

Eco-villages & Intentional Communities

Successful examples from
Europe,
the USA & New Zealand

Eco-villages Visited

- Sweden (Adults + Children)
 - Aspekullen (13 + 14)
 - Gebers (48 + 20)
 - Järna (115 + 110)
 - Smeden (42 + 27)
 - Tuggelite (32 + 36)
 - Understenshöjden (81 + 49)

Eco-villages Visited

- Denmark
 - Dyssekilde (80 + 30)
 - Hjortshøj (85 + 20)
 - Svanholm (70 + 35)
 - Munach (27 +)
 - Snabegaard (16 + 10)
 - Christiannia (300 +)

Ecovillages Visited

- The Netherlands
 - EVA-Lanxmeer (95 + 80)
- Italy
 - Damanhur (400 + 90)
 - Torri Superiore (35 +)

Ecovillages Visited

- UK
 - Findhorn, Scotland (~ 300)
 - Hockerton HP (10 + 8)
- Germany
 - Flintebreite (> 350)
 - Lebensgarten (110 + 50)
 - Sieben Linden (51 + 13)

Ecovillages Visited

- USA
 - Ecovillage at Ithaca
 - Sirius
 - Davis Village Homes
 - Lama Foundation

Ecovillages Visited

- New Zealand
 - Awarawaroa
 - Earthsong
 - Otamatea
 - The Valley Farm
 - Tui

Key Aspects Presented

- + Origins or energetic blueprint
- + Vision and purpose and glue
- + Organisational structure
- + Decision making processes
- + Economic basis
- + Entry and exit procedures
- + Innovative building styles

Origins or Energetic Blueprint

Original Energy of Place

- Findhorn - caravan park
- Gebers - convalescent hospital
- Lebensgarten - Nazi work camp
- Torri Superiore - medieval village
- Crystal Waters - permaculture village

Vision and Purpose

Environmental based purpose

- healthy homes
- reduced energy bills
- transforming energy of place
- earth restoration
- building restoration
- environmental education
- sustainable lifestyles
- living lightly on the earth
- organic farming

Community based purpose

- creating new culture
- community orientated way of life
- living with friends
- living with creative people
- living with a diverse group of people
- self-government
- live with as few rules as possible
- having fun
- common economy

Social Structures

Social organisation

- neighbourhood groups
- working groups
- Living groups
- building groups
- special topic research groups
- committees and sub-committees
- Cooperatives
- General Assembly + Board
- Friends of the Ecovillage

Purpose of small groups

- working parties
- topical research
- consensus decision making
- income sharing
- income creation
- social support
- alternative family structures

Benefits of small groups

- sense of belonging
- quicker decision making
- easier to reach consensus
- emotional support
- strong friendship ties
- economic efficiency
- commitment to common purpose

Cultural Glue

Nature centred glue

- sustainable living practices
 - ecological housing
 - recycling
- organic food growing
- earth restoration
- landscape rapport

Spiritual centred glue

- meditation
- spiritual practices
- spiritual courses

Community centred glue

- working group activities
- collective economy
- self-government
- a model of new culture
- educational courses

People centred glue

- dancing
- singing
- eating meals together
- neighbourhood group activities
- disability care-giving
- artistic expression
- child care

Decision Making

Decision making

- consensus
- consensus minus 1
- emotional process - The Forum
- simple majority, 66% or 75%
- weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly, irregular, as needed
- working groups / sub-committees
- human scale decision making bodies

Economic Basis

Internal economics

- household cashbox
- housing cooperative
- food cooperative / 'Earth Share'
- investment funds
- redistribution of income (collective)
- LETS and time share
- alternative currency

Income streams

- yearly membership fees
 - residents
 - friends of the ecovillage
- rental accommodation
- community owned businesses
- shared individual incomes
- member assets

Community owned businesses

- timber harvesting and milling
- house building
- organic food produce
- spiritual / personal development / ecovillage design / ecological courses
- mediation consultancy
- ecovillage tourism
- artwork

Ownership

- individual / private
- collective (cooperative)
- mixed
 - land & community buildings in common
 - homes - private

Entry & Exit Procedures

Entry & Exit process

- Buy in
- 3 month initiation / trial / probation
- 12 month initiation
- rent first then buy in

Innovative Ecological Buildings

New Members for the Ecovillage

Over the next year or so we will be looking for new member households to join the existing two households who have initiated the project.

If you are interested, you are invited to make contact and discover whether this may be the kind of environment you would like to live in.

We have a booklet more clearly outlining our orientation to the environment and other issues key to community development.

