

# Ecological Human Habitat Design

Re-inhabiting the earth in the  
Anthropocene recognizing that humans  
are not separate from nature but are  
part of a living system, i.e. Gaia

by Christian Stalberg  
September 2017



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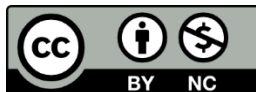
# Ecological Human Habitat Design

- DEFINITIONS

- Ecological economics

- Ecological economics is a trans-disciplinary field. It's not trying to be a sub-discipline of economics or a sub-discipline of ecology, but really it's a bridge across not only ecology and economics but also psychology, anthropology, archaeology, and history. That's what's necessary to get a more integrated picture of how humans have interacted with their environment in the past and how they might interact in the future. It's an attempt to look at humans embedded in their ecological life-support system, not separate from the environment.

- “What is ecological economics?” Robert Constanza, *Yale Insights*. Yale School of Management. 11 May 2010



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- DEFINITIONS (contd.)
  - Ecosystem services
    - Humankind benefits in a multitude of ways from all kinds of ecosystems: agroecosystems, forest ecosystems, grassland ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems, natural ecosystems, urban ecosystems, etc. Collectively, these benefits are becoming known as **ecosystem services**. Ecosystem services are regularly involved in the provisioning of clean drinking water and the decomposition of wastes.
      - “Ecosystem services” *Wikipedia*. Wikipedia.org. n.p. Web. 19 September 2017



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- DEFINITIONS (contd.)

- Steady-state economy

- A steady-state economy is an economy made up of a constant stock of physical wealth (capital) and a constant population size. In effect, such an economy does not grow. The term typically refers to the national economy of a particular country, but it is also applicable to the economic system of a city, a region, or the entire world. Early in the history of economic thought, classical economist Adam Smith of the 18th century theorised on the concept of a *stationary state* of an economy. Smith conjectured that any national economy in the world would sooner or later settle in a final state of stationarity.

- “Steady-state economy” *Wikipedia*. Wikipedia.org. n.p. Web. 19 September 2017



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- DEFINITIONS (contd.)
  - Local currency
    - In economics, a **local currency** is a currency that can be spent in a particular geographical locality at participating organizations. A **regional currency** is a form of local currency encompassing a larger geographical area. A local currency acts as a complementary currency to a national currency, rather than replacing it, and aims to encourage spending within a local community, especially with locally-owned businesses. The currency may not be backed by a national government or be legal tender. About 300 complementary currencies, including local currencies, are listed in the Complementary Currency Resource Center worldwide database.
    - “Local currency” *Wikipedia*. Wikipedia.org. n.p. Web. 19 September 2017



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- DEFINITIONS (contd.)
  - Cooperative
    - An autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.
    - A jointly owned enterprise engaging in the production or distribution of goods or the supplying of services, operated by its members for their mutual benefit, typically organized by consumers or farmers.
      - “Cooperative” *Wikipedia*. Wikipedia.org. n.p. Web. 19 September 2017



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- Classical Economic Indicators
  - Gross domestic product (GDP) - the total value of goods produced and services provided in a country during one year.
    - Does not include intangibles like clean air or pollution
    - Includes expenditures for war, sickness, disasters, etc.
    - A measure of growth, which is oftentimes ecologically destructive



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- New Improved Economic Indicators
  - Gross National Happiness
    - sustainable and equitable socio-economic development; environmental conservation; preservation and promotion of culture; and good governance
    - The term "gross national happiness" was coined by the fourth king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, in the 1970s and is included in their nation's constitution.

