

blacks in green.



THE SUSTAINABLE
**SQUARE
MILE**
— IN —
P R A C T I C E

THE SUSTAINABLE SQUARE MILE HANDBOOK

CULTIVATE YOUR GREEN VILLAGE
WITH COMMUNITY-BASED
PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES



A handbook for understanding the Black in Green™
8 Green Village Building Principles™, Grannynomics™,
and The Sustainable-Square-Mile™ by Naomi Davis, Black in Green™,
in partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council



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BIG welcomes all thinkers and doers to our first release “Participatory Draft” and expressly requests your input. Notwithstanding, contributions to this period of input create no rights in any version of the materials.

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BiG: Blacks in Green™ is a national network pioneering “the sustainable-square-mile” in a “city of villages,” where every household can walk-to-work, walk-to-shop, walk-to-learn, and walk-to-play – balancing environment, economics, and equity. Our commitment is to self-sustaining black communities everywhere. We authored and teach The 8 Principles of Green-Village-Building™ and Grannynomics™ in courses, workshops, and lectures nationally, and serve as a bridge and catalyst among communities and their stakeholders in the design and development of green, self-sustaining, mixed-income, walkable villages in black neighborhoods. Thus, we work to build the local living economy as a greenhouse gas reduction strategy within African diaspora communities—those hit first and worst by climate change where the walkable village has gone extinct in a lifetime.

To address America’s racial wealth disparity and the need for black communities to build and circulate wealth, we aim for a model that measurably increases household income while building sustainability. Our strategy is to: 1) increase the rate at which neighbor-owned businesses are created and sustained, 2) build the capacity of neighbors to own, develop, and manage the property in their community, and 3) foster the conservation lifestyle. By cultivating our consciousness for stewardship in these ways, African Americans may restore our place in the world.



Naomi Davis, JD, LEED GA, is the founder/CEO of Blacks in Green—a national sustainability network and community wealth-building initiative dedicated to “green-village-building.” The granddaughter of Mississippi sharecroppers, she is an urban theorist, attorney, and activist. Her heritage forms the foundation for BiG’s course in *Grannynomics* and the 8 Principles of Green-Village-Building, which Davis authored and teaches nationally in lectures and workshops. She promotes the self-help conservation lifestyle as the foundation for sustainable community, and the local living economy as a greenhouse gas reduction strategy. Through advocacy and programs, she conveys the risks of global warming; the health and wealth-building opportunities of the new green economy; the power of neighbor-led environmental policy and practice; and the primacy of land ownership for African-Americans or people of color. Toward a goal of narrowing America’s racial disparities and ushering in what she calls an “age of the neighbor investor,” Davis trains activists and community members to lead where they live in establishing walkable villages within a “city of villages” in which people in every household can walk to work, to shop and to play. BiG’s *West Woodlawn Botanic Garden & Village Farm Initiative* is its sustainable-square-mile pilot. To buffer the nationwide trend of city gentrification *Calling My Children Home* is BiG’s emerging campaign to resettle middle class black families, empty nesters, millennials, and returning citizens into legacy communities in urban centers. BiG’s design/build team is planning an *Urban Homestead Lifestyle* development for a 2018 Groundbreaking, including green mixed-income housing for family types prevalent in black communities, ensuring that more residents will own, develop, and manage neighborhood properties. Davis is a Green for All Fellow LEED GA certificated in *NCCER/Maritime; Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning*; and the environmental literacy curriculum, *Roots of Success*. Davis served on Governor-Elect Pritzker’s Transition Team—Powering Illinois’ Future, on Mayor Emanuel’s Transition Team for Energy, Environment, and Public Space, and was selected as a sustainability thought leader at Groupon’s First Annual Chicago Ideas Week. She serves on the board of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas, Great Lakes Advisory Board, Illinois Natural Resource Advisory Board, Illinois Smart Solar Alliance, Chicago Environmental Justice Network, Local First Chicago, Great Migration Centennial Commission, and the Woodlawn Chamber of Commerce. Davis was born and raised in St. Albans, N.Y., and is a graduate of Fisk University and John Marshall Law School. She lives in the shade of BiG’s Sustainability Teaching Garden in West Woodlawn, Chicago.

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The **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)** is an environmental non-profit organization working to ensure the rights of all people to clean air, clean water, and healthy communities. The Resilient Communities Program at NRDC works on local scale solutions to climate change and quality of life for all communities and future generations. We take a holistic approach, working to address the needs of people, including improving health, lowering energy bills, improving access to wholesome and affordable food, and creating better transportation systems. We work in metropolitan areas—which today are home to more than 80 percent of Americans—and we partner with community groups, mayors, city planners, activists, entrepreneurs, and innovative financiers and investors in New York, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, and other locations to re-envision the cities of today.

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Marissa Ramirez is a Project Manager in the Healthy People & Thriving Communities Program at the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington, D.C. Marissa works with neighbors and local leaders, primarily in underserved locations, to support revitalizing their communities by providing best practices and tools for a more sustainable future. Although the changing climate is a serious threat to the environment and those most vulnerable to its impacts, Ramirez believes that local communities have the knowledge and power to meaningfully adapt and collectively design solutions to advance local priorities.

Marissa has a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where she focused on urban environmental economics. She also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Yale University.

Previously, Marissa was a science researcher and she continues to bring her passion for both human and community health to her professional career.



Madeline Keating is an Urban Fellow with NRDC's Healthy People & Thriving Communities Program. Her work is focused on urban sustainability issues including food waste, healthy equitable communities, mobility and connectivity. She is versed in data analysis and GIS mapping. Immediately prior to joining NRDC, Keating received her Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado Denver, with a focus on environmental planning and urban sustainability. She has expertise in mapping food systems and food equity, mobility and connectivity in low-income neighborhoods, and urban resiliency in Denver. She holds a BA in Economics from the Colorado College. Madeline is based in Denver.

BIG™ & NRDC Partnership: In 2016, BIG™ and NRDC's Green Neighborhood Team collaborated to create this handbook, which consists of practices needed to implement the 8 Principles by aligning them with the technical standards in LEED-ND (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development). Eight fact sheets were developed corresponding to each Principle.

The collaboration was designed to promote an innovative approach to community development that fosters leadership locally and simultaneously heals the planet. We have worked together to develop these factsheets to export these practices to a wider audience. The focus of BIG's mission is to provide whole-system solutions to black neighborhoods. We were excited to work together to use our national experience in working with neighborhood-scale sustainability to turn these solutions into best practices. Ultimately, we hope to advance a cohort of green village builders that will bring these principles into their sustainable square miles, linking them along the way.



A woman harvesting kale from a community garden.

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Stanley Park in
Vancouver, Canada.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To all who are village ambassadors, organizers, entrepreneurs, artists, innovators, and makers—

To the teachers and the learners, the village children and the village elders—

To anyone who believes our future lies not in consumption, but in creativity—

To those of you who are members of villages of color and African American villages in particular—

This Handbook is for you.

The Sustainable Square Mile Handbook is based on the 8 Principles of Green-Village-Building developed by Blacks in Green:

1. Wealth: Micro-Saving Lending, Local Currency/Wealth
2. Energy: Local Energy Production and Transportation
3. Products: Shopping and Waste
4. Homestead: Affordable Green Homes and Gardens
5. Cultures: News and Networks Stories, and Structures
6. Organized: Village Centers and Borders
7. Education: Health, Education, and Welfare
8. Oasis/Commerce: Green Jobs and Enterprise

This handbook provides guidance to residents and village leaders for how to put these principles into practice and teach others to do the same. For each of the 8 Principles, there is a story that tells the personal relationship between the principle and people. Every principle includes community-based sustainable practices to guide the implementation of the principle. Every practice includes at least one real-life example and a set of measurable neighborhood standards for how to implement it. It is our intention that these principles and their narratives are relatable, while at the same time providing enough technical expertise to provide a roadmap for actionable change in your neighborhood. The Handbook is the result of many conversations, literary research, and collaboration. The Handbook is designed so that you can use the Table of Contents page to quickly take you to a principle or practice of interest relevant to your immediate needs.



INTRODUCTION

THE SUSTAINABLE-SQUARE-MILE™

Imagine a “City of Villages,” where every household can walk-to-work, walk-to-shop, walk-to-learn, and walk-to-play. Now imagine these walkable villages in African American communities in the city centers where their members settled en masse 100 years ago.

The sustainable-square-mile implements The 8 Principles of Green-Village-Building™ in walkable places where neighbor-owned businesses, neighbor-owned properties, and the conservation lifestyle harmonize to circulate neighbor dollars, build neighbor wealth, and promote neighbor culture while supporting ecosystems and acting to surmount disruption. Conceived as a higher way forward in the revitalization of black communities, these principles can resound for everyone.

The sustainable-square-mile operates as a local living economy where most core neighbor needs are met within walking distance and where visitors are grounded in local currency, culture, energy, goods, and knowledge. Each sustainable-square-mile mix of neighbors, heritage, and local resources is interconnected with other local villages within a greater global context. By connecting one sustainable-square-mile at a time, we design and develop the “City of Villages”—those with fewer greenhouse gas emissions and higher household incomes, thus making social and economic equity a reality.

The question asked by Blacks in Green™ for this purpose:

“Where Is Your Village?”

