

Eco-communities and degrowth



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Living and working according to ecological principles

Work-sharing and autonomy

Small size, access to natural resources, cheap rent



Eco-villages (Gilman 1991) -rural-
Housing projects -urban-

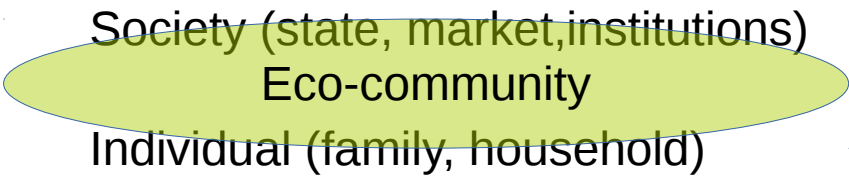
Activities DIY:
permaculture, crafts,
self-construction

Organization material
and immaterial
commons, horizontality

Back-to-the-land movement
Integral In Context
GEN (1994)
The Farm, Twin Oaks, Lakabe,
Longomai

Materials closing
cycles, low-impact
production processes

Energy
Renewables,
bicycle
transportation



Oikonomies “art oif the good
life”, “ruling the house”

Relevance of individual in community
Degree of community autonomy in society

Concrete utopias,
social-ecology

Different sources of income
(collective/personal) and of
collectivization

Small evidence that is according to
geographical isolation



Relevance for a degrowth society

Insights:

- strong minded people, willingness to change, relevance of IDEALS
- Set up phase can be critical and difficult
- Rely on pragmatism – self-imposed austerity / self-exploitation

A society freed from external control and manipulation will be able to self-determine its need satisfiers;

participants choose to become protagonists of their lives and foment a degrowth imaginary conferring to the community the source of economic and socio-political authority normally found in capitalist markets and in the state apparatus

Not necessarily they all are political – often also inspired by religious principles

Voluntary simplicity

Conviviality

Strategic exodus

Change the world without taking power

Still small-scale experiment

Potential to become large scale

Future research in degrowth studies needed on the factors that might facilitate such a transition