

FREE

*Everyone Welcome!*

5th

*Annual*

*Member*  
MEETING



*Community*  
CONVERSATION



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SUNDAY, MARCH 10th, 2019  
4:30 - 7pm ... Odd Fellows Hall

#### COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: CREATING A COOPERATIVE ECONOMY

What would an equitable and sustainable economy in the islands ideally look like?

(Quick Brainstorm)

- Bartering
- Housing
- Co-op to share farming tools
- Energy independence
- Create a larger container
- Circular production
  - Products where all parts of the production are done here
- Local bank/public bank/credit union
- Community shared commercial kitchen
- Ask the question what would it be like
- Food hub (aggregation, processing, etc. for local food)
- Different cooperating sectors (building, manufacturing, etc.)

How can we use the cooperative model to create a more equitable and sustainable economy in the islands and beyond?

(Sharing Circle)

- We cooperatively decide to vote for people who are going to lead us in this direction.
- Invest time into our community to those who are suffering and lonely – help each other out!

- I was struck by the idea of not having a ferry for three months. What about a cooperative ferry system, so that if that system fails, we will be able to handle our transportation independently.
- If we are in a global economy, how will we remain competitive?
- My interest is in creating partnerships. We have a land bank. Can we partner with organizations like that to update that model. It is great that there is both the environmental goal, but perhaps expand it to include how people are interacting with the land.
- Capitalism will collapse under the weight of it's own contradictions
- Farming, done well, can solve a lot of problems.
- How can Orcas Recycling Services and OFC partner to create a cycle that never takes products out of production. Would love to see us do that on the local scale.
- I would love to see a co-op owned electric vehicle fleet, that would be part of a system for helping home-bound people. Just having a system that will take us to the different parts of the island, so that we aren't all driving our gas engine cars.
- Detroit, where I came from, was built on the economy of cars, and we are learning now the impacts of that. Here on the islands, we have more defined limits. We could think about having a space that is shared for small businesses to share overhead of administration and infrastructure, leaving more space for nature. The goal of profit is not leading us in the right direction; what we need are systems like credit unions to help fund system changes.
- Car co-ops would be great. I would love to have a pick-up truck, but I don't need one all the time, so I don't need to own one. We don't all need so many vehicles.
- There is a huge amount of knowledge in this room and in this community. I was at the BDC meeting and there was discussion of creating a skill share/resource share system. E.g. to borrow a truck or make a fix to your website. There are a lot of people who have skills that are not professional skills that they would be willing to help each other out.
- There was a cooperative economy in the Northwest many years ago. How shares are bought and sold is important to how the co-op is sustained. Mondragon was considered anarchistic, because they had their own government and did not recognize the fascist federal government. They survived the attack from the mainstream, and we didn't. We need to make *the co-op* the value, so that we survive.
- We could consider developing an independent currency, or a time bank, so that you match the skills with the needs – it is not a 1:1 barter, it is a linked system so that we can build sustainability.
- We are starting a zero-waste group. Small groups organizing on topics of interest, inter-connecting with other small groups.
- Remembering the movie *The Graduate* – “plastics!” – how can we make it possible to NOT buy things in plastic? How do we break that cycle?
- We need to keep on listening to and feeding the alternative media that are sharing information about the new healthier society, younger people in leadership, tuning this channel and supporting it.
- Once you start to take the steps along this path, and start treating each other well, we can start changing the culture, and so the brilliance of our children is being nourished. I like the idea of little starter ideas growing. Then those are your cooperatives.
- If you look up the definition of anarchy, it means freedom, so I just want to encourage people to understand that we are facing a global climate crisis. The alarm bells are ringing the

heavens. People have a sense of what they think we can do, and we can do that here on the Island, and we need to contribute to a sustainable, global vision.

- We are providing an example right here!