The sustainable-square-mile helps us understand the answer and why we should care. With the teachings of environmental luminaries like Lester Brown, ID, and Vandana Shiva, ID, in mind, we understand that human-created climate change is disrupting our natural systems, commercial productivity, and health and social norms. Bill McKibben, head of 350.org warns, citing James Hansen of NASA, that our carbon emissions must be reduced from its current 385ppm to at most 350 ppm:

“...if humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted.” – James Hansen

Blacks and people of color have been hit first and worst across the globe—a truth on which BIG™ was born—in order to remind African Americans of our strong spiritual traditions of land stewardship and to connect them back to “Granny,” our word for the values that guided African Americans historically when official laws and policies betrayed their very existence as human beings of equal value.

GRANNYNOMICS: THE 12 PROPOSITIONS™

BiG and Naomi Davis's Grannynomics™ refer to the historic principles of the African American family.

As Naomi explains:

"In my life, values were derived from the economic soul of my own grandmother's home and business management. She was Adeline Thompson Siggers of Minter City, Mississippi, a sharecropper's wife. By understanding her operating system—the one in which my mother, and I, in turn, was raised—I've been able to begin distinguishing whole-system solutions which once operated sustainably in our villages, but which have disappeared in the generations since my walkable village in St. Albans, Queens. BiG™ is committed to reinventing that village in the age of climate change." – Naomi Davis

The Handbook describes this wisdom and how it can be put into action.

VALUES UNDERLYING OUR 8 PRINCIPLES OF GREEN-VILLAGE-BUILDING™

- ◆ **EVERYONE MUST WORK:** Even the lilies of the field must draw water and harvest sun.
- ◆ **ALL YOUNGSTERS LEARN A TRADE:** By age 10 you're an apprentice
- ◆ **CASH IS OFTEN OPTIONAL:** Grow your own food, make your own clothes
- ◆ **PAY AS YOU GO:** Use the catalog to dream big, spend small, and appreciate your possessions.
- ◆ **COMPETE TO IMPROVE:** In raising hogs or in a spelling bee, be your best.
- ◆ **EARN RESPECT:** Trade in the Golden Rule.
- ◆ **DEFINE AND REGULATE YOURSELF:** Your spouse's boss' wife cannot tell you what to do.
- ◆ **BE COURTEOUS, HONEST, PROUD:** You can be certain your Creator—and others—are watching.
- ◆ **CLOTHE, FEED, EDUCATE, AND RESTRAIN YOUR CHILDREN AND YOURSELF:** Adopt others' children if they can't.
- ◆ **KEEP YOURSELF AND YOUR THINGS BEAUTIFUL AND NEAT:** Even your laundry on the line should shine.
- ◆ **EAT WELL AND REST:** Take care of the goose that lays the golden eggs... enjoy featherbeds and whole grains.
- ◆ **SURROUND YOURSELF WITH FLOWERS:** Chicken poop makes great fertilizer.

GREEN-VILLAGE-BUILDING™

Cultivating your green village is central to the conservation lifestyle and the concepts within BIG's 8 Principles of Green-Village-Building. Communities and people of color are disproportionately burdened by pollution and changing climate. Through a more personal relationship with our land, we can renew our cultural history with land stewardship in the age of climate change. We begin to bring the principles to life by growing our own healthy food and gardens, generating local energy and creating wealth by investing in neighbor-owned businesses and inspiring a generation of green thinkers, doers and makers.

The 8 Principles of Green-Village-Building™ are a culture-specific prescription with universal value. They were inspired by the paradox reflected in the best and worst of African American life. There was the triumph of Great Migration strivers—seven million blacks who voted with their feet in an exodus unparalleled in American history to cities north, east, and west for jobs in slaughterhouses, steel mills, hospitality, on railroads, and in government. In a 100-year arch, despite every calculation



A rain garden in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

© Chesapeake Bay Program

against them by structural racism, black families acquired 15 million acres of farmland and in Chicago’s racially restricted Black Belt alone amassed hundreds of millions in real estate value, owned, and operated thousands of businesses, and occupied acres of pristine homes. But long before the year 2000, when BIG’s research for solutions began, America’s black neighborhoods had spiraled into crisis. In one generation, the most privileged African American children in history witnessed a deconstruction of gains in jobs and enterprise, and in political, social, and educational infrastructure.

LEED-ND TOOL

LEED-ND is a rigorous certification—the national standard for green development—that at its core is a system of measurements for evaluating and providing rewards to smart, green development at the neighborhood scale. Although LEED-ND was originally intended as a “green seal of approval” for new development projects, the power of LEED-ND in this context is that it serves as a compilation of state-of-the-art sustainability practices for neighborhoods. The Green Neighborhoods team at NRDC developed an augmented version of the tool, which is referred to as LEED-ND+, based on technical experience working with neighborhoods across the country. The “plus” refers to the inclusion of additional metrics that go beyond the scope of LEED-ND and focus on health, equity, and resilience. We believe that explicit standards improve practices and outcomes in these areas. This tool allows communities to think holistically about the role of the built environment, transportation, food, energy, and resilience measures in creating vibrant, livable places.

NEIGHBORHOOD EVALUATION

The Handbook brings to life the 8 Principles of Green-Village-Building by offering a “how to” on growing food, building wealth by circulating income within the community, and inspiring the next generation of green thinkers. Each principle is accompanied by practices and case examples in the field. Standards based on LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) back up every principle and practice with measurable outcomes.

Following the collapse of the housing market and the recession of 2008, there has been a growing resurgence of development projects but with little public policy on sustainable redevelopment. In response in the past decade, several tools, including LEED-ND and others, have been developed by green building and sustainability non-profit organizations.

LEED-ND was developed jointly by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Congress for New Urbanism, and the U.S. Green Building Council. An unintended consequence of green tools, like LEED, has been green gentrification. This refers to the problem of creating green neighborhoods that long-time residents can’t benefit from, or worse cause people to be displaced from their homes due to increased property values. Green gentrification can also mean the loss of culture or the failure to provide wealth opportunities for residents, particularly in communities of color.

NRDC has been a supporter of creative uses of LEED-ND. The comprehensive set of sustainability practices for existing neighborhoods in LEED-ND is a tool that allows for looking past individual buildings and considering whole neighborhoods to demonstrate a commitment to environmental sustainability and a framework to dialogue and action in communities. In addition, LEED-ND+, developed by NRDC incorporates standards on health, resilience, and equity to better capture the value of equitable, sustainable, and collaborative revitalization practices. Finally, these standards are not meant to be prescriptive, but instead are meant to provide a basis for inclusive participation and realizing community aspirations.

Other notable neighborhood assessment tools include EcoDistricts, a process for conceiving and implementing equitable and sustainable communities, STAR Communities, criteria for sustainable cities, and Enterprise Green Communities, focused on affordable housing and the neighborhoods around them. The systems vary based on the process for implementation, the intended users, and providers of the tool. Recently, these tools have evolved to better consider equity and green gentrification, though more work is needed.

The 8 Principles can be adopted alongside any of these neighborhood measurement systems within a village to support a high level of accountability. In addition, the Sustainable Square Mile is a model unlike any of the other green tools. Grounded in the intersection of sustainable development and community wealth building, the model is rooting increasing household income for black communities and closing the racial wealth gap. The 8 Principles, we believe, provide the on ramp to these standards for communities of color. This Handbook connects the standards to community ownership and self-determination so that neighbors may own the land, food, energy, and culture. With this mindset, the village leaders achieve sustainability by building on existing assets and resources, shifting away from traditional profit-driven development models. The Sustainable Square Mile allows the village to be the owner of sustainable development and its benefits.

HOW TO USE THE FACT SHEETS

This handbook is intended to provide residents, community organizers, nonprofits, local government officials, and anyone interested in sustainable living with the tools and resources needed to transform your community into a sustainable square mile.

Each of the eight fact sheets corresponds to one of the 8 Green Village Building Principles Cultivated through in-depth conversations with BiG's founder and president, Naomi Davis. Each fact sheet describes a problem, outlines solutions, and offers case studies. Each fact sheet is broken down into specific practices that communities, nonprofits, and local officials can use as templates for adopting a sustainable square mile vision.

The actionable targets and success metrics laid out in LEED-ND that are relevant are listed. This is explained in further detail in the previous section, Neighborhood Evaluation.

All Connection to LEED-ND and Actions and Targets using LEED-ND Metrics can be found in these green call-out boxes.

Each fact sheet includes the following sections:

- ◆ Title: Principle Name and Aspect
- ◆ Quote from Naomi Davis
- ◆ Principle Definition
- ◆ Context and Benefits
- ◆ Problem and Solution Strategies
- ◆ Practices
- ◆ Practice Concept and Description
- ◆ Case Study
- ◆ Connection to LEED-ND
- ◆ Actions and Targets using LEED-ND Metrics

If you'd like to dive deeper into the LEED-ND framework and metrics, you can download the [Citizen's Guide to LEED-ND for Neighborhood Development](#).

“...village leaders achieve sustainability by building on existing assets and resources, shifting away from traditional profit-driven development models. The Sustainable-Square-Mile allows the village to be the owner of sustainable development and its benefits.”



8 PRINCIPLES OF GREEN VILLAGE BUILDING



1. WEALTH | MICRO-SAVING/ LENDING LOCAL CURRENCY/WEALTH

Each village has its own measures, exchanges, and repositories of wealth.



