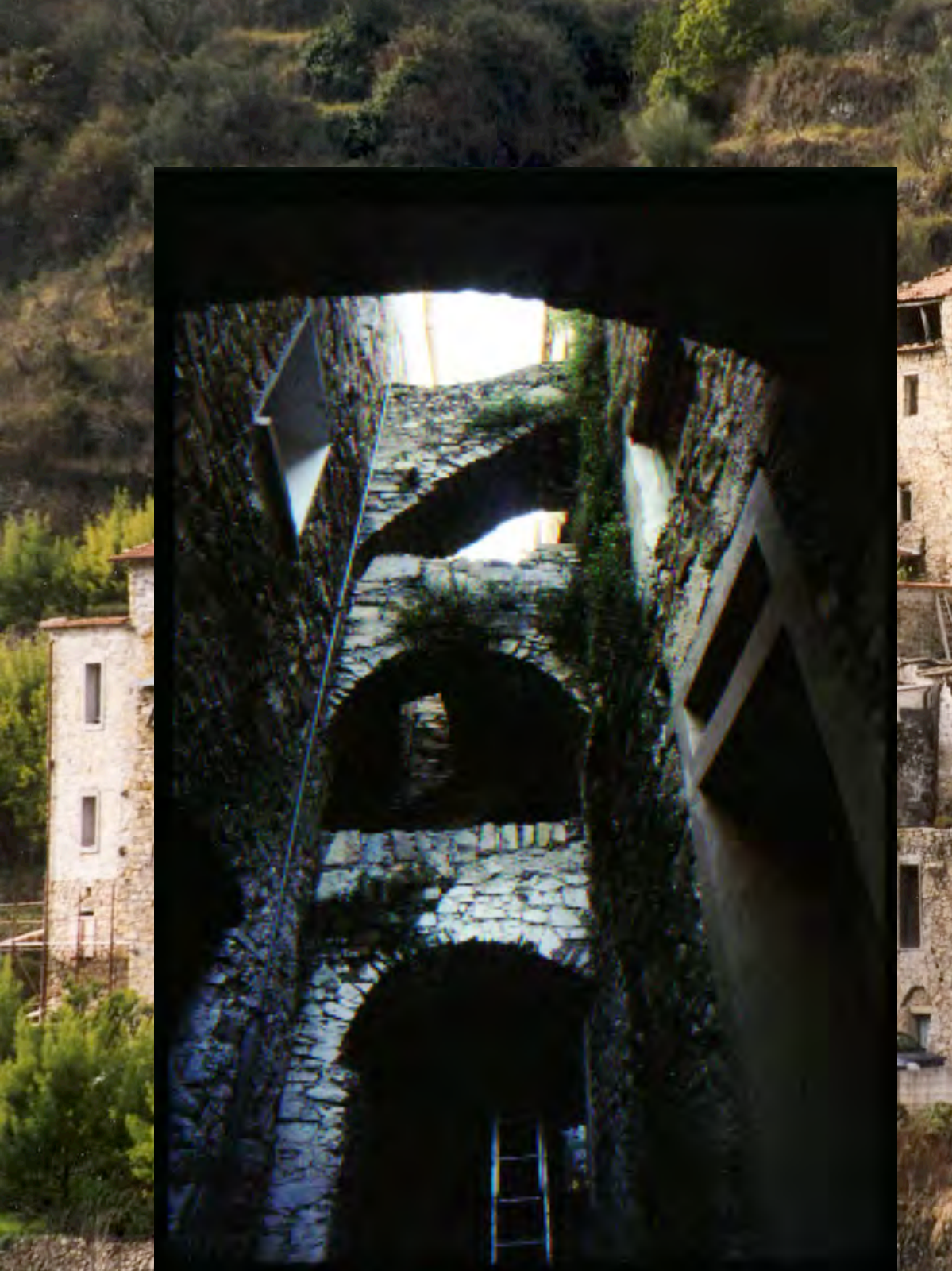




Leibensgarten
Germany



Leibensgarten
Germany



Torri Superiore
Italy



Findhorn
Scotland



Findhorn
Scotland



Huehuecoytl
Mexico



Huehuecoytl
Mexico