“Gross national happiness” *Wikipedia*. Wikipedia.org. n.p. Web. 19 September 2017



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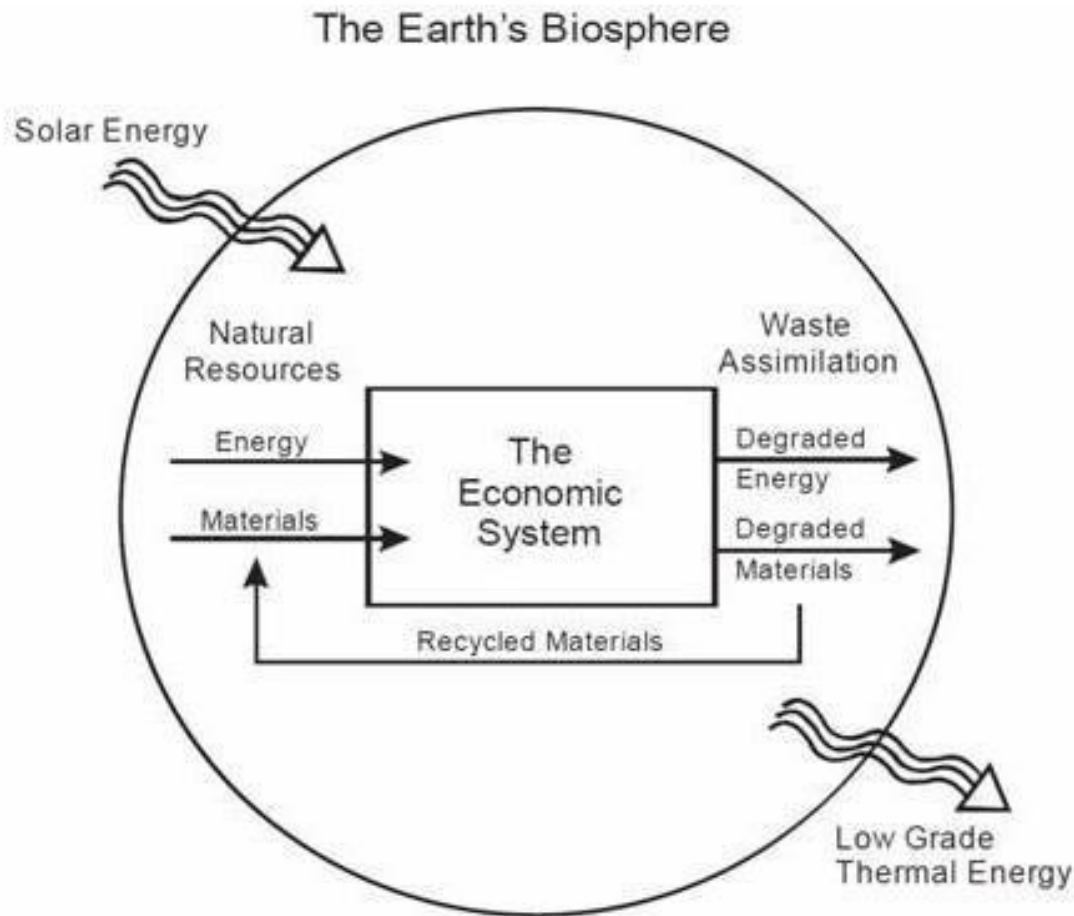
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Ecology, Environment & Economics