2. ENERGY | LOCAL ENERGY PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION

Each village produces its own energy for heat, light, and transportation.



3. PRODUCTS | SHOPPING AND WASTE

Each village supplies basic goods and services to neighbors, recycling and converting waste.



4. HOMESTEAD | AFFORDABLE GREEN HOMES AND GARDENS

Each village is sustained through jobs-driven development without displacement, providing low-income housing and producing high-quality food through land trust community development corporations (CDCs).



5. CULTURE | NEWS AND NETWORKS STORIES AND STRUCTURES

Each village celebrates its past, present, and potential future culture through stories in print, digital, and theatrical forms.



6. ORGANIZED | VILLAGE CENTERS AND BORDERS

Each village is a walkable, self-sustaining whole with perceptible borders, interdependent local ties, global context, organized, and in action for self-interest.



7. EDUCATION | YOUTH AND ADULT

Each village fosters life-long learning through hubs, which are epicenters for green training, development and lifestyle transformation.



8. OASIS/COMMERCE | GREEN JOBS AND ENTERPRISE

Each village circulates its wealth through neighbor-owned businesses which invest, manufacture, and merchandise locally.



PRINCIPLE I: WEALTH

ASPECT: MICRO-SAVING/LENDING LOCAL CURRENCY/WEALTH

“Wealth is skill, and health is a village able to sustain itself with minimal input. Taken together, the health/wealth of a BIG™ walkable village is its critical mass of neighbor-owned businesses, circulating the household income of residents within its local living economy—one which naturally reinvests profits according to the self-interest of its neighbors.” –Naomi Davis

PRINCIPLE

Each village has its own measures, exchanges, and repositories of wealth.

CONTEXT AND BENEFITS

The Micro-Saving/Lending Local Currency/Wealth Green Village Building Principle seeks to build wealth, economic development, and capital within each walkable village or sustainable square mile. By focusing on the relationship between individuals, families, communities, and their environment this Principle identifies ways of protecting natural resources while supporting household economies. Implementation will help build social cohesion, community strength, and sustainability by identifying and piloting programs for self-sustaining wealth in communities of color.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM AND WHAT DO WE DO?

In the United States, businesses with five or fewer employees make up 92 percent of all businesses, yet often these small businesses do not have access to resources and finances needed to sustain themselves, much less expand. African American communities specifically are more vulnerable to income insecurity, racial profiling from banks, and infrastructure disinvestment. The average income for African American households in 2008 was 57 percent that of non-Hispanic whites, and median wealth is only 1/10 that of non-Hispanic whites. Further, “racist stereotypes have been shown to reduce aid donations and impede service delivery to African Americans in the wake of hurricanes, floods, fires and other climate-related disasters as compared to non-Hispanic whites in similar circumstances.”¹

Without neighborhood businesses and local hiring, community and household wealth cannot grow in a self-sustaining way and help to contribute to overall community and household wealth. Financial resiliency and wealth in black communities can come from exchanges of goods and services outside of traditional financial structures. Due to the historical lack of participation of traditional financial institutions, non-traditional structures can include cooperatives, micro-lending, neighborhood-focused money lending, credit unions and community benefits agreements. Ideally, money comes from and circulates through the community, creating a self-sustained and closed-loop financial system that prioritizes local markets.

PRACTICES

TIMEBANKING promotes economic equality and self-sufficiency through inclusive exchanges of time and talents.

Case Study: [Dane County TimeBank](#) is a network of more than 2,500 individuals and organizations in the Madison, Wisconsin, area that exchanges services and skills to connect unmet needs with unused resources. The Timebank structure promotes equity by assuring that everyone’s contribution is considered equally and anyone can contribute skills or services.

COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS allows people to borrow from and lend to neighbors outside of the traditional banking structure in the form of group loans. This reduces high interest rates, lack of access to needed finances because of inadequate credit, and helps to break the debt cycle.

Case Study: [Mission Asset Fund](#) provides zero-interest loans to help people build their credit and access affordable, small loans. The fund also allows for 6- to 10-person group loans in which each person can have his or her own need or goal for where the money will go and how it will be paid back. Mission Asset Fund is providing programs through 50+ nonprofit partners in 17 states.

MICROLENDING starts with a loan from an individual or organization rather than a traditional bank or credit union. Microlending can build wealth and is helpful in starting independent small businesses or in implementing other innovative ideas.

Case Study: [Accion](#) creates economic opportunity by partnering with small business owners to provide access to capital and business support to grow healthy enterprises and contribute to thriving local economies. Its nationwide network of mission-based lenders serves small businesses anywhere in the United States through four independent, regional community development financial institutions (CDFIs), and a national office. Since 1991, Accion has provided more than 60,000 loans totaling more than \$500 million. Each business Accion serves creates or sustains more than three jobs on average in the year after receiving its loan.

CROWDFUNDING can be a platform to raise funds for local community projects that will contribute to community wealth-building. A lot of crowdfunding today comes from social media outlets, but crowdfunding can also take place through local crowdfunding events, subscriptions, and more.

Case Study: [ioby](#) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping community-based organizations and residents raise money for neighborhood revitalization projects. Its online crowdfunding platform connects community leaders with the funding needed to make projects possible. The site includes a [library](#) of ideas for projects that have been or are currently being funded.

NEIGHBORHOOD CREDIT UNIONS can provide valuable support and resources to residents who need help with saving money or making big purchases. Credit unions are money cooperatives where members can borrow at low interest rates. Credit unions managed at the neighborhood level have the wealth of the community in their best interest and tend to be locally owned and managed and promote investment back into the community.

Case Study: Chicago's [Southside Community Federal Credit Union](#) is a non-profit organization that is owned and managed by the residents in whom the credit union invests. The credit union helps residents to save money, build credit, purchase homes, and grow businesses. It aims to reduce poverty and empower the community by providing financial guidance and credit and savings services. Additionally, the organization has launched a community development capital campaign intended to help meet the financial challenges of the community by bolstering growth.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS (CBAs) are agreements between neighborhood or community groups and a real estate developer that provide agreed-upon funding from the developer for community investment and amenities. CBAs can help to assure that the community is directly involved in new development, that its wants and needs are met, and that development is equitable for workers and residents.

Case Study: [The Staples CBA](#) is a community benefits agreement in Los Angeles between the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice and the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District. Community benefits range from assessing parks and recreation needs to paying a living wage and targeted hiring for low-income locals and increased affordable housing requirements.



A meeting of the Greater Chatham Alliance on community solutions to flooding in Greater Grand Crossing, Chicago.

© Center for Neighborhood Technology

Case Study: [Sagamore Development and the South Baltimore Six Coalition \(SB6\)](#) negotiated more than \$50 million in redevelopment of a large parcel of land in Port Covington in Baltimore, Maryland, creating a long-term community benefit agreement for the entirety of the redevelopment project. In addition to the benefits to Port Covington, the CBA's benefits reach into the five surrounding Baltimore communities of Cherry Hill, Lakeland, Curtis Bay, Mt. Winans, and Westport.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Economic enhancement and resiliency are crucial to addressing and supporting strategies that promote local industry and business development while providing equal opportunity. Funding for neighborhood projects, a culture of inclusivity, and incentives to build sustainably with vulnerable populations in mind should be available and integrated on different levels from the planning process through the local government to housing and economic development from state and federal entities. Better opportunities for residents to build wealth and increase income improves their ability to contribute to the overall economic growth of their community. Further, by growing individual and community wealth, community members are more likely to develop the resources to reduce the chances of involuntary displacement.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Everyone within a sustainable square mile should have access to a job.
- ◆ A funding framework should ensure equitable distribution of available funds for projects to encourage sustainable practices to reduce the cost of living.
- ◆ New housing requirements should include incentives for renters, landlords and owners to invest in new development to build wealth and ownership.
- ◆ Tools to mitigate displacement should include measures to preserve existing housing, reduce cost of housing production, and leverage market rates.
- ◆ At least 20% of community members should be employed within the community.
- ◆ Multilingual education programs should be created to inform residents about how to enroll in health insurance, home/rental insurance, early childhood education, adult and continuing education, and low-income assistance programs.
- ◆ There should be support for programs that lower the price of providing basic needs for low-income households.
- ◆ There should be support for local hiring for development projects, living wages based on the MIT living wage calculator, and community workers' benefits agreements.



PRINCIPLE 2: ENERGY

ASPECT: LOCAL ENERGY PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION

“Our small businesses in our commercial corridors are not tied into, acclimated to, educated about or otherwise taking advantage of savings from renewable energy or how to tie into the smart grid. The emphasis in energy savings and efficiency and renewables has revolved around the mega energy users—industries, large corporations, office buildings. If you lace together and measure the kind of energy, the amount of energy, and the impact of energy use associated with all the commercial corridors in the city, you are looking at a very significant body of small businesses. BIG is especially dedicated to neighborhood-owned businesses and black business owners. How can they be trained to save money by being more efficient with their energy? It is an important part of what we need to manage.” –Naomi Davis

PRINCIPLE

Each village produces its own energy for heat, light, and transportation.