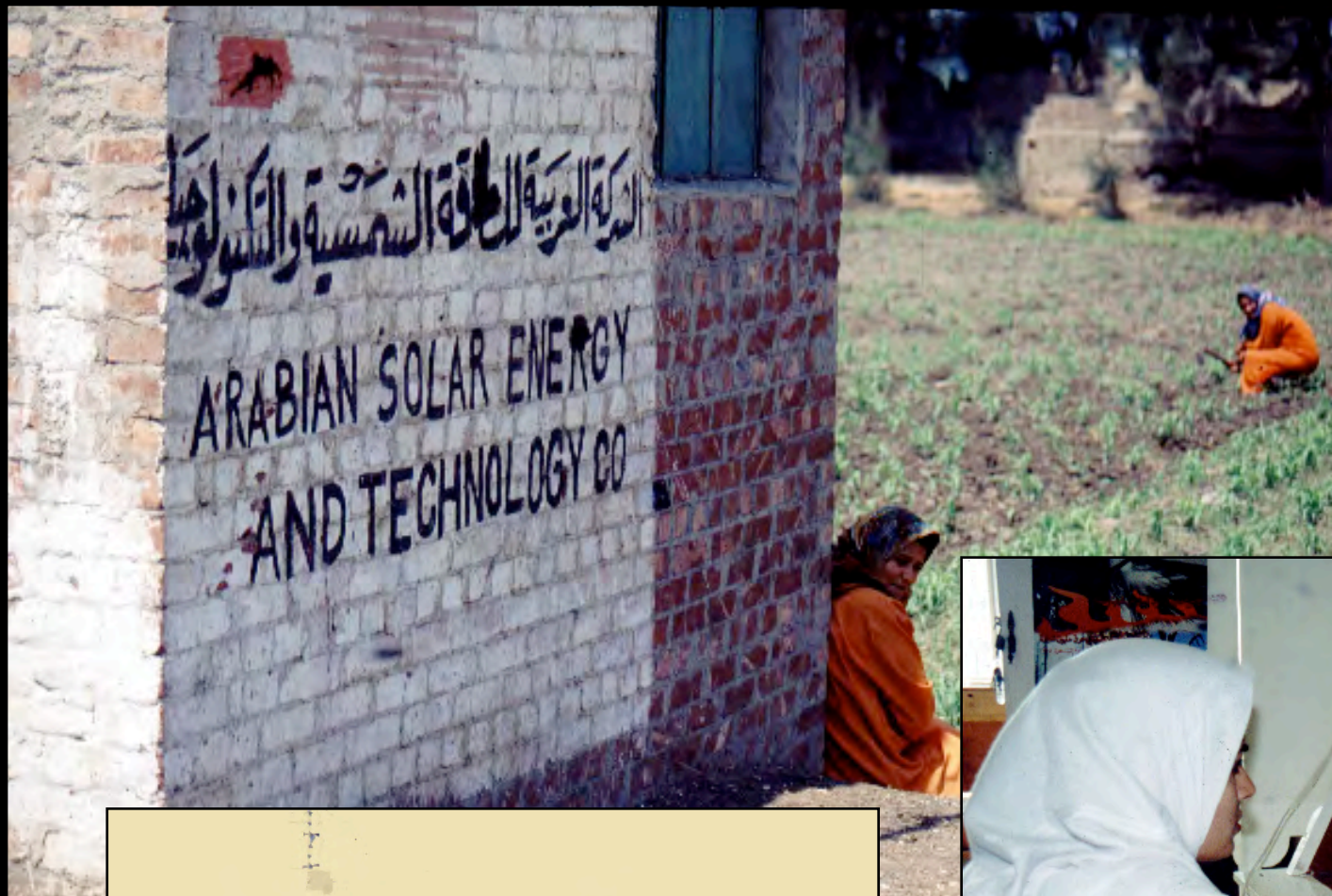
Solheimer
Iceland



Solheimer
Iceland



Basaisa
Egypt



Basaisa
Egypt



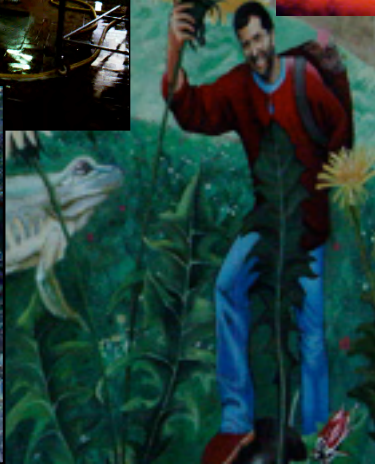
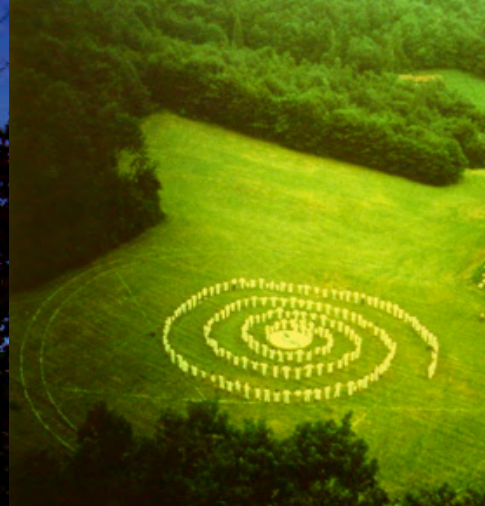
Marda
Palestine