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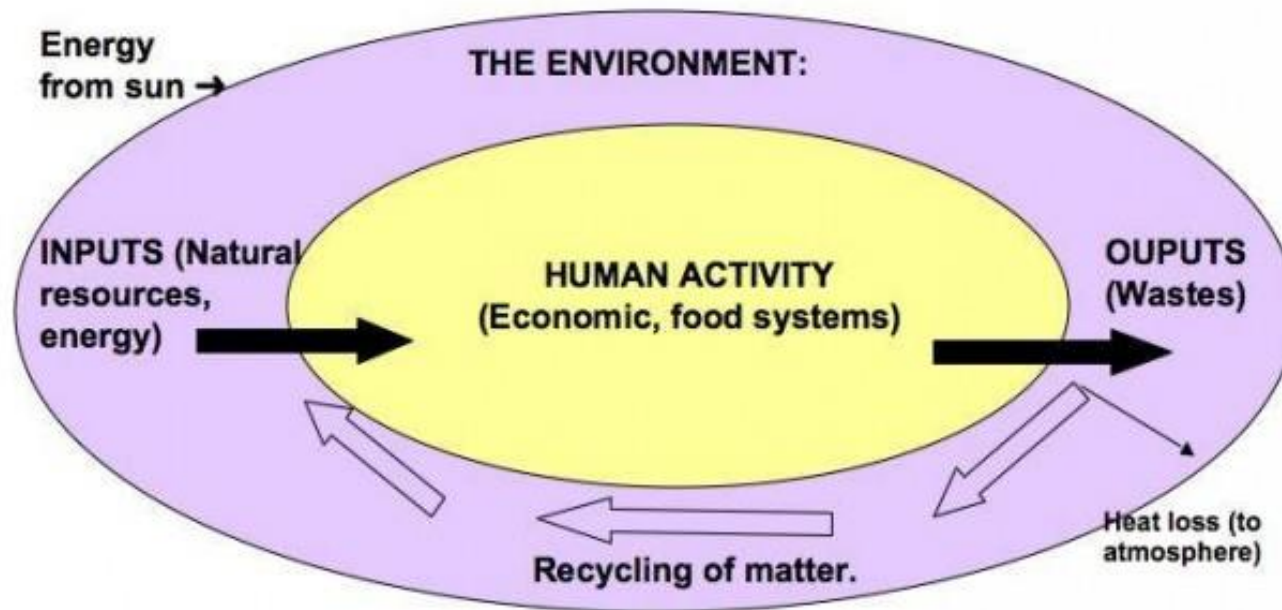


Natural resources flow through the economy only to end up as waste and pollution in the environment.

- By User:Gaeanautes - Own work by Gaeanautes., CC0, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47077906>

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**Ecological Economics Model: All human activity is embedded in the environment**



Adapted from Herman Daly. "Introduction to the Steady-State Economy." In *Economics, Ecology, Ethics: Essays Toward a Steady-State Economy*. Herman Daly, editor. San Francisco: W.H. Freeman. 1980



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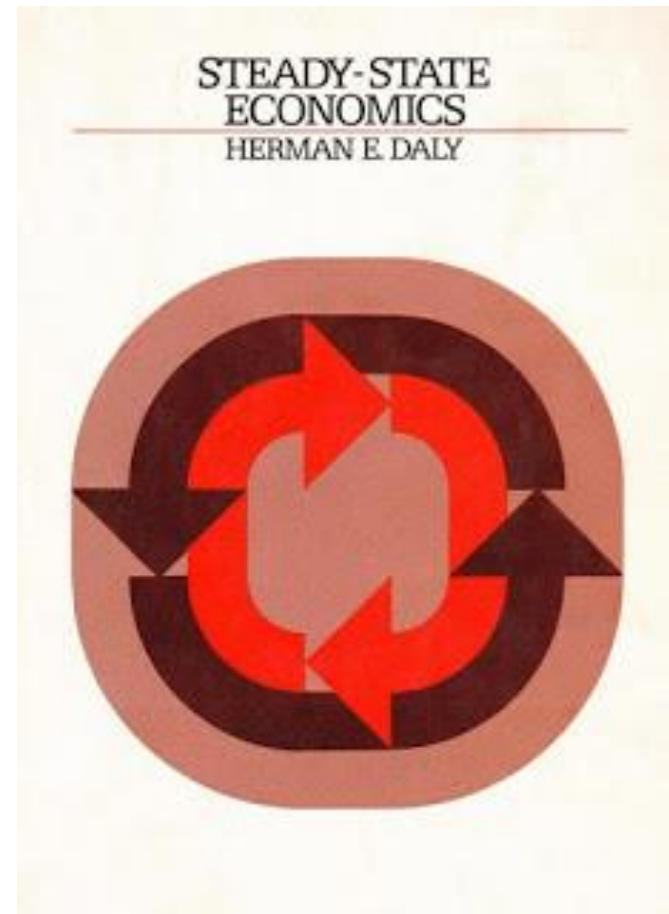
## Steady-state Economics



