

# DEFINING OUR ECONOMY FOR THE COMMON GOOD

As citizens of the earth, we face a series of problems that our present economic and political systems can not solve and in many cases are making worse. The idea of creating an economy for the common good economy is that we share a mutual concern about these problems and want to support everyone's efforts to solve these problems. When we talk about economy we speak of it its original sense of the Greek word oikonomia, which means management of our home. We speak of home in a universal concept that includes the environment, society, and all of the animals and landscapes of the natural world

## Problems Our Economic and political systems can not solve and often exacerbate

- global warming,
- privatization and commodification of our natural commons
- privatization and commodification of our cultural commons
- resource depletion,
- global pollution,
- economic inequality,
- social and cultural inequality of opportunity
- social alienation,
- economic stagnation or collapse,
- species die off,
- political alienation,
- perpetual war,
- human survivability

What are some other big problems that seem unsolvable by our current economic and political system?

## Partial List of causes of those Problems

Manipulation of our democratic elections through:

- Campaign finance
- Voter suppression,
- Election manipulation

Manipulation of democratic policy making through

- Lobbying
- Think tanks
- Revolving door

Economic and social discrimination that

- Denies employment, housing and educational opportunities to people of color
- Denies employment, housing and educational opportunities to non-European ethnicities
- Denies employment, housing and educational opportunities to people holding non-Christian beliefs
- Denies employment, housing and educational opportunities to people to women
- Denies employment, housing and educational opportunities to LGBTQ people

Promotion of economic inequality through

- Private control of the monetary system
- Aristocratic ownership of our productive assets
- Private ownership of asset allocation

False economic assumptions leading to environmental & social destruction

- That humans are innately greedy, selfish and lazy
- That greed and selfishness are good
- That our resources will last forever
- That natural systems have no value

False spiritual & social premises

- That humans are not part of nature and have a right to dominate nature

That some of us are a “special people” and superior to others

That we are disconnected individuals , independent of society and nature

Use of violence and persuasion to control public policy

Application of military force to solve problems between nations

Use of police to control political expression

Use of media to create an imperial narrative

Misdirected educational system

Promotes a white, patriarchal, imperial narrative

Awash with corporate influence

Lacking in presentations of alternative voices

## Solutions To The Causes Of An Unsustainable, Inequitable and Unjust World

People power over the power of money and violence

Public control of the money supply

Re-educating ourselves around corporate & imperial narratives

Equitable distribution of ownership

Recognition that:

humans are part of nature

we are all special and equal people

we live in relationship with each other and nature

we live on a finite planet with limited resources

that natural systems have huge value

An educational system that delivers a narrative for the global good

Build Community

Spread Economic Democracy

Save the Commons

Restore the Environment

Produce healthy Products

Ensure we are healthy People

Concentrate on maintaining a healthy planet