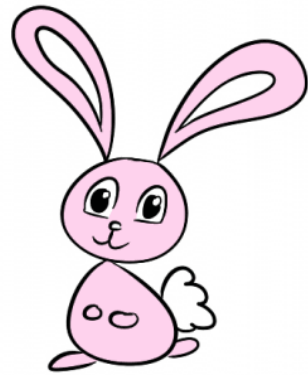


# Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage

By Megan Weiss

What is Dancing Rabbit?



RABBIT  
DANCE



# What is Dancing Rabbit?

- **Ecotopia! (Similar, but not)**
- **Mission:** To create a society, the size of a small town or village, made up of individuals and communities of various sizes and social structures, which allows and encourages its members to live sustainably.\*
- To encourage this sustainable society to grow to have the size and recognition necessary to have an influence on the global community by example, education, and research.
- **Sustainability:** “...no resources are consumed faster than their natural replenishment, and the enclosed system can continue indefinitely without degradation of its internal resource base or the standard of living of the people and the rest of the ecosystem within it, and without contributing to the non-sustainability of ecosystems outside.”

# History

- **Synergy** – student co-op at Stanford University, 1993
  - Three students
- **Vision:** Ecotown of 1000
- **1993-95:** Email list and monthly potluck
- **1995:** Head to Berkeley, CA!
  - Doesn't cut it though...
- **1996:** Six from the original group set out in search of a new home
- **1997:** Land purchased in Sandhill, Missouri
- **1998:** Down to only four members
- **1999:** Steady growth and experiments with eco technologies
- **2004:** 20 members
- **2007:** 40 members and 16 new buildings
- **Today:** 45 members



# Requirements and Non-Requirements

## Required

- No cars on Dancing Rabbit
- No use of fossil fuels for cars, heating, or cooling
- No biocides may be used
- Electricity produced there only from sustainable sources
- Lumber must be reused, locally harvested, or sustainably harvested
- Waste disposals used for organic recycled materials

## Not Required

- Vegan or vegetarian
- Conform to a certain religion
- Give up modern healthcare
- Completely abandon vehicle transportation

# Village Life

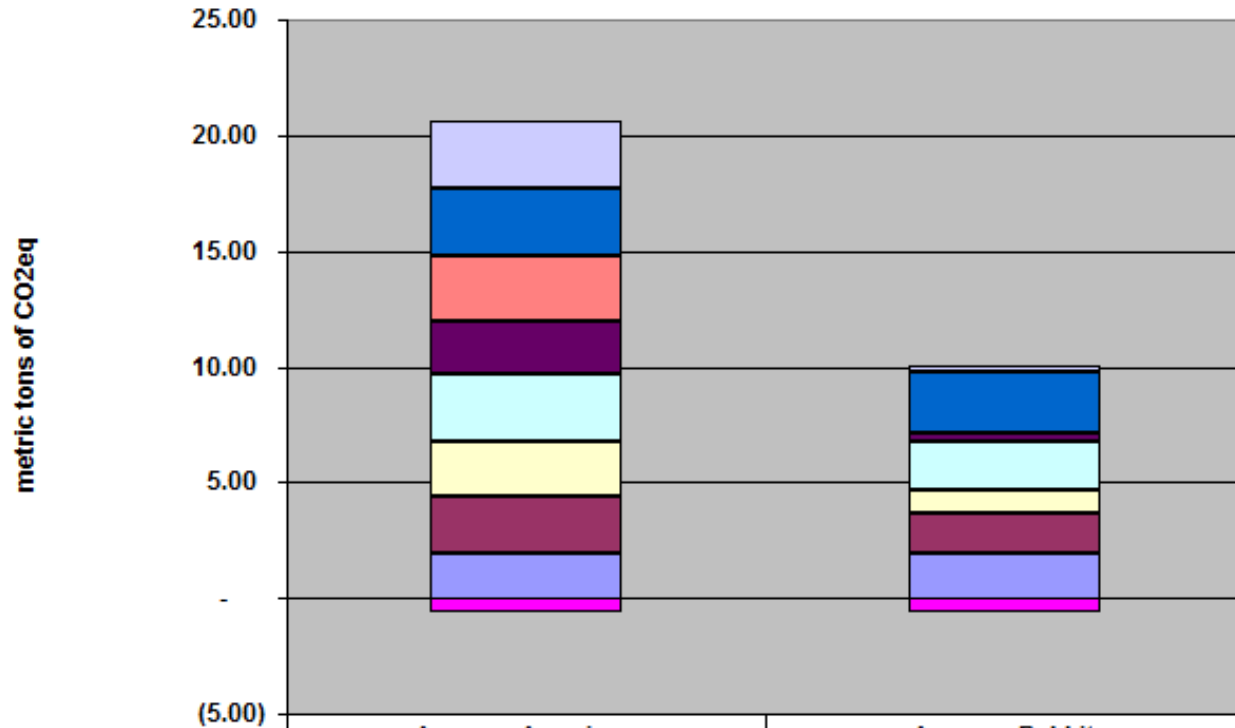
- Local currency
- Car-pooling
- Humanure!
- Break free from gender roles
- Consensus-style government







