transformative social innovation theory

Ecovillages as models for sustainable living: isolated islands or multipliers of social innovations?

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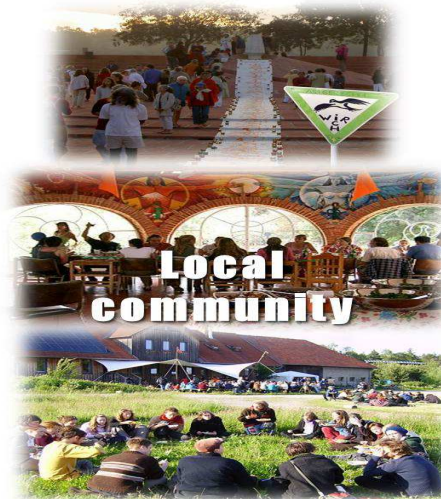GLOBAL CHANGE
AND SUSTAINABILITY

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Ecovillages are community-based, citizen-initiatives

Sustainable living experiments

Local community

Global and regional networking, education, dissemination
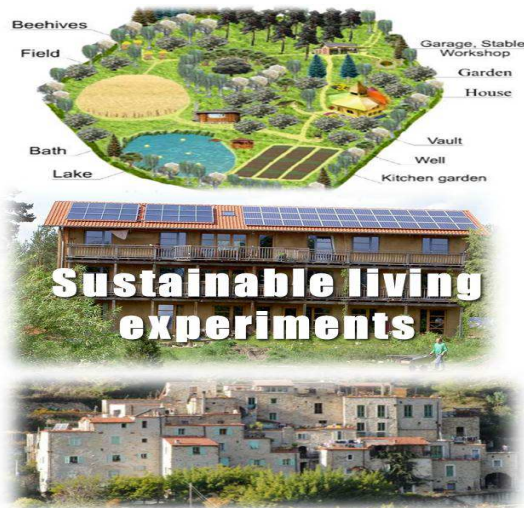
A third of average footprint/person in UK and DE
→Increased life quality
(http://www.usf.uni-kassel.de/glww)

Develop new governance methods: individual, community building, gras root governance
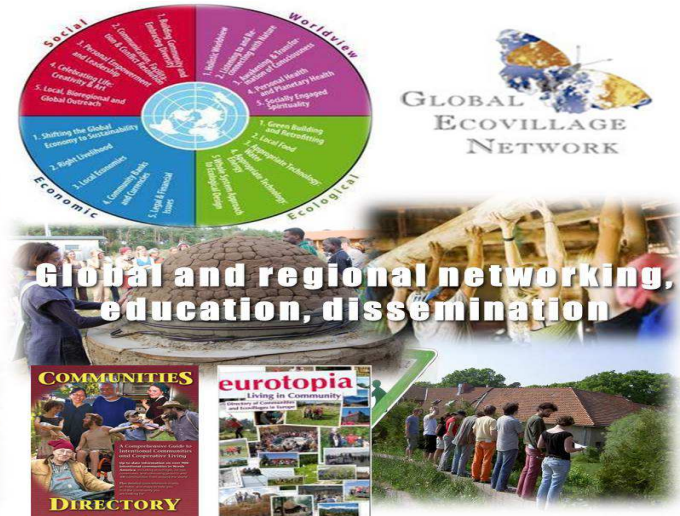
Education centres in the large ecovillages around the globe

➢ **Follow holistic approach:** live close to nature, re-invention of community, less consumption, local economy

Estimated Numbers:

➢ **Global Ecovillage Network (GEN),** founded 1995, 400 local ecovillages, 200 umbrella organizations and networks

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Social innovation for sustainable life styles in ecovillages: new ways of doing...

2 principles:

- change habits AND infrastructure
- Community life as incentive to save energy
- → Infrastructures: full-featured village provides framing

Examples of doing

- Growing own food
- Organic, vegetarian food supply for standard fee (community meals, served buffets)
- Cultural activities

transformative framing and organising to sustainable living in ecovillages

1. Value based common ground of sustainable and communal living (car-free village)

2. Collective ownership of company, land and/or houses planned by residents, eco-houses

3. democratic, participatory bodies: elaborated methods proven and developed in reality; communication/ conflict culture;

4. Flexible-responsive principles of organization: rules and "people first"

5. Joining processes, stepwise integration of new members

ecovillage Tempelhof, DE

key learnings and system transformation

- Building a solid social-material context

Commons require:

- 'social awareness'

- constant practice of community building,

- Individuals freedom, empowerment: requires responsibility

- → revival of community in a new manner: incl. Individual freedom: voluntary, intrinsical motivation

- → ecovillage have developed social competences and work as multipliers through their education programs/ centers

- Capability for active citizenship and responsible empowerment in governance for transformation towards sustainable societies