CONTEXT AND BENEFITS

The Local Energy Production & Transportation Principle aims to implement community-based renewable energy systems within each walkable village or sustainable square mile. This Principle identifies the physical infrastructure that is needed for communities to own and produce their own energy. It also identifies programs and campaigns that promote information and stakeholder engagement around renewable energy generation and community control. Implementation will increase competitiveness for local businesses, provide reliable access to energy, decrease energy usage, and protect communities from climate-driven impacts by promoting clean and renewable sources of energy.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Energy consumption and costs affect all households and communities, yet studies show that communities of color are more likely to have poor energy infrastructure and less access to affordable and renewable energy sources. African American households and communities experience a median energy burden 64 percent greater than white households.² To add to this disparity, increases in energy prices have led to 70 to 80 percent of recent recessions: The increase in unemployment of African Americans during energy-caused recessions is twice of that of non-Hispanic whites, which translates to an average 1 percent drop in annual income.

To solve this problem, it is essential that African American communities reduce their dependence on energy and the traditional energy structure. Keeping energy production within the neighborhood allows residents to own and have a financial stake in their energy infrastructure. The total economic value to the community of locally owned projects is 50 to 240 percent greater than non-local ownership. This approach provides local jobs and wealth for the community and the state.¹

The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition is an example of a statewide effort to create jobs around clean and renewable energy. The Coalition is dedicated to the state’s commitment to raising energy efficiency standards to 20 percent by 2025 and renewable energy standards to 35 percent by 2030. These standards could potentially create 32,000 new clean energy jobs throughout the state. Strategies such as this provide systemic policy change to provide equitable and clean energy options in all neighborhoods regardless of race or class.³

PRACTICES

COMMUNITY ENERGY CO-OPS create community-owned energy by raising capital from members and investing in local energy projects. Community ownership promotes equitable and shared decision-making that is in the best interest of the community and its residents.

Case Study: [Co-op Power](#) is a consumer-owned, multi-class, multi-racial movement owned by more than 500 members in New England and New York. Members receive discounts on products and services and support local scale clean energy projects. So far, Co-op Power has raised \$320,000 in member equity, \$840,000 in member loans, and \$850,000 in local investment, leading to development of five solar installation businesses, two green electrician businesses, a Community Solar Project in Brattleboro, VT, a recycled vegetable oil biodiesel processing plant in Greenfield, CT, and more.

Case Study: [Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development \(SEED\)](#) creates communities powered by locally controlled clean energy through on-the-ground projects and progressive policies with maximum local control and ownership of energy assets. The group provides technical assistance for projects that stimulates local economic development, creates jobs, and enhances security, while creating widespread popular support for and investment in a sustainable energy system.

EQUITABLE UTILITY PLANS AND PROGRAMS increase investment in energy efficiency programs, prioritize renewable energy development, and prevent dramatic increases in carbon emissions while simultaneously promoting clean job growth and low-income energy programs.

Case Study: [ComEd's Next Generation Energy Plan \(NGEP\)](#) will save and create thousands of jobs, deliver clean energy, jumpstart solar development in Illinois, and provide for \$1 billion in low-income programs.

MULTI-CLASS, MIXED INCOME, MIXED RACE ENERGY COALITIONS promote community ownership of renewable energy sources including biomass, solar, wind that will generate local energy, build the local workforce, and save money for energy customers and providers.

Case Study: [Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition](#) is comprised of business owners, members of the state's environmental and faith communities, and representatives of more than 100,000 people across the state employed in clean energy. The coalition aims to provide clean energy jobs for up to 32,000 Illinois residents as laid out in the Illinois Clean Jobs Bill.

SHARED NEIGHBORHOOD RENEWABLES can include initiatives such as community solar. Community solar is defined as a voluntary solar-electric program that provides power, financial benefits, and/or ownership to multiple community members.

Case Study: The City of Portland has launched [Solarize Portland](#), a solar panel volume-purchasing program led by Portland neighborhood associations. Solarize has a [guidebook](#) to provide help on starting neighborhood-wide community solar campaigns.



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CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Support for affordable renewable energy generation is crucial for creating communities that are healthy, resilient, and prosperous. Incentives such as tax credits, grants, and special utility rates can be offered to increase the share of energy met by renewables. Furthermore, local government procurement policies and public works standards should require superior energy efficiency in purchased equipment.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Adopt a goal to source at least 5% of total community electrical and thermal energy from renewable sources.
- ◆ Provide incentives for new construction or major renovations to achieve energy savings at least 10% beyond the code minimum.

ALTERNATIVE NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSPORTATION MODES can reduce single occupancy vehicle trips or reduce the number of cars on the streets by starting neighborhood car shares, carpooling, a bike-share or bike library, or by encouraging other alternative transportation modes.

Case Study: [GetAround](#) is a national network of neighbors who will share their cars while not in use for a small fee. Participants earn money and share important neighborhood services. Sharing one car in this way can help to take approximately 10 cars off the road and can help those without access to a car do trips and errands that are easier in a car.

Case Study: The [Iowa City Bike Library](#) aims to get more people riding bikes by renting donated bikes for six-month periods, priced on an initial deposit. If, after the six months, the bike is still in good condition, the deposit is returned to the user or the user can keep the bike.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Reducing the number of single occupancy vehicle trips helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. Readily available alternative transportation solutions provide residents convenient and affordable choices beyond single occupancy vehicles. Public transit should play an important role in the transportation system, as well as a robust bike and pedestrian network. By educating residents about the benefits of biking and providing options such as GetAround and the Iowa City Bike Library, neighborhoods can start to cut down on single occupancy trips. LEED-ND specifically suggests vehicle and bike share programs and a robust bike and pedestrian network to accommodate people who would like to try biking or walking as an alternative mode.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Create accessible bike and vehicle share programs with at least 50% of households and employees in the community within 1/4 mile of the network.
- ◆ The total length of the local bike network should be a minimum of 5 miles and should connect at least half of the residential areas to community focal points for diverse uses in the sustainable square mile and surrounding areas.



PRINCIPLE 3: PRODUCTS

ASPECT: SHOPPING AND WASTE

“It’s not just all about what is in your garage. It is also about what you buy and bring home. Each walkable village should have the infrastructure for a closed loop of waste management so that as little waste as possible has to be exported out of the village.” –Naomi Davis

PRINCIPLE

Each village supplies all basic goods and services to neighbors, converting waste to wealth in the process.

CONTEXT AND BENEFITS

The Shopping & Waste Green Village Building Principle seeks to ensure that each walkable village or sustainable square mile provides residents with the everyday products they need to live healthy lives. This Principle addresses the product stream and the ways in which products move through their lifecycle: design, sale, use, disposal, recovery, re-manufacture, and reuse. By promoting a closed-loop lifecycle, communities can ensure that the goods they need the most are created, used, and disposed of in a way that is good for the environment, their household economies, and helps mitigate anticipated climate-driven disruptions. Implementation will help decrease landfills, related greenhouse gas emissions, and use of virgin materials associated with manufacturing and transporting products and waste. This Principle will cultivate the conservation lifestyle by transforming what neighbors view as trash. In turn, this will help increase revenue for new village enterprises such as the Resource Recovery Park, and quality of life for households by decreasing waste costs and labor associated with disposal. Through supporting small, local enterprises that leverage existing village resources, communities can provide crucial support to individuals who use their knowledge and skills to supply necessities to their neighbors: food, furniture, clothing, etc. Finally, through campaigning for increased incentives and enforcement mechanisms, communities can work with cities to develop strategies that hold residents accountable for disposing of garbage, recyclables, and other types of waste in a sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective way.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Global product streams and vast amounts of waste have a direct impact on environmental degradation, community health and equity. In the United States, although we are responsible for only 4 percent of global production, we generate 30 percent of the planet’s waste. Individually, Americans toss 1,650 pounds of garbage per person per year, averaging 4.6 pounds per person per day.⁴ The location of landfills is often associated with low-income communities and communities of color, also affecting household income and home values. Proximity to landfills can directly impact asthma rates and cancer rates due to higher levels of industrial chemicals, degraded water quality, and more.⁵

Waste reduction and diversion can help to offset some of the negative impacts from landfills. Diversion of recyclable and compostable materials from the landfill can reduce release of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere by 186 million metric tons—the equivalent of taking 39 million cars off the road for a year.⁶

Further, cycling the product stream through the community, increasing the product life cycle, and reusing materials that might otherwise be thrown in a landfill can help to build resiliency into the community and to increase household wealth by reducing waste and expanding business opportunity.

PRACTICES

Local Manufacture & Resale of furniture, clothing, home accessories, appliances and food eliminates major sources of waste. By expanding the lifespan of these products, they stay out of landfills and don't contribute to pollution caused by landfills. Simultaneously, local manufacturing and resale of products leads to new small business enterprises and stimulates local job and business growth in the community.

Case Study: [Mm Local](#) partners with local farmers to pickle and can fresh food before it becomes overripe. Its products are then sold in local grocery and retail stores.

Case Study: [The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen](#) is a group of 750 craftsmen and craftswomen who provide fine arts and media. Artists must list and produce their work in or nearby New Hampshire. They sell their goods at several independent retail stores at the annual New Hampshire Craftsmen Fair each summer.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Supporting the local workforce is an important part of building a sustainable village. For those local enterprises that hire employees, a living wage should be paid. Furthermore, neighborhood businesses should be located within mixed-use developments, allowing residents to access shopping, civic space, and commercial services in one location.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Living Wage should be calculated from MIT's Living Wage Calculator. In Cook County, the living wage for two adults (one working) with two children is \$24.17 per hour.
- ◆ Mixed-uses should be concentrated within each walkable village with at least 4 diverse uses within 1/4 of a mile of 50% of households.
- ◆ If mixed-uses are clustered in certain areas, the walking distance between these areas should be between 600 feet and 800 feet.
- ◆ Minimum sidewalk widths on mixed-used blocks should be at least 8 feet.
- ◆ At least 70% of mixed-use streets should have a speed limit of no more than 25 mph.