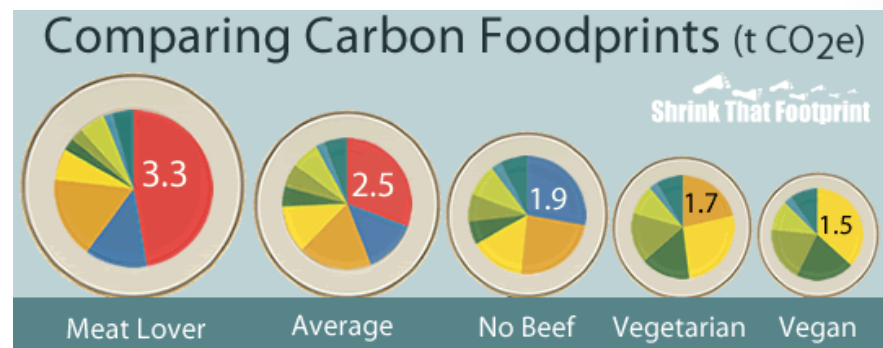
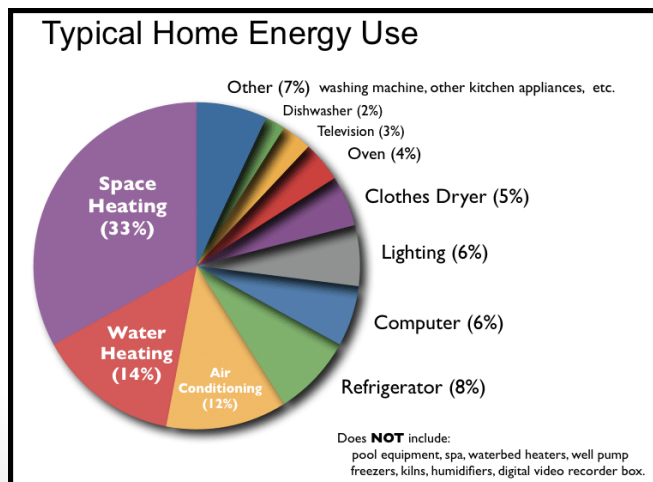
### Average American's vs Average Rabbit's Carbon Footprint



	Average American	Average Rabbit
Local Transport	2.90	0.31
Travel	2.86	2.58
Electricity	2.87	0.02
Heating/Cooking	2.23	0.35
Food	3.00	2.10
Goods	2.30	1.04
Services	2.52	1.76
Waste	(0.60)	(0.63)
Other	1.90	1.90

# How?

- Drive Less
  - Average 911 miles vs 6500/year
- Less Electricity
  - Cut home electricity use by 80%
  - Use sustainable energy
- No gas products for heating
  - Use local firewood
  - Moving towards homes that have super insulation
- Less Meat and More Local
  - Vegetarian and vegan diets cut footprint by 30%, 40% respectively
  - Local food cuts food transport
- Less Waste
  - Produce 2 lbs. of waste a day 50% less than the average American
  - Recycle 80% of waste while the average American recycles 34%



# Sustainable Living Visitor Program

- 2 weeks (can stay for only 1)
- Live in a tent, cabin, or natural building
- Workshops about DR life (green construction, alternative currency, inner sustainability and communication etc.)
- Help with daily chores (gardening, cooking, building etc.)
- Community Fun!



# Reflection: Roy Chijiiwa

- “I didn’t quite anticipate how sane the place would feel, and how crazy the “real world” would seem once I came out of the experience.”
- “The people seem relaxed, and happier. They stop to interact with each other.”
- “As far as governance goes, they have an interesting streamlined version of a consensus-based model, where functional areas are broken into separate committees.”
- “In the grand scheme of things, getting a large number of people to slightly change their behaviors might be far more impactful than getting a tiny number of people to live drastically different (albeit sustainable) lifestyles.” **[Do you agree or disagree?]**

# Resources

- <http://www.dancingrabbit.org/>
- <http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/sustainable-community2.htm>
- <https://laptopandarifle.com/2014/09/08/thoughts-from-a-short-visit-to-dancing-rabbit-ecovillage/>
- <http://www.resilience.org/stories/2015-03-11/dancing-rabbit-ecovillage-living-abundantly-on-10/>