

Why You Should Care

“Fair is foul and foul is fair” in our economy

Currently, people are dependent on a foul economic system to meet their essential needs. Unfortunately, in societies that have accepted this fate “people find themselves oppressed by increasing frustration, alienation, insecurity and so forth.” As Martin Luther King, Jr. said “When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.”

Economic problems have not been solved

Despite rosy predictions by Wall Street pundits, the market has not solved our economic problems. It is only making them worse. The wonderful resources of nature that we are consuming at a horrendous rate are not replaceable. Our economic thinkers treat these phenomena of nature as if they will never come to an end. However, when they do come to an end, we will all be sorry. On top of that, the market failure to account for the poisoning of our air and water will ruin the basis for all life on earth.

The Solidarity Economy works better

Community benefit enterprises of the Solidarity Economy provide more long-term good for society. They care more for people and nature. They are better at providing needed goods and services to a broader section of the population. They do not sell out or leave town. They do not succumb to cycles of boom and bust. They get steadily more efficient and effective at what they do and they have a good time doing it.

Fast Money is wrecking our world

With \$3 trillion dollars rushing through currency markets everyday, financial resources are being ripped out from under projects and communities around the world, devastating any hope of a sustainable future. The drive for higher profits in corporations that must maximize their bottom line has led to a ruthless savaging of our environment, atmosphere and the complex intricacies of nature.



What You Can Do

Join the Solidarity Economy

In the Solidarity Economy “fair is fair and foul is foul.” The Solidarity Economy emphasizes fair by promoting “cooperative, collective and non-profit, democratically-controlled enterprises, emphasizing the primacy of people over capital and a philosophy of empowerment, equality and inclusivity.” It eschews the foul notions of greed, envy, usury and money-as-power, while looking after the welfare of the community, nurturing the health of the planet and preparing for the long-term sustainability of our life on planet earth.

Map Your Solidarity Economy Network

Connect and maximize the solidarity network in your community. It will: enable consumers to find solidarity economy goods and services; help Solidarity Economy producers and suppliers build mutual supply chains; collect data for research that can identify best practices and construct supportive policies; and promote linkages between individuals, organizations, networks and movements.

Promote Participatory Budgeting

Learn how participatory budgeting works. Get your local government to institute participatory budgeting to establish priorities for public policy. Use participatory budgeting to encourage a fair Solidarity Economy and discourage a foul monopoly-capitalist economy.

Encourage Slow Money

Slow money down by starting a slow-money institution in your community to amalgamate local capital or invest your money in an existing slow-money institution to “reorient capital away from endless cycles of consumption and a relentless focus on markets, towards a new economy that is focused on quality and human relationships to one another and to the land.”