Kibbutz Samar
Israel

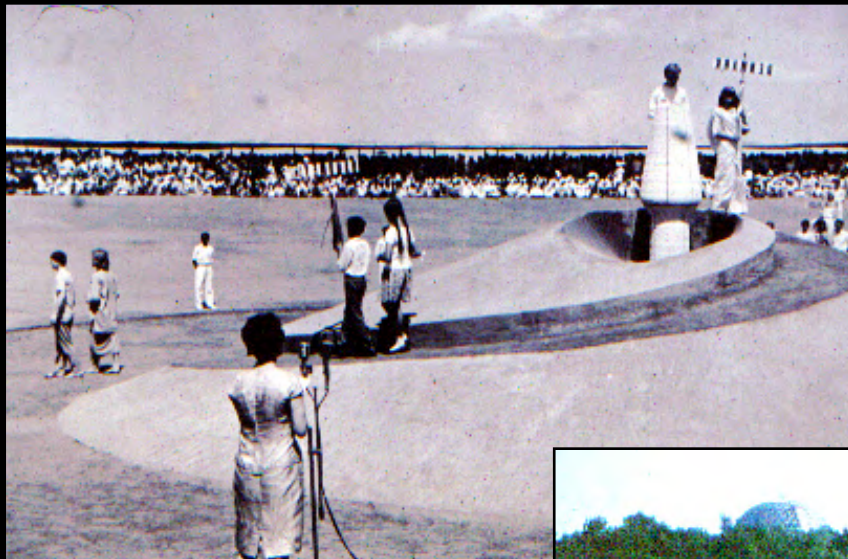


Gesundheit!
West Virginia





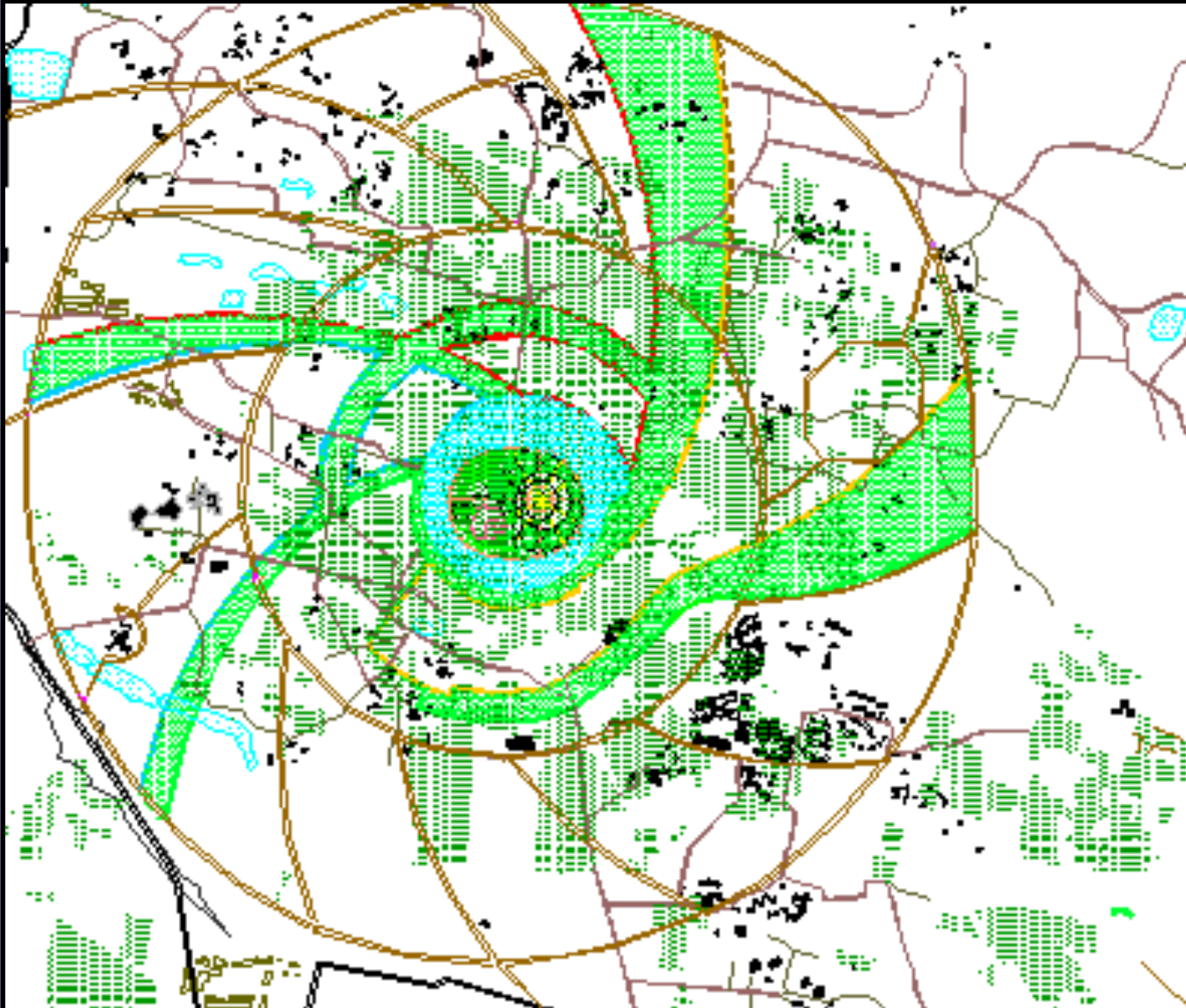
Ecocentro
Brazil



Auroville
India



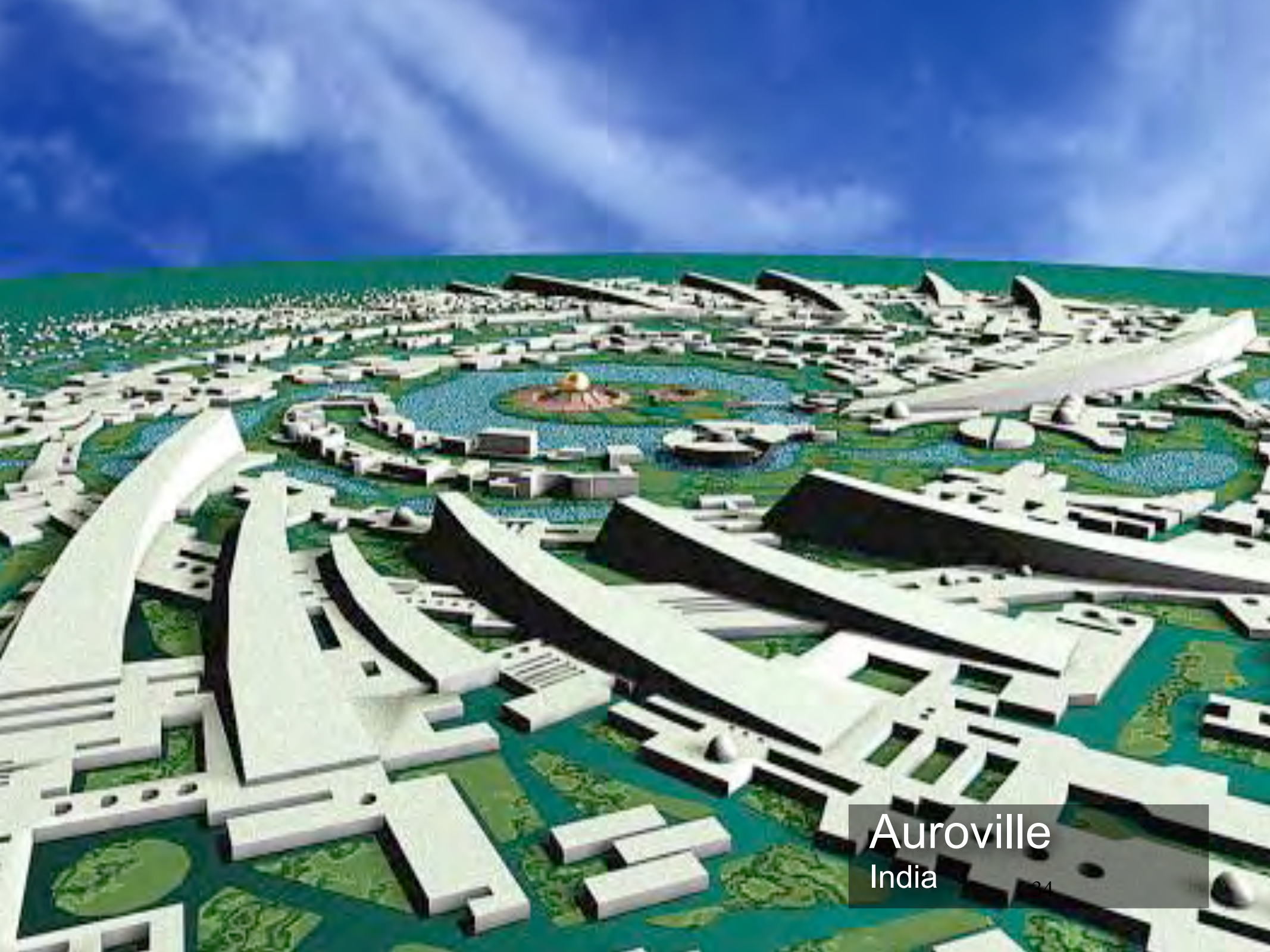
Auroville
India



Auroville
India



Auroville
India



Auroville
India



Sasardi
Colombia



10 BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

- a clean and beautiful environment
- a clean and adequate supply of water
- basic clothing
- a balanced diet
- a simple house to live in