PACKAGE-FREE RETAIL STORES minimize packaging to reduce landfill waste and costs to households.

Case Study: [in.redients](#) is a local, zero-waste, neighborhood grocery store and beer garden in Austin, Texas. The grocery store has a bring-your-own-container program, diverts food from the landfill, donates a portion of proceeds to local non-profits, purchases from local farmers, and sends only 5 pounds to 6 pounds of waste to the landfill each month.

SCRAP COLLECTION ENTERPRISES provide recycling, trash, and composting services, farm share deliveries, yard care, and assistance with moving.

Case Study: [Pedal People](#) Cooperative is a worker-owned human-powered delivery and hauling service for the Northampton, Mass., area. Services include residential, business, and municipal recycling, trash and compost pickups, bike workshops, yard care, and more.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Communities should provide the incentives and the infrastructure for retail stores to recycle, compost, and manage their waste responsibly. Furthermore, community groups should engage with residents on ways to reduce food waste. For example, making use of leftovers, properly storing different types of food, and developing meal and shopping plans are all important steps towards reducing the amount of food thrown out in our neighborhoods every day.

LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Sidewalk recycling receptacles should be located on every block or every 800 feet, whichever is shorter.

RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK is a neighborhood-based development that turns community waste into wealth by receiving scraps, waste, and other products from the community and recovering, remanufacturing, and selling it.

Case Study: [Newby Island Resource Recovery Park Recyclery](#) in California sorts through wet and dry trash, organics and recyclables to divert as much material as possible from the landfill and make waste drop-off easy for customers by allowing them to drop all waste in one location.

SOIL CENTER takes kitchen waste out of the landfill waste stream and puts it to work in a compost system, which can be used for community gardens and growing food.

Case Study: The Lower East Side Ecology Center incentivizes New Yorkers to drop off their food scraps by providing eight convenient drop off locations in Lower Manhattan and partnering with like-minded organizations in Harlem to provide such services in Upper Manhattan. The Ecology Center also provides a free drop off program for unwanted electronics through community pop up events in all five boroughs and a permanent drop off location, the Gowanus E-waste Warehouse, which features a reuse store and offers affordable refurbished electronics for sale.

Case Study: [CERO \(Cooperative Energy, Recycling, and Organics\)](#) provides food waste pickup and diversion services to commercial clients and delivers the waste to local farms to be composted and returned to the soil. CERO is a worker-owned cooperative dedicated to serving local Boston communities by reducing waste and saving money.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Resource Recovery Parks and Soil Centers, which allow for co-locating reuse, recycling, and compost processing, are best located in areas near transit with high connectivity. This ensures they are more accessible to residents and increases the likelihood that residents will take advantage of these services.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Aim for 50% of households to be within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of 60 public transit trips during the week and 40 public transit trips during the weekend.
- ◆ Retail uses with at least 150,000 square feet, including 75,000 square feet of single retail use, should be located within 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile of 76 public transit trips during the week and 50 public transit trips during the weekend.



A resource recovery park is a neighborhood-based development that turns community waste into wealth by receiving scraps, waste, and other products from the community and recovering, remanufacturing, and selling it.

Bins to collect food scraps for compost at the Union Square Farmers Market in New York City.

© Nao Okawa via Flickr



PRINCIPLE 4: HOMESTEADING

ASPECT: AFFORDABLE GREEN HOMES AND GARDENS

“We are going back to land as place, land as heritage, land as culture. We rooted ourselves in place, we rooted ourselves where we were told we could be and must be. We labeled those places as our own through sweat and blood. In the fourth principle that we call the homestead, we mean to evoke a time and a place where people traveled to a land and claimed it for themselves and made it their own. The history of the homestead in America is relevant as a metaphor—ourselves as settlers and pioneers. We came to this place and because so many of our grandchildren have not been properly schooled in our heritage, the pain and suffering and the great sacrifice associated with acquiring those properties was unknown. When the foreclosure tsunami came and the going got tough, properties were abandoned. Thus, the barren, hollow, boarded-up, crazy looking properties that we have now as a standard in our community occurred.” –Naomi Davis

PRINCIPLE

Each village is sustained through jobs-driven development without displacement, providing low-income housing and producing high-quality food through land trust community development corporations (CDCs).

CONTEXT AND BENEFITS

The Affordable Green Homes and Gardens Village Building Principle seeks to ensure that each walkable village provides opportunities for resident-owned land through collaborative, inclusive, and locally controlled community-driven development. This principle addresses affordable mixed-income housing, neighborhood food production, and local control and ownership. Resident ownership of the land and local development allows residents to build the resources needed to diminish displacement and build community wealth. This principle identifies key land trust, community development corporations, and cooperative models from which neighborhoods can build to develop residents as neighbor investors and developers. Implementation involves fostering neighborhood land stewardship through programs aimed at urban farming and bolstering the local food system, exploring cohousing, mixed-income, and other housing affordability structures, and keeping investment in the neighborhood through neighborhood development, financing, and jobs. This principle will cultivate pride through acceleration of residents’ ability to own, develop, and manage their own property, building household and neighborhood wealth in the process.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM AND WHAT DO WE DO?

The 2008 housing market crash and financial crisis had an especially strong negative impact on underinvested communities of color. Many low-income communities of color are still waiting to see money reinvested into their economies. As a result, younger generations have not invested into their neighborhoods with the same vigor as their parents. The sense of generational placemaking and homesteading has been lost. Thanks to the Community Reinvestment Act, money has started to be reinvested, and the original residents have, in some places, started to migrate back.

Today, these communities can grow through neighbor investors and developers who will help to circulate money through the neighborhood. Neighbors investing in their homes, land, and community builds the wealth and income of individuals and the community. This helps to build the black middle class back into communities negatively affected by the 2008 housing market crash. Growing a healthy local food system, creating opportunities for affordable housing without displacement and pathways to ownership, and appreciation of the land and finite resources can help to create a livable, sustainable, and vibrant community resilient to future market failures.



Dawn Mabery Chestnut, a resident of DC Ward 7, tends to her garden plot at East Capitol Urban Farm in Washington, DC.

PRACTICES

LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS can vary in function and scale, but the general aim is to create a sustainable food system in a neighborhood that integrates food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management. Often these are in the form of urban farm food cooperatives in which vacant land can be turned into a garden or small-scale farm and community members can come together to plant, cultivate, distribute, and consume the produce. In addition to better health, this can contribute to greater wealth and training for community residents.

Case Study: [City Fresh](#) is a community-supported agriculture (CSA) organization dedicated to providing fresh, healthy produce to residents in food deserts of Cuyahoga and Lorain counties in Ohio. All produce is grown within 75 miles of the area and is delivered to families weekly. Weekly food baskets are available at a sliding price scale. The market garden training program aims to teach residents about urban agriculture.

Case Study: [Added Value](#) creates urban farms on vacant land in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Red Hook. The organization is dedicated to creating a local and affordable food system and providing job training to neighborhood youth.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Supporting the local food system is an important part of increasing food security, building a sustainable village, community health, and assuring a connection to land and property. An important aspect of LEED-ND is the promotion of the environmental and economic benefits of local food systems. Ideally, space in each community should be dedicated to gardening or urban farming with cooperative ownership and accessibility.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Permanent and viable growing space or related facilities (such as greenhouses) should be dedicated within new community development projects and provide a required minimum of pedestrian and solar access, fencing, water systems, raised beds, and secure space for tools.
- ◆ Land should be primarily owned and managed by project/neighborhood occupants.
- ◆ At least 50% of residents should be within 1/2 mile walking distance of neighborhood gardens.

COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS (CLTs) build stewardship of land through community-based organizations and involvement to ensure affordable housing development and decrease displacement. CLTs typically help low-income residents become homeowners in their neighborhoods by helping them to build equity and keep long-term leases that are locked at affordable rates. They protect against negative changes in the housing market, making residents less prone to foreclosures. They are typically run by resident board members.

Case Study: [Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative](#) is a housing and community development nonprofit committed to creating sustainable, democratic, and economically just neighborhoods and communities. The initiative aims to increase affordable housing stock by encouraging resident-controlled development, advocating for shared-equity models of homeownership, cooperative housing, and rental opportunities, and promoting community-building initiatives that advance equitable housing patterns, neighborhood stability, and community-driven land-use planning.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS (CBAs) are agreements signed by neighborhood residents or community groups and real estate developers or development entities that provide community amenities and benefits for the local neighborhood when new development takes place. CBAs help to decrease displacement due to rising prices due to development.

Case Study: [West Harlem Development Corporation](#) intends to promote increased economic opportunities, quality of life, and sustain a vibrant community in West Harlem beyond the terms of the Community Benefits Agreement between the West Harlem Local Development Corporation and Columbia University.

