

# TOWARD ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION

## EcoCiv Convening July 16, 2016 Report

<u>Participant Name</u>	<u>Title and Organization</u>	<u>Sector and experience</u>
Kristin Ritzau	PhD student and community organizer	Urban homesteading, women-faith-farming research
Nancy Mintie	Executive Director, Uncommon Good	Local farming, ecological community education
Neil Polzin	Toyota Mirai Salesperson, Longo Toyota	Alternative fuel sources, environment focused sales
John Renesch	Consultant, cofounder FutureShapers	Conscious business leadership and training
Devon Hartman	President and Executive Director, CHERP	Architecture and energy efficiency, non-profit action
Sandra Lubarsky	Professor, Appalachian State University	Ecological education, developing eco-college movement
Marcus Ford	Professor, Northern Arizona University	Ecological education, developing eco-college movement
Jennifer Seydel	Exec.Dir., Green Schools National Network	Implementing green, healthy, and sustainable K-12 schools
Damian Geddry	Marketing consultant, alternative fuel cars	Advisor to sales on plug-in hybrid and electric cars

### Discussion Objectives

1. Describing the working conditions in local communities of the participants and their organizations, including where government and other agencies are helping, or where problems have arisen.
2. By juxtaposing experts in different fields, levels of implementation, and multiple communities, the conversation explored how important it can be to share information for inspiration and to connect leaders to people who can help collaborate. The participants often were able to hear a story being shared by another person and jump in to make recommendations on other people or groups that could help and beyond that begin to imagine how even people in these different fields might impact one another's work positively in expanding outreach on ecological issues.
3. For many of the participants regardless of their area of expertise, a defining feature of the problems we face environmentally is a crisis of leadership and the willingness to train leaders to think ecologically.

### Learning Outcomes

1. One area that all sectors notice is a need for increased communication. This begins with outreach in the form of helping constituents and neighbors recognize the need for a paradigm shift. The work must continue with building networks and connecting the groups in local areas who need to be aware of like-minded movements in order to facilitate stronger support systems.
2. The group agreed that one of the larger issues facing society across the board is consumer awareness: that people might only think of economic benefits with their purchasing power rather ecological outcomes. The discussion proposed that a shift in thinking may be possible by realigning the different fields together under the auspices of an environmental marketplace.

3. The group agreed that this dialogue is critically necessary because as stories are shared – across geographic borders, fields and levels of work and community movements – the ability to connect, inspire, and make changes together increases, opportunities to problem solve from multiple approaches are presented, and larger scale momentum and projects can begin.

#### Collaboration initiatives

1. Sandra Lubarsky and Marcus Ford are working to get their small, earth-centered junior college accredited. Philip Clayton works for Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and will connect them to a person who can help advise them on the process.
2. Jennifer Seydel mentioned that Green Schools works to coach school district administration and faculty in implementing ecological curricula and programs but many districts lack adequate funding for training it even if the desire exists. Philip will put her in touch with a contact at Pivot Learning, who has worked with the same issue and may be able to share fundraising strategies.
3. Nancy Mintie wants to contact the entire group for future collaboration and to establish lines of communication for signing a letter of support for her organization and its work in the community of Claremont, CA.
4. John Renesch reached out to EcoCiv following the meeting for contact information for participants to explore further collaboration on leadership training.