- basic health care
- simple communications facilities
- basic energy requirements
- well-rounded education, and
- cultural and spiritual sustenance



Sarvodaya
Sri Lanka

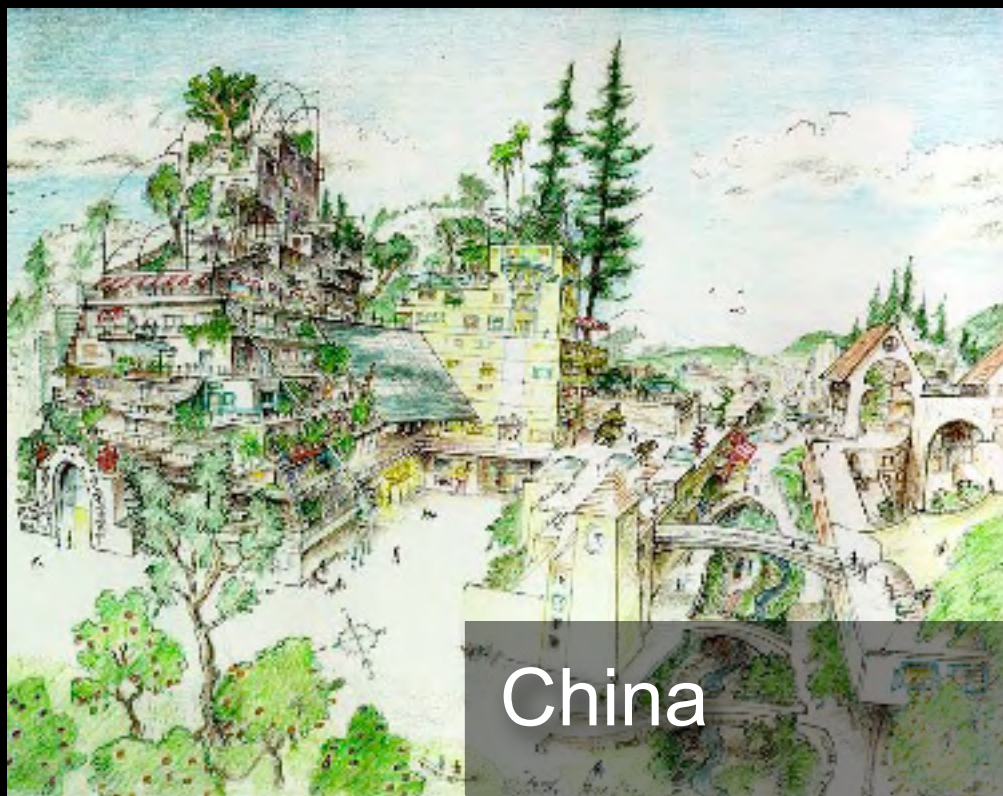


生态区(村)建设国际标准研讨

THE FIRST GLOBAL FORUM ON STANDARDS FOR ECO VILLAGES AND ECO-TOURISM



China



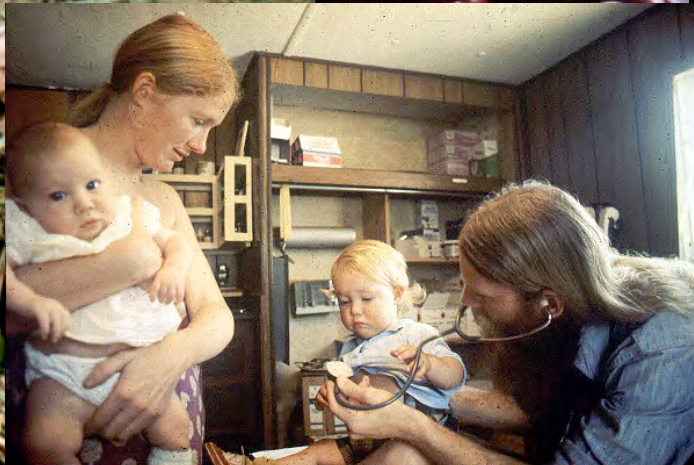


China





Profiles in Protest
TODAY'S PEACE ACTIVISTS are drawing support from unlikely sources. Meet the new voices of dissent