Case Study: [Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation](#) is involved in the redevelopment of West Town, Humboldt Park, Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale communities in Chicago for the benefit of and control by low- and moderate-income families in those areas.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Community Benefits Agreements and Community Land Trust Models keep housing affordable so residents can own, work, and develop within their community. LEED-ND neighborhoods should promote socially equitable and engaging neighborhoods from a wide range of economic levels, household sizes, and age groups.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Ensure that a proportion of new rental and/or for-sale dwelling units are fairly priced for households earning less than the area median income (AMI). Rental units must be maintained at affordable levels for a minimum of 15 years.
- ◆ Incorporate variety in housing sizes and types in new projects such that the total variety of planned and existing housing within the project is diverse and inclusive.
- ◆ Land should be primarily owned and managed by project/neighborhood occupants.

WATER RECLAMATION STRATEGIES reduce the water footprint of residential homesteading while lowering the cost of annual water bills. Around the country there are small-scale examples of incentives for installing rain gardens or rain barrels to help reduce flooding and keep water cycles through neighborhood green homes and gardens.

Case Study: [Faith in Place](#) distributed free rain barrels to fight flooding in underserved West and South Chicago areas as part of the greater [Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Rain Barrel Program](#).

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Sustainable water-use and storm water management are essential components of land stewardship and homesteading. Lawn and garden watering can account for more than 40% of total household water use during the summer months. To offset this cost and water use, rainwater that falls within the property can be efficiently reused for irrigation or other uses including car washing, watering houseplants, and more, while reducing runoff, pollution, flooding, and contamination of the freshwater supply.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Regulations should be required, or incentives offered, for reduction in water use for landscape irrigation at 50% reduction.
- ◆ 25% to 50% of annual wastewater volume should be allowed to be separated or treated and reused on-site.
- ◆ Regulations should require, or incentives be offered for infiltration, evapotranspiration, or reuse of rainwater on new development sites.



PRINCIPLE 5: CULTURE

ASPECT: NEWS & NETWORK, STORIES & STRUCTURES

“As a child, I was a student at this special place called Harlem School of the Arts, founded by the great Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano, Dorothy Maynor, one of the first African Americans to sing on stage in that context. So, I always took singing classes, and art classes, acting classes, and dance classes. I became convinced through majoring in college and working in the League of Chicago Theaters in Chicago as an adult, as an attorney, that the power of theater to shape hearts and minds is almost unparalleled. What could be a system for counteracting the ongoing incessant barrage of negative energy about your Africanness? What could be a tool to combat that on a deep and ongoing structural basis in a way that works within the walkable village and within the sustainable square mile? Theater. This mission is at the intersection of people, art, the environment and the economy within a paradigm that shows there can be a system that advances self-love for African diaspora people.” –Naomi Davis

PRINCIPLE

Each village celebrates its past, present, and future culture through stories in print, digital, and theatrical forms.

CONTEXT AND BENEFITS

The News and Networks, Stories and Structures Principle encourages community performance for economic development. This principle identifies the benefits of harvesting and sharing stories of cultural identity and collective narrative as a starting point in community economic development. Transmitting and preserving stories can be the vehicle to reinventing a tradition of self-reliance and self-love, and be the economic engine for green-village building. The principle advances a business model using the unparalleled power of theater. It combines the “8 marketable jobs skills of theater,” the cultural heritage tourism industry, and the theater production supply chain. This business model leads to a new appreciation for communities within themselves and a path to restoring their place in the world.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Studies abound that show the negative impact of internalized racism and community self-hatred on individuals and neighborhoods. These range from associations with increased psychosocial stress and blood pressure to expediting aging in black men to poor mental health as a result of discrimination and internalized racism. A tenet of Green Village Building is that neighborhoods of color that face such pressures can heal through increasing their understanding of cultural history, assets, talents, and heritage.

PRACTICES

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT offers economic and monetary benefits from theatrical performance, live community performance art, celebration of heritage in the form of historical performance, and more. Story circles, for example, are a simple art form that brings together neighbors from across the district with a facilitator, sparking creativity and working as a potential entry point for community economic growth and development.

Case Study: [Swamp Gravy](#) is Georgia's Official Folk-Life Play put on through the Colquitt/Miller Arts Council (CMAC). The show, featuring local stories, volunteer actors, and home-grown music, tours and performs nationally and grows community wealth for the show.

ORAL HISTORY gives residents the opportunity to understand and celebrate their history and heritage through projects that record the history of the area by speaking directly to residents.

Case Study: The New York Public Library [Community Oral History Project](#) documents, preserves, and celebrates the history of New York City's communities by collecting oral accounts and stories of residents firsthand.

CULTURAL ART CORRIDORS are a celebration of the culture, community, and artistic talents of resident artists directly within the community. For example, in a corridor made up of primarily blank walls and unappealing building facades, murals and community art can not only revitalize the area but can share a story of the surrounding area and showcase artists.

Case Study: [Hennepin Avenue Cultural Corridor](#) in Minneapolis puts arts at the center of the planning process to re-envision an urban corridor. The area is a business improvement district (BID) and one of the oldest corridors in Minneapolis. To create the cultural corridor, art galleries, the center for performing arts, area theaters, the library and other arts and commercial businesses and institutions created the Hennepin Theater Trust with an aim to put culture, arts, history and entertainment at the forefront of planning this mixed-use urban area.

HERITAGE PLACEMAKING is a way to create a strong sense of place by showcasing the heritage and history of an area. This can include restoring historic buildings that might be a strong example of an architectural style of a certain period or selling traditional foods and crafts that come from the neighborhood.

Case Study: [16 Great Migration Gardens of West Woodlawn](#) is a part of Blacks in Green and is a permanent installation being designed for Chicago's first black middle-class neighborhood. It consists of 16 planned sites with landscape architects and their placemaking partners. Each garden acts as a placemaking lab for the West Woodlawn Botanic Garden and Village Farm Initiative.

Case Study: [Amish Acres in Nappanee, Indiana](#), is the only Amish Farm listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Many locally produced products and homemade crafts are available for sale at the farm's shop.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Preserving and transmitting village stories can be a way to create socially and culturally connected places. This is also an effective way to highlight spaces with historical relevance in the community. By preserving and adaptively reusing these spaces, people can feel connected to their communities and to the built environment through an appreciation of the past.

Art, in all its forms, is a meaningful way to tell community and heritage stories. Building form and function specifications serve to foster the making and sharing of art. For the reasons cited above, dedicating community resources and public spaces, celebrating cultural events and activities, and valuing accessibility to the arts is vitally important.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Invite participants from all groups to equitably provide perspectives, self-organize, resolve issues, cultivate leadership, and anticipate cultural shifts based on new development and community activities.
- ◆ Reuse buildings so that at least 50% off the building or 20% of the project stock is preserved.
- ◆ Avoid demolishing historic buildings or altering historical landscapes.
- ◆ Ensure historic buildings are protected by local, state, and federal designations with requirements for rehabilitation or reuse.
- ◆ Provide incentives for rehabilitating historic buildings or cultural landscapes.
- ◆ Leave no more than 50 feet of blank building wall.
- ◆ Offer the community a broad range of arts and cultural resources and activities that encourage participation and creative self-expression.



What Blacks in Green has done to promote this principle!

BIG IN ACTION:

Migration: The Musical (2011) portrayed migration as a human story and allowed the neighborhood to bond and create a community where the “neighbor is back in the hood.” This product ultimately worked as an economic engine for the neighborhood to generate funds and organize people through sharing the history of its residents.



PRINCIPLE 6: ORGANIZED

ASPECT: VILLAGE CENTERS & BORDERS

“The core of this principle reflects the core of green-village building itself. In other words, the placeness of things. This is where we talk about the city of villages, the sustainable square mile and this walkable green village. There is no walkable village and there is no sustainable square mile without borders, or what we would call a core building block. The goal is that cities should begin looking at themselves as the aggregation of these walkable villages. And they should be defined by a metric of walkability that we are offering as the sustainable square mile. It answers the gallon-of-milk question: ‘I want to buy a gallon of milk. How far am I going to walk to get it before I’m going to pull out my bike, jump on a bus, or get in my car?’” –Naomi Davis

PRINCIPLE

Each village is a walkable, self-sustaining whole with perceptible borders, interdependent local ties, and a global context that is organized for its self-interest.

CONTEXT AND BENEFITS

The Village Center and Borders Green Village Building Principle seeks to establish each sustainable square mile as a defined space with borders, boundaries, limits, and maps. This principle is a core building block of the concept of the walkable green village. The principle identifies cities as the aggregation of many interconnected and well-defined walkable villages and sustainable square mile neighborhoods. It is defined by walkability, connectivity, neighbor-to-neighbor interaction, ease of communication, and self-organization. Success of this principle is built around relationships with neighbors, elected officials, and members of the community who can work with each other to create a socially connected network and support systems within neighborhood boundaries. Implementation of the principle comes from projects, ideas, and initiatives that work with existing assets and social relationships.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM AND WHAT DO WE DO?

This principle stems from the overlap of place-based isolation and disinvestment, especially within low-income communities of color, and the climate crisis. Resiliency-building must be mitigated and managed through hyper-local and robust systems for knowing one’s neighbors. Knowing your neighbors and community members in the sustainable green village serves many functions, including fostering community well-being and helping with emergency management. Social connectivity and sense of place can help to build community pride and lead to self-investment in the home. Available tools for creating networks for better understanding of community borders and neighborhoods should include contact management tools, such as up-to-date lists that allow neighbors to easily report their status during a humanitarian or climate emergency, shared databases that include an inventory of assets and community leaders, and mapping of locations, conditions, borders, and barriers.