Over the next 12 months we will be holding a series of 'Orientation Workshops' inviting those with an expressed interest to thoroughly acquaint themselves with the Ecovillage and its current members.

These Orientation Workshops will also include a site specific Permaculture component and an introduction to Constructive Living lifeskills.

For Further Information

Write to;
Valley Farm Ecovillage
Te Hue Valley
R.D.4
Paeroa 2951

Telephone: (07) 862 4866
email: info@ecovillage.co.nz

Visit our website: www.ecovillage.co.nz

Valley Farm Ecovillage

www.ecovillage.co.nz

**"An ecovillage is a
human-scale
full-featured settlement
in which human activities
are harmlessly integrated
into the natural world
in a way that is supportive
of healthy human development
and can be successfully continued
into the indefinite future."**

Robert Gilman

Why an Ecovillage?

In this day and age when many live in suburban isolation, small town blandness, or rural isolation we can't help but wonder if there is not some other alternative to these 'not quite enough' lifestyles.

A situation where neighbours are friendly and co-operative, where the environment is tranquil and unpolluted and where we aren't defined by our jobs and in fact perform a wide variety of tasks in our immediate environment to earn a living.

Surely there must be such a lifestyle?

We are not talking hippy communes or some trendy 'eco-subdivision' but a real community of households where you have your own home and privacy, all the while breathing clean air, drinking clean water and eating healthy organic food, most of it grown on the property.

Neither is this some religious cult or over-regulated institution. It can almost be seen in traditional terms were it not for modern technology - serving its users, rather than enslaving them.

Well, such a place is in the making and the setting is secluded without being isolated, simple without being primitive and of breath taking natural beauty.

When we look at how the world is going, isn't it any wonder we might contemplate something different?

Many people have no desire for the kind of environment we have described, but maybe you do.

Valley Farm

Valley Farm Ecovillage is situated in the southern Coromandel Ranges about 15 minutes drive north of Paeroa.

The property is nearly 400 acres consisting of flat, gentle rolling and hill country with a stream winding its way through the valley floor.

About 100 acres of the farm is pasture, the remainder being native bush indiscernably blending into the Dept. of Conservation forest on three sides. The headwater is in the conservation land making the stream pristine and unpolluted.

Future Development

The property was taken over in December 1998 so this project is still at its early beginnings.

Already a native tree nursery has been established and permaculture style, raised bed vege gardens have been established and are beginning to supply fresh vegetables to the existing households.

An accommodation block has been designed and will be built using pine trees felled and milled on the property.

Courses in straw bale building and Permaculture will be hosted as well as courses in human development and natural health disciplines.

We are developing co-operative businesses so that this settlement can be sustainable economically as well as ecologically.

USA.

Community Apprenticeship May thru October, 2000 at Sirius Community



- Community Living
- Organic Gardening
- Vegetarian Cooking
- Conference Center Management
- Conscious Cleaning
- Conflict Resolution
- Consensus
- Meditation & Mindfulness

Our Program

Our summer apprenticeship runs May through October with a minimum one-month commitment. Please plan to arrive at the beginning of a month, so that you may participate in our orientation and two-week trial period.

Cost: \$200/month covers instruction, organic vegetarian food and lodging. *SCHOLARSHIPS are available on a limited basis!* \$100 deposit is required to reserve space in this program.

Time Commitment: You will be expected to be involved in apprenticeship activities for 35 hours/week. Apprenticeship program is arranged by matching your interests and skills to Sirius' needs and may include organic gardening, cooking, cleaning, or working in our guest office.

Application: For more details and for an application form, please write, email or call us at 413-259-1251.



Sirius Guest Office, 72 Baker Road
Shutesbury, Massachusetts 01072
Tel 413.259.1251 Fax 413.259.1255
Email: Sirius@SiriusCommunity.org
Website: www.SiriusCommunity.org



72 Baker Road
Shutesbury, MA 01072

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ORGANIZATION
BULK RATE
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PERMIT #2
Shutesbury, MA 01072

Tel 413.259.1251 Fax 413.259.1255
Email: Sirius@SiriusCommunity.org
Website: www.SiriusCommunity.org

Please Post!