RADIATION®
A • L • E • R • T

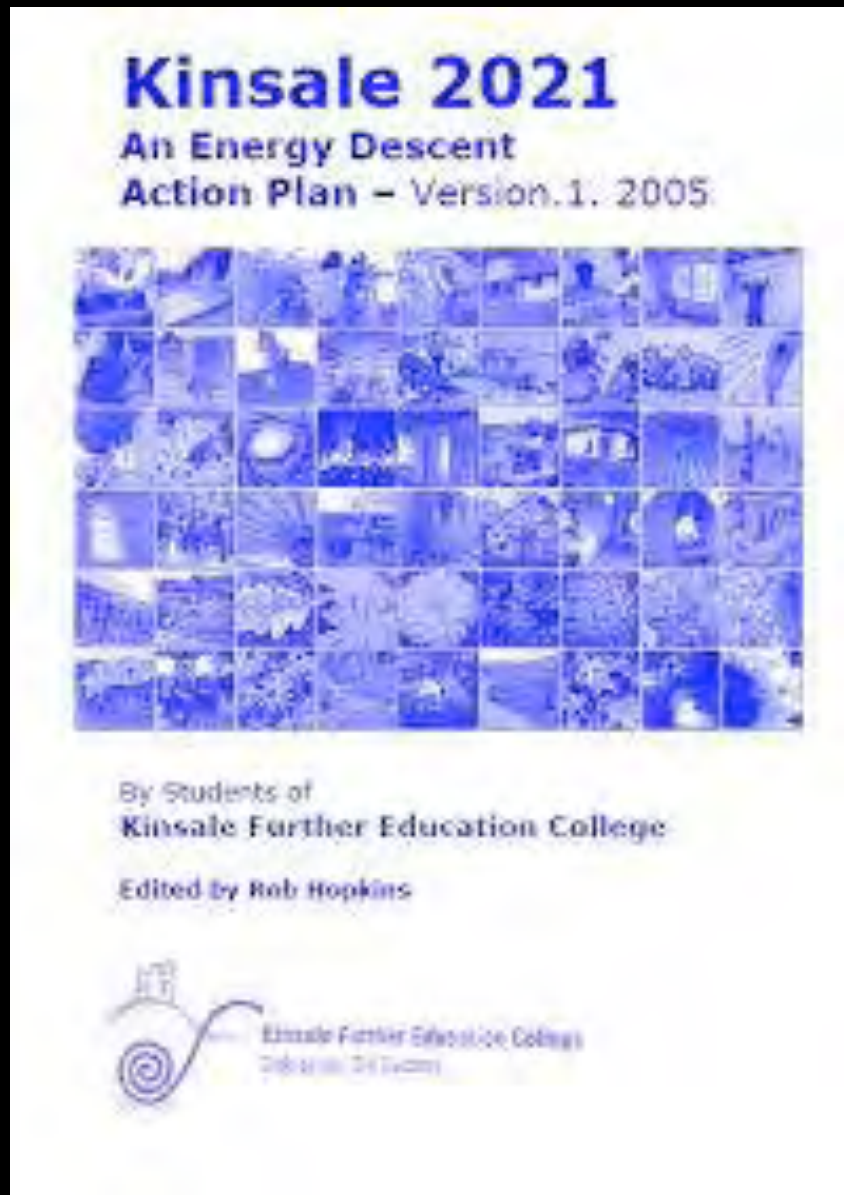


The Farm
Tennessee

The Great Re-Skilling Tool Up, School Up



The Kinsale Energy Descent Action Plan

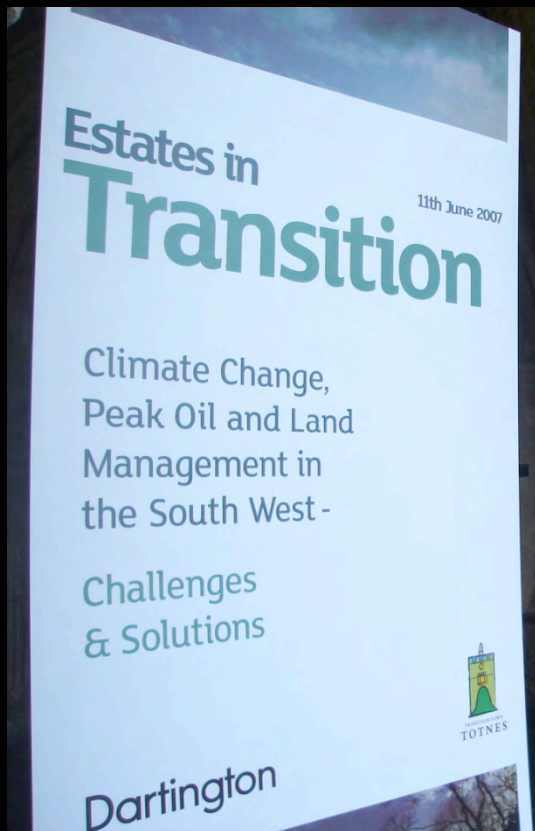


Acknowledgement: Rob Hopkins

Available to download at