PRACTICES

CROWDFUNDING can be a platform to raise funds, find volunteer involvement, and locate support for local community projects that will contribute to community wealth-building.

Case Study: [ioby](#) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping neighborhoods raise money for neighborhood revitalization projects. The online resource connects community project leaders with the funding needed to make projects possible. The site includes a [library](#) of ideas for projects that have been or are currently being funded.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Neighbors should be directly involved with the planning process for development of their community. When development and planning come directly from the residents, people can address their priorities and the priorities of the community as a whole outside of City Hall. Projects that are underfunded can potentially be taken on by crowdfunding and grassroots support from the residents in the village.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Community plans should address priorities from community members, stakeholders, and community assessments, including but not limited to health, safety, economic development, and equity.
- ◆ Community members should be engaged in the community planning process.

OPEN SOURCE NEIGHBORHOOD MAPPING can be an outlet for residents to map the assets or barriers that are present in their neighborhood through an app and/or interactive website.

Case Study: [WALKScope](#) is a mobile tool that allows Denver, Colorado residents and visitors to collect data related to sidewalks, intersections, and pedestrian counts and add the information to an online map database. It helps Denver to build an inventory of pedestrian infrastructure, identify gaps, and build the case for improvements.

ASSET MAPPING is a valuable tool used to assess communities' strengths and character. Asset mapping can help bolster local businesses and places by helping neighbors to become more connected. It can build pride by accessing the local knowledge of long-term residents.

Case Study: [Asset-based Community Development \(ABCD\) Institute](#) is an organization dedicated to celebrating and enhancing the existing local assets as the primary building blocks of a sustainable village. These assets include resident-experts, local organizations, businesses, associations, community art and gathering places and more. Included as part of the ABCD movement are resources and a community toolkit to help communities map and recognize their assets.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

The concept of centers and borders within a neighborhood is a fundamental principle to LEED-ND. By improving accessibility to community assets, safety, and efficiency of transit infrastructure, LEED-ND helps a village become a self-sustaining whole. Knowing how to get around the neighborhood and to public services, food, and education and with whom to talk with concerns is essential to a healthy community. Residents should play an active role in assigning where these assets lie and where there are voids.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Build a community so at least 90% of households and employees can walk 1/4 mile or less to a civic space and 1/2 mile or less to public outdoor or indoor recreation facilities.
- ◆ Locate at least 50% of dwelling units within 1/2 mile to 1 mile to elementary, middle, and high schools.
- ◆ Have at least 85% of households within 1/2 mile walking distance of fresh food.
- ◆ Make a diverse array of services available to all. At least 30% of households and non-residential buildings should be within a 1/4-mile walk of at least five such services and within 1/2 mile of seven such services or within 1/4 mile of public transportation that provides direct service to diverse services. Examples of diverse uses include grocery stores and restaurants, retail, commercial services, health services, learning centers (libraries, schools, or tutoring centers), and civic facilities.

EASY INFORMATION ON PLACE-BASED INITIATIVES helps to connect neighbors to each other, to community and city officials, and to events around the neighborhood. Further, easy access to information about the neighborhood can act as an effective tool for an emergency response plan and crime reduction.

Case Study: Nextdoor.com is a free private online tool for neighborhoods and community members to share important neighborhood news and information online. Nextdoor is set up by neighborhood leaders and neighbors within specific boundaries can be part of the network. Some of the topics covered by Nextdoor include getting the word out about home break-ins, finding babysitters or pet-sitters, selling used furniture or services, and general neighborhood conversations.



A mother and daughter walk past streetside rain gardens.

© Marcela Gara/Resource Media

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

By increasing the types of information channels available to residents, people are more aware of what is going on in their neighborhoods, leading to lower crime rates and better emergency response mechanisms. These are important tenets of LEED-ND and resiliency building.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Devise a community emergency management plan to prepare and respond to natural disasters that is informed by local and regional priorities.
- ◆ Take care that the emergency response plan adequately addresses at-risk demographics as defined by the NAACP.
- ◆ Conduct a formal or informal assessment to achieve a crime score of at least 50% (above average safety) and ideally below 75% (exemplary level safety). Consider reduction in hate crimes, elder abuse, child abuse, and trauma as indicators for safety.
- ◆ Empower community leadership to disseminate information that can be understood by all groups and to organize preparedness and response activities.



PRINCIPLE 7: EDUCATION

ASPECT: HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

“This concept celebrates the anticipation, encouragement, and embracing of physical places where people who live in the community can get hooked into a green lifestyle. This means a community with active participation in group projects and where the DIY knowledge base, urban homestead, and conservation lifestyle are actively fostered.” –Naomi Davis

PRINCIPLE

Each village fosters lifelong learning through hubs, which are epicenters for green training, development, and lifestyle transformation.

CONTEXT AND BENEFITS

The Health, Education and Welfare Green Village Building Principle seeks to engage residents and create an operating system whereby the residents of the village can be taught and, in turn, teach others. The principle identifies neighborhood-wide outlets for teaching and learning about sustainability and enhancing the workforce through training and lifelong learning. By creating a central hub in the neighborhood for training and collaboration and focusing on lifelong learning and workforce training, residents will gain the skills needed to increase their household and community wealth and health. Implementation entails training residents on skills around green living and sustainability, community wealth building, and important aspects of other green village building principles.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Black students and communities tend to have less access to education and lifelong learning opportunities, especially with respect to training on sustainability and green living. Typically, 72 percent of blacks aged 25 and older have a high school diploma compared to 85.5 percent for whites (2000 Census). Further, across all grade levels, black students are almost three times more likely to be held back than white students.⁷ To solve this problem, education needs to be readily available and affordable. Innovative solutions for engagement by youth to increase success in grade school and the likelihood of continuing education is essential. Sustainability and green living training can be integrated into classroom structures and innovative continuing education solutions.

PRACTICES

SCHOOLS AS CENTERS OF COMMUNITY allow schools to more effectively integrate into the community and extend learning centers and opportunities to the local community and to youth outside of traditional school hours.

Case Study: The [Wake County Public School District](#) was awarded \$54.2M in Federal Grants to emulate the US Department of Transportation model for community partnership and agencies to collaborate with district schools. Partnerships and community collaboration must include educational outcomes for students as well as family and community results.

LIFELONG LEARNING CENTERS make ongoing education options and classes more readily accessible to the local community by creating physical locations for continuing education curricula.

Case Study: [The Santa Barbara Center for Lifelong Learning \(CLL\)](#) is a nonprofit center that provides affordable weekday, evening, and weekend classes to residents from a diverse mix of backgrounds. Tuition assistance awards and community enrichment programs are available. The CLL aims to create their classes specifically around the wants, needs, and passions of the residents it serves.

Case Study: [Scott County Partnership LifeLong Learning Center](#) offers workforce training and educational services to citizens of Scott County, Ind., through funds from the Scott County Community Foundations, the City of Scottsburg, and the Indiana Department of Commerce. The center also helps with workforce services and easy transition into fulfilling jobs.

GREEN HUBS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT educate residents about the importance of green buildings and sustainable lifestyles by offering community workshops, events, classes, and other resources in a green low-impact building.

Case Study: [Alliance for Sustainable Colorado Alliance Center](#) is Colorado's hub for sustainability and housing organizations with sustainability missions in a co-working innovation space. The building is a Gold LEED certified refurbished historic building. The Alliance for Sustainable Colorado puts on sustainability-focused events, workshops, and engagement activities for the greater Denver community.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Community members, employees, and households should have access to opportunities to advance their education and well-being through community programming and assistance. Community-building in the community helps residents become more invested and involved in their communities, schools, and civic spaces.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Provide multilingual education programs to inform residents about how to enroll in available service programs, including but not limited to health insurance, home/rental insurance, early childhood education, and low-income assistance programs (including energy, food, and subsidies).
- ◆ Identify civic space and subsidized spaces for job incubators, skill-sharing, and workforce development training.
- ◆ Support capacity-building programs that enable community leaders and all demographic groups to self-organize, resolve issues, and cultivate leadership.
- ◆ Offer incentives for joint use of school facilities as centers for community.



Students from Benjamin Franklin High School plant native plants to benefit pollinators at Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES outside of the classroom are essential to helping children grow and develop passions during their unstructured time. Involvement in the community outside of school allows youth to build an appreciation for and investment in the wellbeing of their community and neighbors.

Case Study: [Dudley Street Neighbors, Inc. \(DSNI\)](#) Youth Opportunities and Development is aimed at youth up to age 24 to connect to resources, education opportunities, and support networks that help them to become successful in school and in their communities.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Youth engagement outside of traditional school hours assures that school-aged children have activities and stimulation aimed at future success and opportunity-building. Youth programs can lead to better outcomes at school and building education and stewardship for younger children builds good habits and community members.

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Set a target for a high school graduation rate above 85%.
- ◆ Support early childhood education programs in neighborhoods.



PRINCIPLE 8: OASIS

ASPECT: GREEN JOBS AND ENTERPRISE

“Fundamentally, we are looking at a sustainable square mile. One of the things that makes it sustainable is the income to the households within it. How far does that income go in benefiting all those within the sustainable square mile? On average, \$1 in an African American community spends 6 minutes in the neighborhood before it gets used elsewhere. This money does not remain to refresh or fertilize or cultivate the things that could support a thriving neighborhood.” –Naomi Davis

PRINCIPLE

Each village circulates its wealth through neighbor-owned businesses that invest, manufacture, and merchandise locally.