Community Apprenticeship At Sirius

Are you interested in

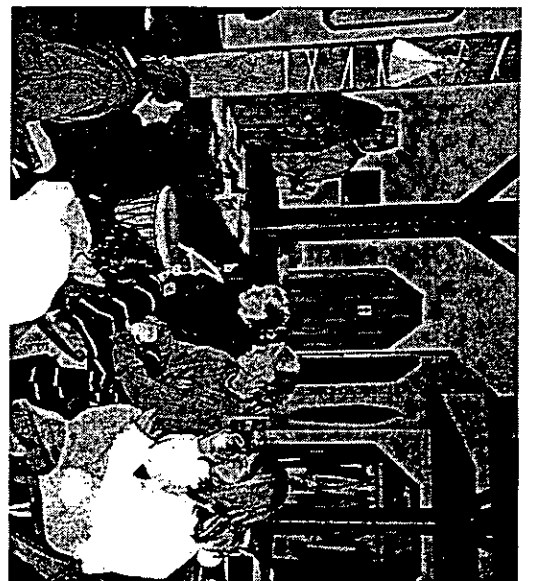
- Experiencing life in community?
- Learning important practical skills such as organic gardening and vegetarian cooking?
- Discovering yourself and your relationship to others and the land?
- Exploring a balance of mindful work, spiritual practice, and community life?

If so, please join us!



Learning at Sirius Community

In true apprenticeship style, learning occurs through hands-on activities and immersion in community life. This holistic experience is designed for those who are excited about learning and working, enjoy personal challenges, are responsible for their own feelings and experience, and are interested in a community of like-minded people.



About Sirius Community

Sirius is an intentional spiritual community, a non-profit education center and ecovillage situated in the Pioneer Valley between Quabbin Reservoir and the Connecticut River. Our community consists of 30 adults and 9 children. Located on 90 acres of forest, gardens, orchards, hiking trails, and a pond, Sirius hosts workshops and programs on topics related to spiritual and sustainable living and planetary healing.

Food and Lodging

We provide delicious organic vegetarian meals. Our cooks prepare two-thirds of your meals. For the rest we provide ingredients with which to prepare your own meals. Most apprentices camp in our beautiful forest and use shower and kitchen facilities in our Community Center. Please bring your own camping gear, and leave pets home.

You are Invited to
Colourful Presentation of
Community Living in Eco-villages
Northern Europe, the USA and New Zealand

In 2000 Sarah West did a 10 month study tour of eco-villages and innovative on-site and decentralised sewerage systems in Europe and the USA. The tour commenced with a month long Eco-village Training Course at Findhorn in northern Scotland. Other European eco-villages highlighted are from Sweden, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. In 2001 Sarah went on a similar dual study tour in New Zealand for 3 weeks, and participated in the 2 week Eco-village Design Course at Crystal Waters in Queensland.

This eco-village presentation distills information from all these experiences that Sarah has had the privilege to participate in, and highlights what others have found to make community living easier and more satisfying.

Key aspects presented are:

- * innovative building styles
- * alternative water and energy services
- * community vision and purpose
- * community 'glue'
- * community organisational structure
- * communication and decision-making processes
- * economic basis
- * entry and exit procedures

This will all be accompanied by lots of photos
Sarah will also have handouts and a display of books and eco-village touring guide books.

Come along to Gondwana, Lot 1, Prestons Lane, Tyagarah
(off Gray's Lane, which is the first turning off the highway north of Byron)
on Tuesday 21 May
6.30 to 9.30 pm
or bring a plate to share at 6pm
\$5

More information from Mitra on 66848096

There will be an...

On-site and decentralised wastewater management event

in Lismore, Northern NSW on Monday 13th May.

MORNING - No booking required

10.30 am to 12.30 pm at the South Lismore STP for presentation of results of a Septic Safe Research Project into the effectiveness of small reed beds and sand filters. Four of these devices have been installed at a Test Facility at the STP.

A full research report (112 pages) on research into these low cost, low maintenance secondary treatment devices will be available on the day if pre-ordered (at production cost of \$10). Summary reports will be available free on the day. There will be a display of recent research findings by the Southern Cross University On-site Systems Team on subjects such as source control, natural treatment devices, passive dosing devices and land application areas.

AFTERNOON - booking necessary as space is limited

2.00 pm at Invercauld Conference Centre, Goonellabah

Sarah West of Sydney Water Corporation will present:

Innovative Decentralised Sewerage Treatment and Management Systems in northern Europe, the USA & New Zealand - report from a 10 month study tour

Topics include:

- ◆ centralised vs. decentralised OR a continuum of technologies
- ◆ best practices in onsite / decentralised technology
- ◆ best practices in onsite / decentralised management systems
- ◆ USEPA five levels of onsite / decentralised management
- ◆ key elements of an onsite sewerage management system
- ◆ service is the key
- ◆ decentralised technology with centralised management

LUNCH will be available at the conference centre at 1 pm for pre-booked seminar delegates. There may be a charge of \$15 for lunch and afternoon tea (payable on the day).

CONTACT

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