www.transitionculture.org



Transition Towns



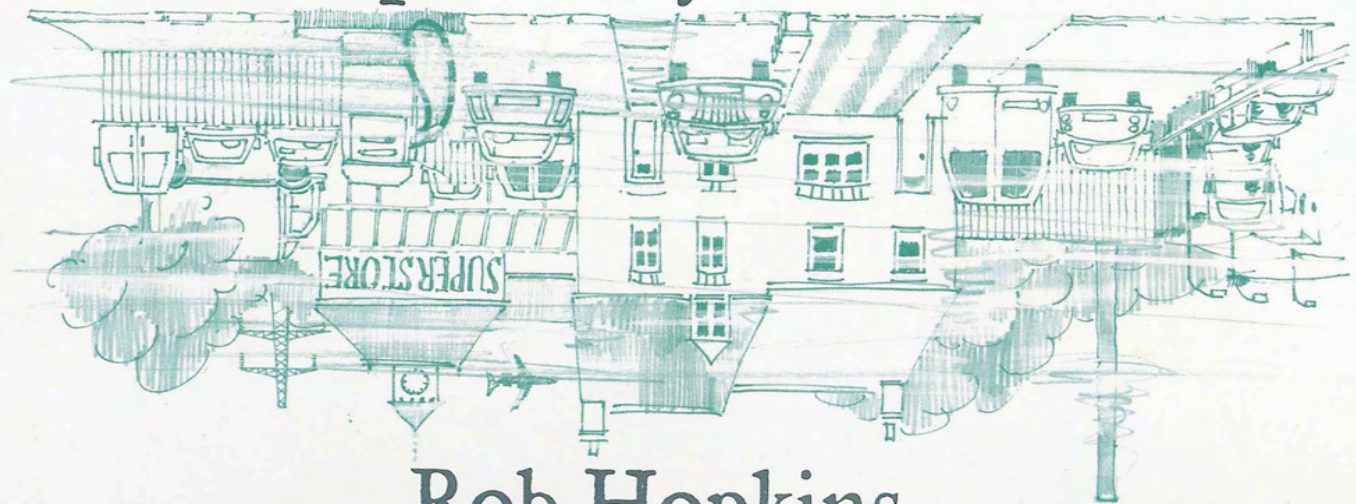
Acknowledgement: Rob Hopkins





THE TRANSITION HANDBOOK

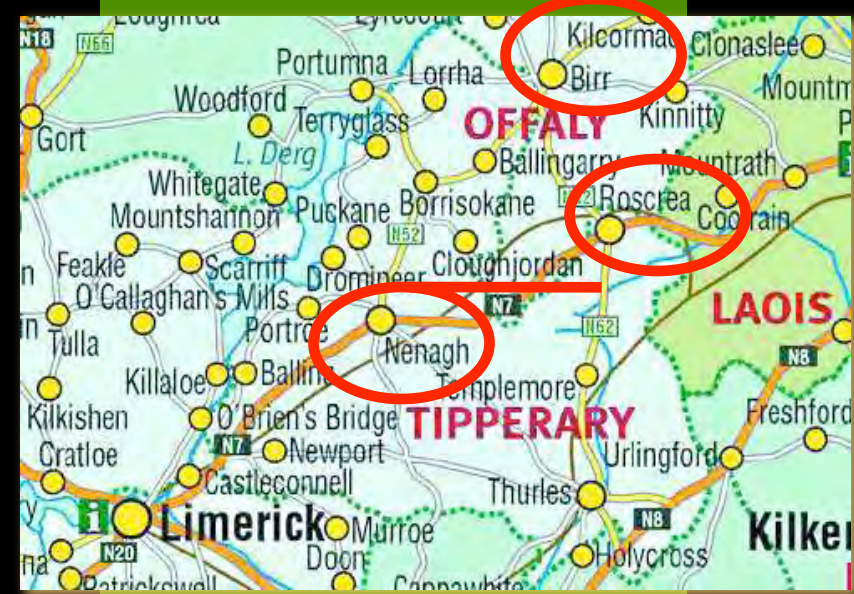
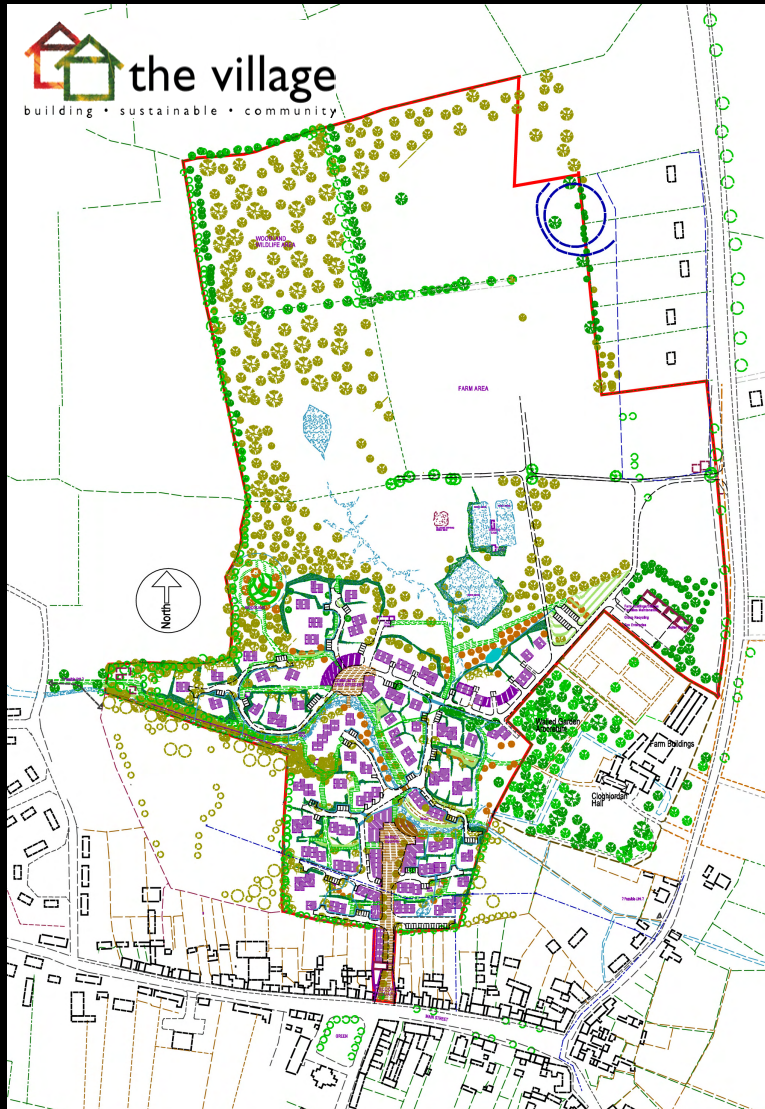
From oil dependency to local resilience



