



CONVENINGS

Positive Relationships for Collaborative Action

EcoCiv convenings are an experimental approach to building ecological civilization. Each convening meeting will be an approximately 90-minute conversation between 6-8 leaders who represent multiple sectors of society and multiple types of leadership. The discussion moves through three major topics: (1) description by participants of a specific project that they are involved in or know about, (2) focus on options for deepening collaborations that currently exist or for developing ones that don't, and (3) based on discussion, what concrete steps are the most promising and what it would take to implement them.

EcoCiv works to develop and implement a two-directional process, horizontal and vertical. Horizontally, we are attempting to bring together experts across different sectors of society (e.g. agriculture, education, and business) in order to explore how the fields impact each other in ways that would not arise unless people begin to participate in new kinds of partnerships and problem-solving activities. Vertically, everyone recognizes the interesting work being done by grassroots activists and community organizers on one end and by policy makers, innovative thinkers, and business leaders on the other. Yet groups on different ends of the spectrum often don't speak directly with each another, much less problem-solve together. EcoCiv seeks to draw on this opportunity for greater collaboration by bringing together leaders with vision from various sectors of society.

The series of convenings will gradually move from local to regional conversations and beyond. Against the backdrop of the need for ecological transformation, participants will discuss how to coordinate plans for action and to build win/win relationships between existing projects. Experts from each sector are the heart of this work, which we are bold enough to believe is part of the movement toward a new ecological civilization.

By the end of each conversation, we will have achieved these goals:

- that participants will have a sense that this kind of experimental dialogue was useful;
- that participants will agree to share the results with peers so as to further expand possibilities for multi-level cooperation;
- that participants will be intrigued enough by the approach that you'll have other proposals for other cross-sector discussions or collaborations;
- that the discussions will have been concrete enough that they give rise to specific proposals for action, including suggestions of which individuals or organizations might be interested in implementing the proposals.