

Glossary of Terms

Intentional Community	An "intentional community" is a group of people who have chosen to live together with a common purpose, working cooperatively to create a lifestyle that reflects their shared core values. The people may live together on a piece of rural land, in a suburban home, or in an urban neighborhood, and they may share a single residence or live in a cluster of dwellings.
Sustainable Community	A sustainable community is one that is economically, environmentally, and socially healthy and resilient. It meets challenges through integrated solutions rather than through fragmented approaches that meet one of those goals at the expense of the others. And it takes a long-term perspective—one that's focused on both the present and future, well beyond the next budget or election cycle. As a result, a sustainable community manages its human, natural, and financial resources to meet current needs while ensuring that adequate resources are equitably available for future generations.
Cohousing	<p>While cohousing communities may appear similar to some mainstream housing developments, the people forming cohousing communities organize to practice ideals of participation, cooperation, sharing, and knowing one's neighbors. Cohousing communities, typically, use private, home ownership as part of the community's economic model - making it relatively easy for forming groups to obtain construction and mortgage financing from conventional banks.</p> <p>The vast majority of existing cohousing communities had considerable resident input into the design process as it unfolds. For neighborhood-level cohousing, site designs generally cluster housing with enhanced pedestrian and play areas to promote frequent, spontaneous human contact - cars (roads and parking) are usually de-emphasized and set apart from the homes and primary common spaces. Cohousing can also take other forms, including large, shared buildings, and groups of existing dwellings that are retrofitted into Cohousing communities.</p>
Income Sharing	<p>Income sharing is a way of breaking down economic inequalities within a community. In communities where members work outside the community, it balances out the inequalities of different working conditions, income and stress. Often communards have very different jobs; some are self-employed, others are employees. Some are well paid, others less well paid. Some have greater job security, others are in precarious employment. Income sharing creates economic equality and security.</p> <p>In communities where members work in communally owned businesses, it breaks down the inequalities which exist between the more successful enterprises and the ones which either break even or need subsidizing.</p>
Kibbutz	The kibbutz is an original and unique Israeli creation – a multi-generation, rural settlement, characterized by its collective and cooperative community lifestyle, democratic management, responsibility for the welfare of each adult member and child, and shared ownership of its means of production and consumption.

Moshav	The moshavim are similar to kibbutzim with an emphasis on community labor. They were designed as part of the Zionist state-building program following the Yishuv ("settlement") in the British Mandate of Palestine during the early 20th century, but contrary to the collective kibbutzim, farms in a moshav tended to be individually owned but of fixed and equal size. Workers produced crops and goods on their properties through individual and/or pooled labour and resources and used profit and foodstuffs to provide for themselves. Moshavim are governed by an elected council. Community projects and facilities were financed by a special tax. This tax was equal for all households of the community, thus creating a system where good farmers were better off than bad ones, unlike in the communal kibbutzim where (at least theoretically) all members enjoyed the same living standard.
Open Source Village	Open Source Village is being created to provide blueprints, tools, tutorials, and as many resources as possible to streamline, simplify, and facilitate the launching of additional projects. Additionally, One Community and all its components are being designed to be duplicated either modularly or as a complete self-sufficient and self-replicating teacher/demonstration community, village, or city
Community Land Trust	A Community Land Trust (CLT) is a form of ownership for the common good with a charter based on the principles of sustainable and ecologically-sound stewardship and use. The land in a CLT is held in trust by a democratically-governed non-profit corporation. Through an inheritable and renewable long-term lease, the trust removes land from the speculative market and facilitates multiple uses such as affordable housing, village improvement, commercial space, agriculture, recreation, and open space preservation. Individual leaseholders own the buildings and other improvements on the land created by their labor and investment, but do not own the land itself. Resale agreements on the buildings ensure that the land value of a site is not included in future sales, but rather held in perpetuity on behalf of the regional community.
Cooperatives	A cooperative ("coop") or co-operative ("co-op") is an autonomous association of persons who voluntarily cooperate for their mutual, social, economic, and cultural benefit.[1] Cooperatives include non-profit community organizations and businesses that are owned and managed by the people who use its services (a consumer cooperative) or by the people who work there (a worker cooperative) or by the people who live there (a housing cooperative), hybrids such as worker cooperatives that are also consumer cooperatives or credit unions, multi-stakeholder cooperatives such as those that bring together civil society and local actors to deliver community needs, and second and third tier cooperatives whose members are other cooperatives.
Egalitarian Communities	Holds its land, labor, income and other resources in common. Assumes responsibility for the needs of its members, receiving the products of their labor and distributing these and all other goods equally, or according to need. Practices non-violence. Uses a form of decision making in which members have an equal opportunity to participate, either through consensus, direct vote, or right of appeal or overrule. Actively works to establish the equality of all people and does not permit discrimination on the basis of race, class, creed, ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Acts to conserve natural resources for present and future generations while striving to continually improve ecological awareness and practice. Creates processes for group communication and participation and provides an environment which supports people's development.
Eco-Village	<p>An ecovillage is an intentional or traditional community using local participatory processes to holistically integrate ecological, economic, social, and cultural dimensions of sustainability in order to regenerate social and natural environments. For millennia, people have lived in communities close to nature, and with supportive social structures. Many of these communities, or "ecovillages", exist to this day and are struggling for survival.</p> <p>Ecovillages are now being created intentionally, so people can once more live in communities that are connected to the Earth in a way that ensures the well-being of all life-forms into the indefinite future. Ecovillages are one solution to the major problems of our time - the planet is experiencing the limits to growth, and our lives are often lacking meaningful content. According to increasing numbers of scientists, we have to learn to live sustainably if we are to survive as a species. The United Nations launched its Global Environment Outlook 2000 report, based on reports from UN agencies, 850 individuals and over 30 environmental institutes, concluding that "the present course is unsustainable and postponing action is no longer an option."</p> <p>Ecovillages, by endeavoring for lifestyles which are "successfully continuable into the indefinite future", are living models of sustainability, and examples of how action can be taken immediately. They represent an effective, accessible way to combat the degradation of our social, ecological and spiritual environments. They show us how we can move toward sustainability in the 21st century (Agenda 21). In 1998, ecovillages were first officially named among the United Nations' top 100 listing of Best Practices, as excellent models of sustainable living.</p>