Rob Hopkins

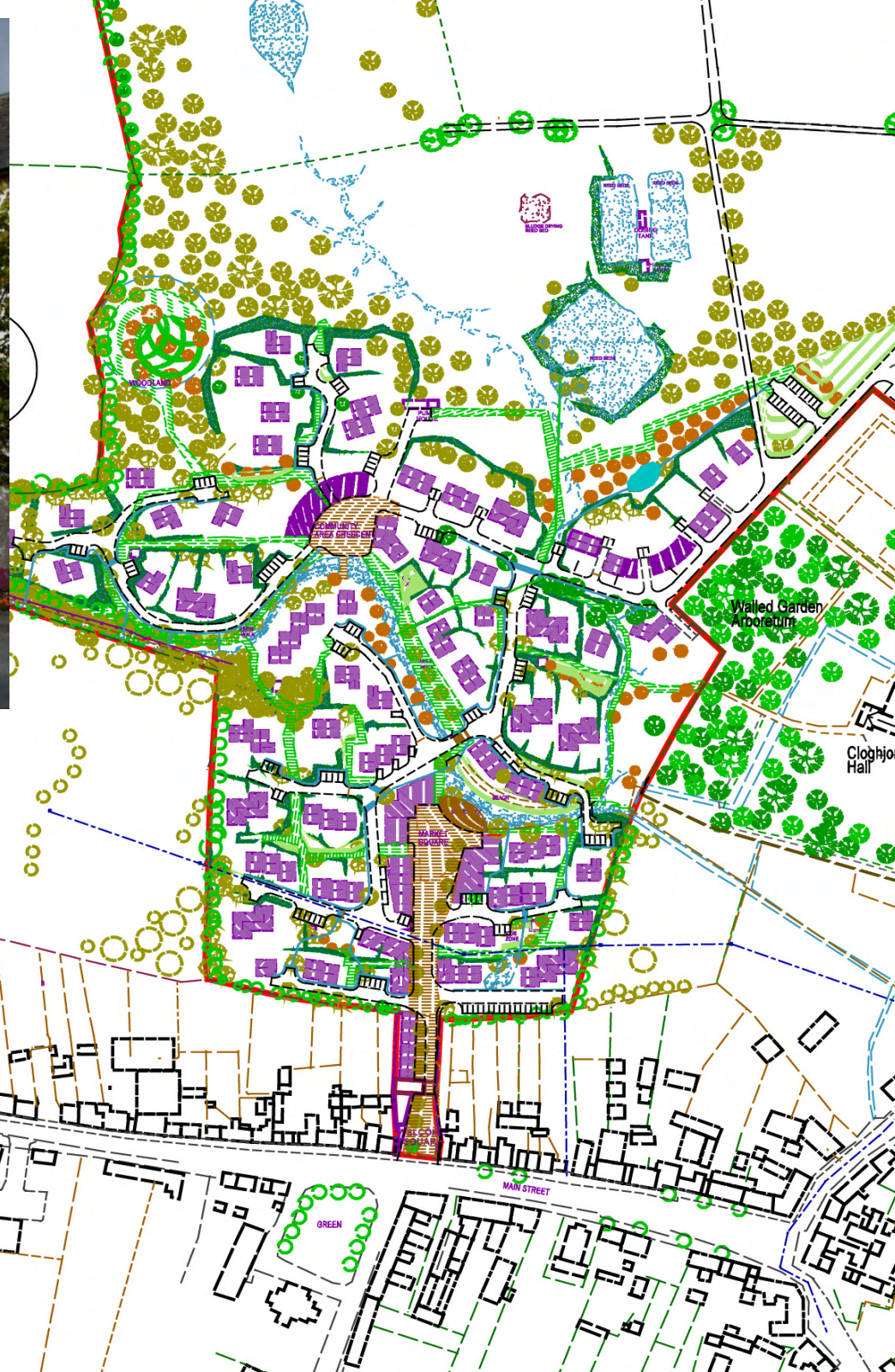
Founder of the Transition movement

CloghJordan



- ✳ Historic Town
- ✳ Well Positioned
- ✳ Railway
- ✳ Excellent Opportunity







The Farm

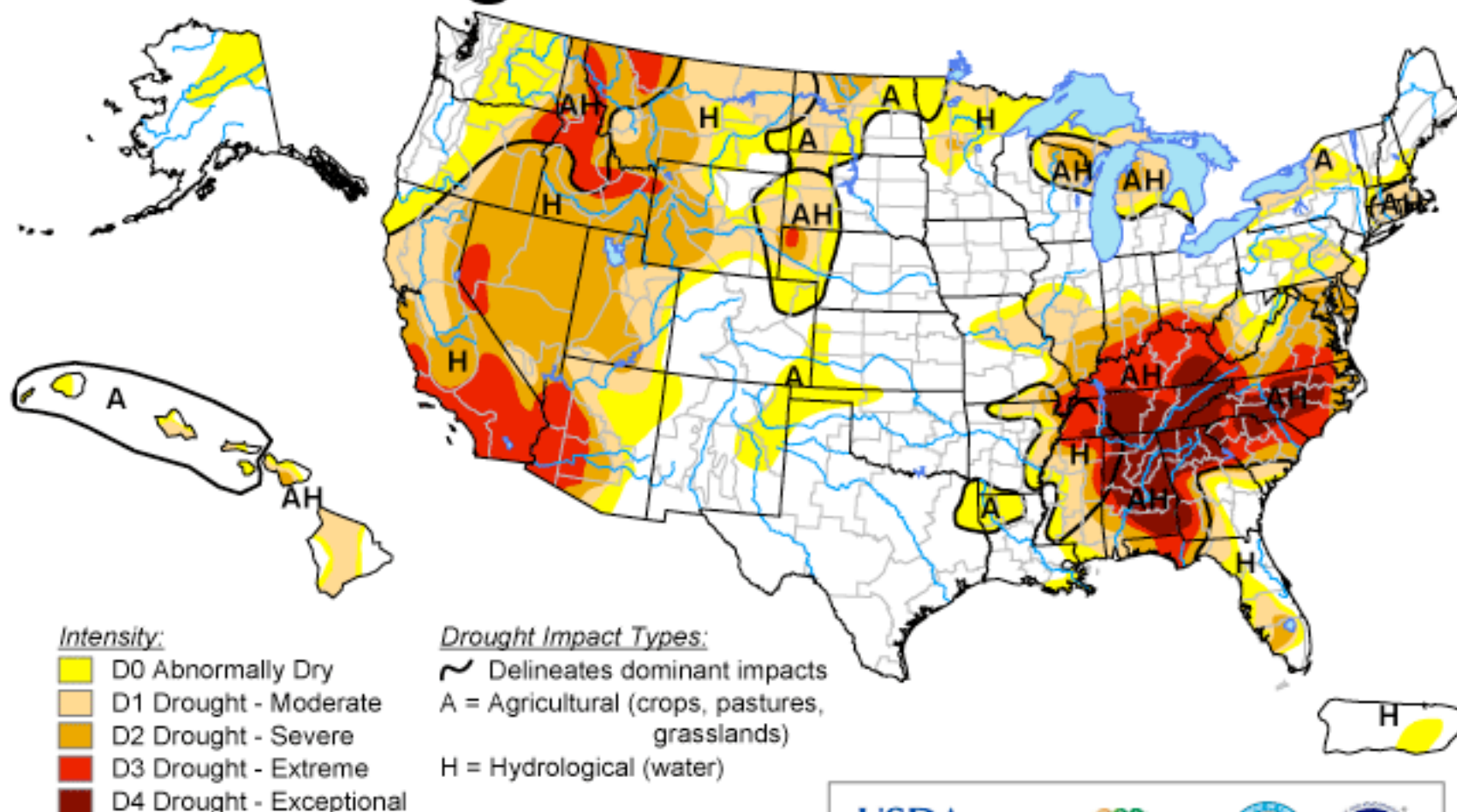
Unanticipated: isotherm creep

Present Lewis County climate was here in 1971

U.S. Drought Monitor

October 16, 2007

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, October 18, 2007

Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape, likely in Tennessee, showing a mix of fields and wooded areas. A yellow, semi-transparent overlay is placed on the right side of the image, representing a specific farm property. The year '1972' is printed in a dark blue, serif font on the yellow overlay.

1972

The Farm
Tennessee



1997

1991

The Farm
Tennessee


An aerial photograph of a mountainous region in Tennessee, overlaid with a map. The map features several colored areas: a large yellow region on the right, a green region in the center, and a blue region on the left. The year '2002' is printed in purple in the center. A dark grey box in the bottom right corner contains the text 'The Farm' and 'Tennessee' in white.

2002

The Farm
Tennessee



The Farm
Tennessee

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a blue and white patterned t-shirt and blue shorts, is sitting barefoot on a large, dark, mossy rock. He is looking down at his hands, which are resting on his knees. The rock is part of a stream bed, and water is flowing over it, creating a small waterfall. The background is a lush green forest with dense foliage. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

We've decided our purpose is to provide a physical place, secure (financially and politically), ecologically healthy, and open to the sky, to pursue fulfillment in life, whatever that means to a given individual.