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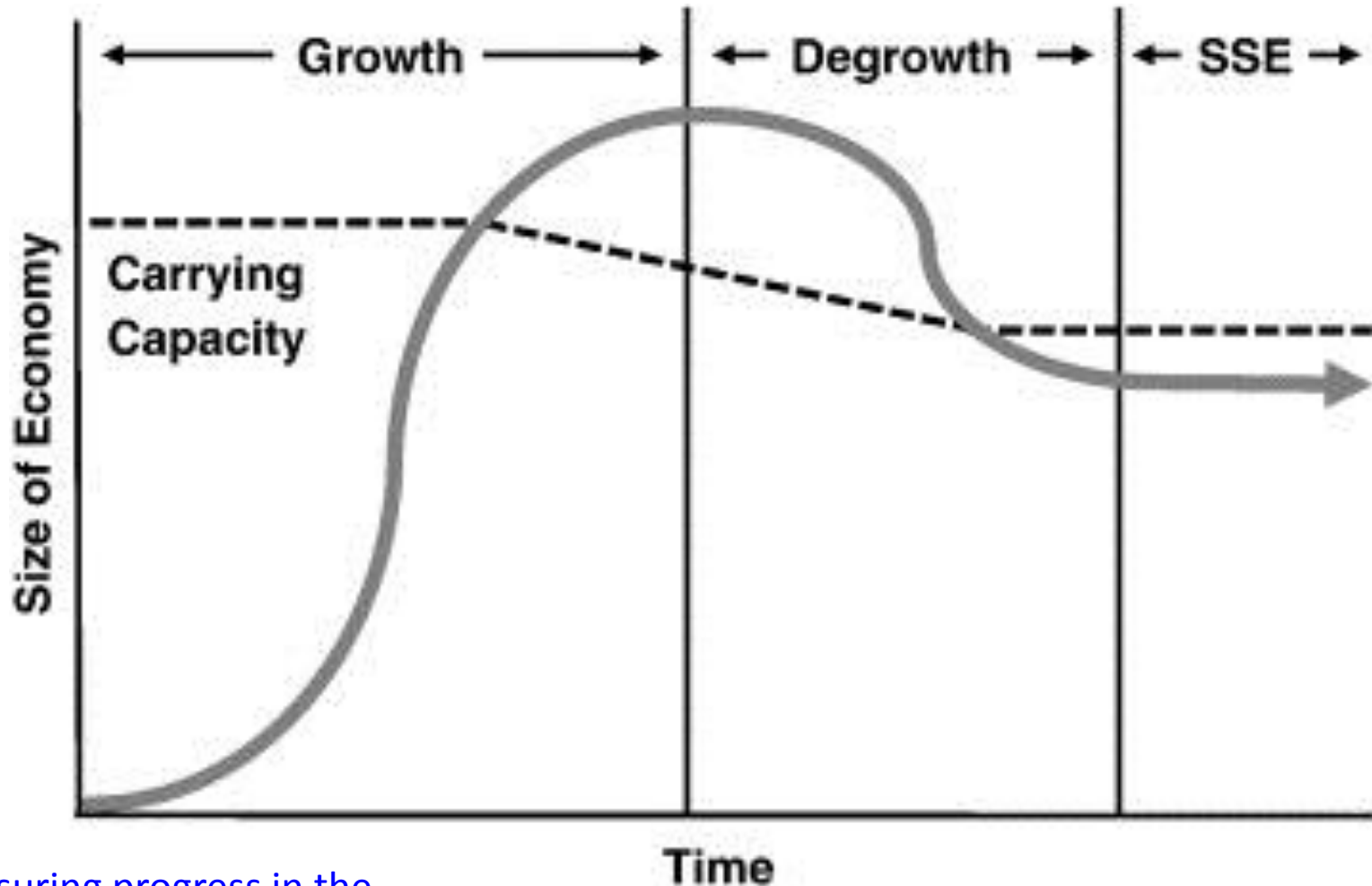
# Ecological Human Habitat Design

First published in 1977, this volume caused a sensation because of Daly's radical view that 'enough is best'. Today, his ideas are recognized as the key to sustainable development, and *Steady-State Economics* is universally acknowledged as the leading book on the economics of sustainability.



