

Groups—Building an Economy



New England Alliance for Democracy's website on Localization and Local Democracy www.newenglandalliance.org/localization has connections to conferences and roundtable discussions on localizing New England economies. Website includes a video of AfD's Popular Governance Roundtable on participatory budgeting plus clips of speakers at the 2009 Massachusetts Relocalization Conference including Boston City Council member Chuck Turner, Alliance Chapter Chair Dave Lewit, and ever vigilant climate change/localization activists Bill McKibben and Frances Moore Lappé.

The US Solidarity Economy Network came together in 2007 and is an alternative development framework that is grounded in the principles and practice of: cooperation; equity; social well-being over profit and the unfettered rule of the market; sustainability; social and economic democracy; and pluralism. It is driven from the bottom-up and connects a diverse array of individuals, organizations, businesses and projects in the shared work of building and strengthening regional, national and international movements for a Solidarity Economy. It is part of the **International Network**



for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy known as RIPESS and the movement to establish an international Social Solidarity Network. The best place to check out this effort is at http://aloe.socioeco.org/article922_en.html the website for **ALOE Alliance for a Responsible Plural and Solidarity Economy**.



Institute for Local Self Reliance provides innovative strategies, working models and timely information to support environmentally sound and equitable community development. ILSR helps communities design systems, policies and enterprises that meet local or regional needs; to maximize human, material, natural and financial resources; and to ensure that the benefits of these accrue to all local citizens. Their project areas include community banking, democratic energy and hometown advantage.

The Center for Community Based Enterprise in Detroit supports and connects entrepreneurs, community and resources to grow “community-based enterprises” (CBEs): companies that are sustainable; locally-rooted; intentionally structured to provide community benefit; and committed to paying living wages. They are working to translate the Cleveland Evergreen Co-op experience to Detroit and have helped establish a whole neighborhood of Solidarity Economy businesses in downtown Detroit.



Slow Money Alliance's mission is to build local and national networks, and develop new financial products and services, connecting investors to their local economies; and to build the “nurture capital industry.” It is an alliance of people who are committed to funding a locally-based green economy beginning with farming. Their goal is growing the Slow Money Alliance into a major national network that provides strategic and financial assistance to local initiatives around the country.

The Participatory Budgeting Project works with local governments and organizations to open up public budgets to democratic community participation. It provides support and technical assistance to elected officials, public agencies, and community groups that are interested in developing participatory budgeting processes in the US and Canada. Their website has an overview and a history of participatory budgeting, as well as examples of where it has been used and links to other organizations involved in participatory budgeting.



The Jersey Shore Neighborhood Cooperative in Asbury Park, New Jersey aims at building a community and economy where people and planet are first, with economic enterprises controlled by the workers and volunteers who make it happen. If you check out their Facebook page, you can see videos of their workshops around mapping their local Solidarity Economy.

The JED Collective in Green ME stands for Justice, Ecology and Democracy. They are working towards creating a sustainable intentional community, an organic farm and orchard (Giant's Belly Farm), and an education, retreat and resource center to support work for social change in Maine and beyond. This evolving enterprise serves as a model for the Solidarity Economy.