The Farm
Tennessee



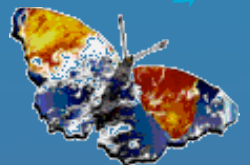
The Farm
Tennessee



The Farm
Tennessee

"Ecovillages are the newest and most potent kind of intentional community, and in the vanguard of the environmental movement that is sweeping the world, I believe they unite two profound truths: that human life is at its best in small, supportive, healthy communities, and that the only sustainable path for humanity is in the recovery and refinement of traditional community life. In my view, ecovillages, and the larger social movements of which they are an integral part, are the most promising and important movement in all of history. Its success is crucial for the long-term viability of the human venture."

—*Robert J. Rosenthal, Professor of Philosophy, Hanover College*



Challenges to Ecovillagers

- Start-up financing
- Community glue
- Creation of business support infrastructures
- The whole-systems challenge
- Cultural, financial, and governmental disincentives
- Living on the edge: trials and errors

The solution to all of these is a mutual assistance network.

Challenges to the Network

- Start-up financing
- Continuing and developmental financial support
- Creation of effective communications webs
- Democratic, bottom-up, egalitarian governance
- Cultural sensitivities
- Ecological paradoxes:
 - Globalization vs. bioregionalism
 - International travel in view of climate change
 - Paper and other resource consumption
 - World population and carrying capacity









“Don’t ask if there is a conspiracy at work.
If you are not in one, start one.”
— Catherine Austin Fitts

Water & Sanitation
Food Growing
Food Preservation
Civil Organization
Shelter
Medical
Money & Trade
Security & Nonviolence
Quality of Life
Population

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