

On September 16th, EcoCiv held its third major public [convening](#). Featuring an experienced and vibrant array of eco-sustainability leaders -- including Richard Norgaard (University of California Berkeley), Jenny Darroch (Claremont Graduate University) and Gillian Judson (Simon Fraser University), Wes Jackson (The Land Institute), Jenny Marienau ([350.org](#)), and Les Hamasaki (Inland Empire Business Review) – this most recent convening represented a significant step forward in EcoCiv's driving mission to foster meaningful bridge-gapping and stimulate substantial, innovative eco-reform. By design the meeting bore witness to a fruitful interplay of voices expressing both grassroots and large-scale commitments alike.

There were a few especially encouraging insights and resonances. A significant theme to the discussion, for instance, came in the form of several participants mentioning how a major paradigm shift was needed in terms of how we conceive of and advocate for eco-sustainability in the first place. To address this rather pressing, foundational point, some suggested we follow Wes Jackson's advice to "step off the elevator, and take the stairs." We need to establish our own pace and style of discourse, and let that be one of delicateness and poise.

Gillian Judson pointed to the importance of doing far better about investing in the eco-education of our youth, adding that such pedagogy efforts must be more adequately supported in terms of subsidized funds and resources, and by design ought to be driven by genuine inspiration and a sense of play. Richard Norgaard cried out against what seems to be a rather concerning trend in the U.S.: greed displacing a sense of relationality and a sacred, rooted connection to the Earth. Finally, on the topic of religion, Les Hamasaki begged the question of how we can best come to utilize our living and breathing religious leaders and centers of the world, sensing a significant and potentially tide-changing opportunity simply waiting for its harvest.

Finally, the leaders from different sectors all agreed that future action requires concrete definition of the problems and conditions in order to collaborate. For Jenny Marienau and 350.org, highlighting a common cause to rally behind has spearheaded a significant national political grassroots network. The group agreed with Jenny Darroch's assessment that determining commonalities and advertising the work that is being done to a greater public knowledge base allows and inspires individuals and groups to work across traditional boundaries together toward an ecological civilization. The convening generated mutually-enriching ideas and inspirations, and will indeed serve as a promising springboard for future EcoCiv discussions and action to come.