CONTEXT AND BENEFITS

The Green Jobs and Enterprise Green Village Building Principle seeks to look at the community capacity to invent, invest, manufacture, and merchandise. This principle identifies ways to increase household and community wealth by circulating the supply and demand chain locally. It focuses on reinvestment back into the community through local businesses. By developing approaches that encourage innovation and incubate independent locally owned business growth, the sustainable square mile will experience sustainable job and wealth growth. Implementation of this principle strongly overlaps with the practices associated with Principle 2 (Wealth), since financial structures and enterprise are such important elements of business growth.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Local businesses that hire from within the community and circulate money back into the community can create stronger economies and greater wealth. For every \$100 spent at a local business, approximately \$67 stays in the community. This compares to the \$32 out of \$100 spent at a big-box store.⁸ Throughout the U.S., 90 percent of net new jobs are created by locally owned businesses. Neighborhoods served by a successful independent business gained on average 50 percent more in home values. Black communities’ wealth from local businesses is not as equally distributed because of financing structures and skewed money circulation patterns.

Local economic development and business growth helps to create more equitable distribution of wealth. Legislation such as the Community Reinvestment Act aims to encourage financial deposit institutions and lenders to help the communities in which they are located meet their credit needs, thus reducing discriminatory credit practices and redlining. By investing back into communities, local businesses are more likely to incubate and grow. Nationally, local businesses employ roughly 77 million Americans and pay nearly 44 percent of payroll.⁹

PRACTICES

LOCAL AND GREEN BUSINESS CORRIDORS can lead to job growth and community building by focusing on the needs and desires of the communities they serve.

Case Study: [The Soul District](#) created by The Black Investment Corporation for Economic Progress Inc. (BICEP) aims to increase the economic opportunity and well-being of Portland's North and Northeast communities of color through minority business revitalization and innovation.

Case Study: [eco-Andersonville](#) aims to encourage local spending and sustainable lifestyles by enhancing the urban character and commercial vitality of Andersonville in Chicago's commercial corridor. The commercial district is made up entirely of locally owned and independent businesses, creating a multiplier effect in which residents spend their income on local suppliers and recirculate income throughout the neighborhood. Businesses can also obtain certification as a Green Business, providing them with resources and recognition if they practice sustainability.

CO-WORK INNOVATION SPACES are not only affordable and flexible leasing options for businesses in the early stages of development but also can encourage cross-business and cross-disciplinary collaboration, leading to creative solutions and productivity.

Case Study: [Bamboo's flexible workspace](#) in Detroit was created by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs to cultivate collaboration, creativity, and growth to small organizations. The workspace is woman- and minority-owned and is celebrated for inclusion and hosting space for a range of organizations.

WORKERS COOPERATIVES provide employees with a sense of ownership in their jobs by including them in the decision-making and management of the organization. There are different types of workers' cooperatives, and most aim to empower workers through shared profits and ownership that lead to quality, well-paid positions.

Case Study: [Green Workers Cooperatives](#) aims to incubate and train worker-owned green businesses in the Bronx to curb development of dirty industry in favor of healthy, sustainable, green jobs that build community well-being.

LOCAL GOODS MARKETPLACES are places where craftspeople, farmers, and other producers can come together to sell local products. They benefit local sellers by giving them a centralized place to find customers while simultaneously helping the community by circulating wealth back to residents.

Case Study: [Etsy online marketplace](#) is a place for people to sell their crafts and homemade art, goods, and materials in an online database. [Etsy Local](#) allows people to find Etsy artists at events or locations that sell their goods in local communities.



Namaste Solar workers Wes Van Norton (left) and Scott Pieper (right) installing rooftop solar panels on a parking structure.

CONNECTION TO LEED-ND

Building capacity for jobs in the community and innovation outlets for community entrepreneurs builds the local economy and household wealth. It leads to community vitality and neighborhood ownership and investment. Collaboration across different vendors in the community leads to innovation, invention, and pride. These are direct benefits of important aspects of LEED-ND, which encourages mixed-use development around local job development, clustered innovation, and jobs centers. Such accessibility means residents can own, develop, and manage property, information, and energy under principles of conservation. To facilitate the practices of green jobs and enterprises, the following LEED-ND metrics should be considered:

ACTIONS AND TARGETS USING LEED-ND METRICS

- ◆ Adopt a funding framework that supports incentives that encourage sustainable practices to reduce the cost of living and ensures the equitable deployment of community assets and resources.
- ◆ Review the zoning code to ensure policies enable and incentivize mixed uses including food retail, community retail, commercial services and civic and community facilities.
- ◆ Aim for at least four walkable, diverse, mixed-uses within 1/4 mile of 50% of households
- ◆ Have the walking distance between jobs and services be 600-800 feet.
- ◆ Have at least 20% of community members employed within the community.
- ◆ Support local hiring for development projects and adopt living wages based on the MIT living wage calculator, and community worker and benefits agreements
- ◆ Have capacity for 1 job per person, with 80% of the population above the median income.
- ◆ Look for strategies and incentives to target industry and/or business development, and local purchasing for local government and businesses.

CASE STUDIES: LOCATIONS AND WEBSITES

16 Great Migration Gardens of West Woodlawn. Chicago, IL.

<https://www.facebook.com/BlacksInGreen>

Accion. Global. <https://www.accion.org>

Added Value. Brooklyn, New York, NY. <http://www.added-value.org>

Amish Acres. Nappanee, IN. <http://www.amishacres.com>

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute. Chicago, IL. <http://www.abcdinstitute.org>

Bamboo's flexible Workspace. Detroit, MI. <http://bamboodetroit.com>

CERO (Cooperative Energy, Recycling and Organics). Dorchester, MA. <http://www.cero.coop/>

Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation. Chicago, IL. <http://www.bickerdike.org>

City Fresh. Cleveland, OH. <https://cityfresh.org>

ComEd's Next Generation Energy Plan (NGEP). Chicago, IL. <https://www.comed.com>

Community Oral History Project. New York, NY. <http://oralhistory.nypl.org>

Co-op Power. Florence, MA. <https://www.cooppower.coop>

Dane County TimeBank. Madison, WI. <https://danecountytimebank.org>

Dudley Street Neighbors, Inc. Roxbury, MA. <https://www.dsni.org>

eco-Andersonville. Chicago, IL. <http://www.andersonville.org/eco-andersonville>

Etsy online marketplace. E-commerce site. <https://www.etsy.com>

Faith In Place. Chicago, IL. <https://www.faithinplace.org>

GetAround. Headquartered in CA Bay Area with service around the country.

<https://www.getaround.com>

Green Workers Cooperatives. Bronx, New York, NY. <http://www.greenworker.coop>

Hennepin Avenue Cultural Corridor. Minneapolis, MN.

<https://www.arts.gov/exploring-our-town/hennepin-avenue-cultural-corridor>

Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition. <http://ilcleanjobs.org>

In.gredients. Austin, TX. <https://in.gredients.com>

Ioby. Brooklyn, NY with offices in other cities. <https://www.ioby.org>

Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative. New Orleans, LA. <http://jpnsi.org>

Lower East Side Ecology Center. New York, NY. <https://www.lesecologycenter.org>

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Rain Barrel Program. Chicago, IL.

<https://www.mwrd.org/irj/portal/anonymous/rainbarrel>

Mission Asset Fund. San Francisco, CA. <https://missionassetfund.org>

Mm Local. Westminster, CO. <https://mmlocalfoods.com>

Newby Island Resource Recovery Park Recyclery. Santa Clara, CA.

<http://local.republicservices.com/site/santa-clara-ca>

Nextdoor. Headquartered in CA Bay Area with service around the country.

<http://www.nextdoor.com>

Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (SEED), now Spark Northwest.

Seattle, Washington. <https://sparknorthwest.org>

Pedal People. Northampton, MA. <https://www.pedalpeople.coop>

Sagamore Development and the South Baltimore Six Coalition. Baltimore, MD.

<http://buildportcovington.com/port-covington-and-six-south-baltimore-communities-partner-to-become-the-sb7>

Scott County Partnership Lifelong Learning Center. Scottsburg, IN. <https://scpartnership.org/lifelong-learning-center>

Solarize Portland. Portland, OR. <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/51902>

Southside Community Federal Credit Union. Chicago, IL. <https://www.southsidecommunityfcu.org>

Swamp Gravy. Colquitt, GA. <https://swampgravy.com>

The Alliance Center. Denver, CO. <https://www.thealliancecenter.org>

The Iowa City Bike Library. Iowa City, IA. <http://www.bikelibrary.org>

The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen. Concord, NH. <https://www.nhcrafts.org>

The Santa Barbara Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL). Santa Barbara, CA. <https://sbccextendedlearningfee.org>

The Soul District. Portland, OR. <http://www.souldistrictpdx.com>

The Staples CBA. Los Angeles, CA. <http://www.forworkingfamilies.org/resources/staples-cba>

Wake Forest Public Schools. Wake Forest, NC. <https://www.wcpss.net/Domain/29>

WalkScope. Denver, CO. <http://www.walkscope.org>

West Harlem Development Corporation. Harlem, New York, NY. <http://westharlemdc.org>

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