

A New Story of Economy

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The Economy. It's a big word. It describes a massive, globally-entwined system involving over seven billion people all living on the same planet.

And it's not working. Not for most of us. And certainly not for the planet.

How did we get into this mess? To understand our current economy, we've got to rewind the clock on human history.

(image of spinning the Earth backward to a caveman.)

Maybe not that far.

(spin forward to a village with fields.)

In the dawn of settled agriculture, our ancestors began accumulating food, tools, land, and other forms of wealth — sometimes for the benefit of the whole community . . . other times, for personal gain and glory.

This all too human need for recognition through wealth has been the red thread of the uglier sides of human history. It has shaped our economy since the age of empires all through to our present time of multinational corporations.

As a result, we live in a world where a very small elite has amassed astronomical fortunes while the rest of the world struggles to survive. Also, climate change and environmental destruction are teaching us that our economy needs to do more than simply taking care of all the people.

The old story we've been telling ourselves about our economy isn't working any more. We need a new story of economy. A story based on who we really are: not just physical bodies who need to consume ever more stuff, but body, mind and spirit seeking loving and meaningful relationships with all around us. One where our economic system satisfies human needs and our ecosystems.

Fortunately, people all around the world are already experimenting with economies based on need not greed. And they're working!

We're already "going local" and supporting shops, farms, and enterprises in our area.

We are building worker cooperatives, buying cooperatives, tool coops, and more.

Moving our money out of big banks and into local credit unions; towards business that affirm life instead of the ones that degrade it.

Others are sharing skills, tools, cars, resources, and time.

Rejecting consumer culture for ways of living that favor the natural world, creativity, and the arts, local community, mentorship, contemplation, health and relationships.

The New Story of Economy is one of real prosperity for everyone and reveres the sanctity of life. As we shift to the New Story of Economy, we shift ourselves from consumers, workers, or employers . . . to we truly are: human beings together, connected to one another and the Earth.

That's the New Story we're building together. Join us.