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[Measuring progress in the degrowth transition to a steady state economy](#)



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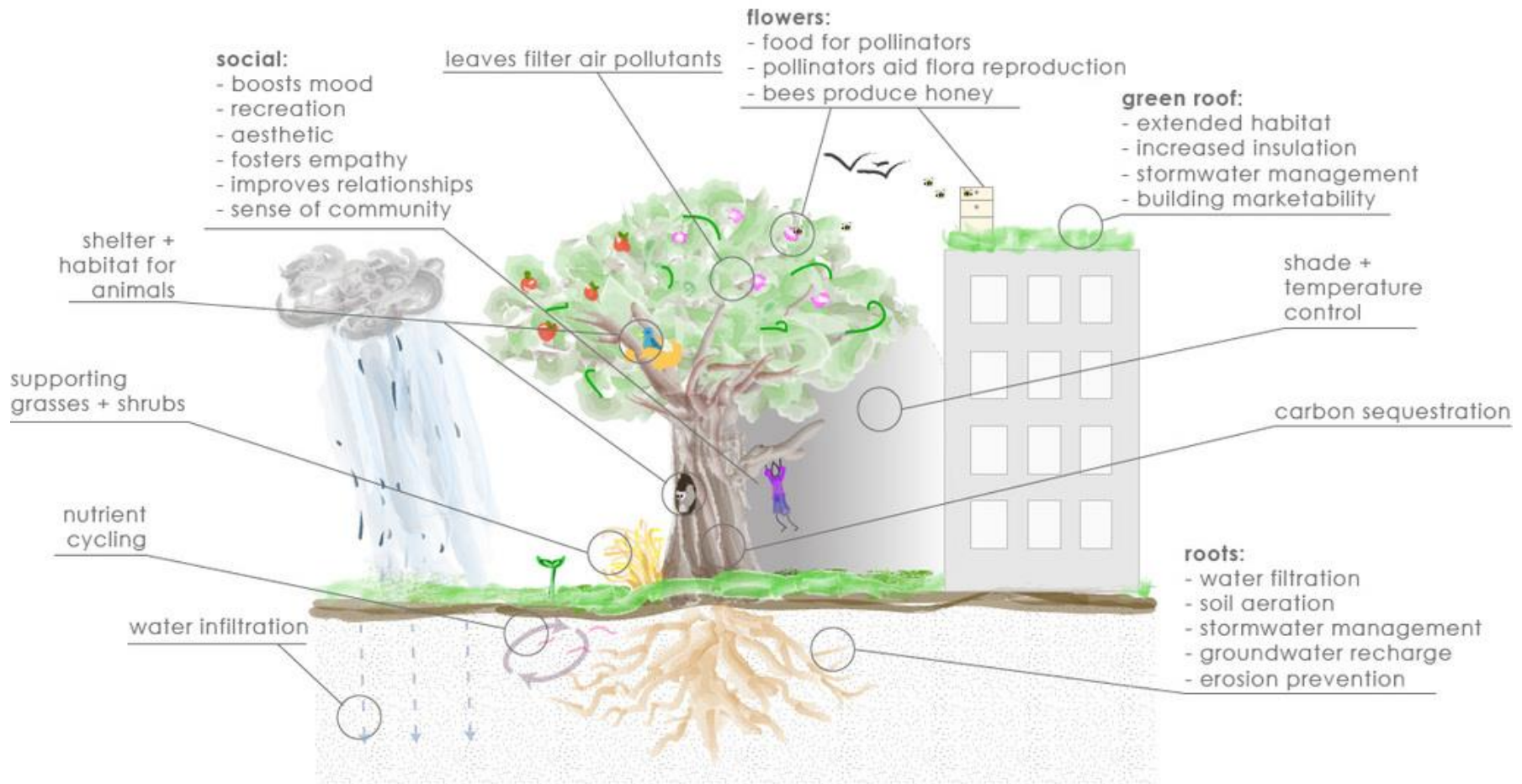
## Ecosystem Services



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## Ecosystem Services of a Tree

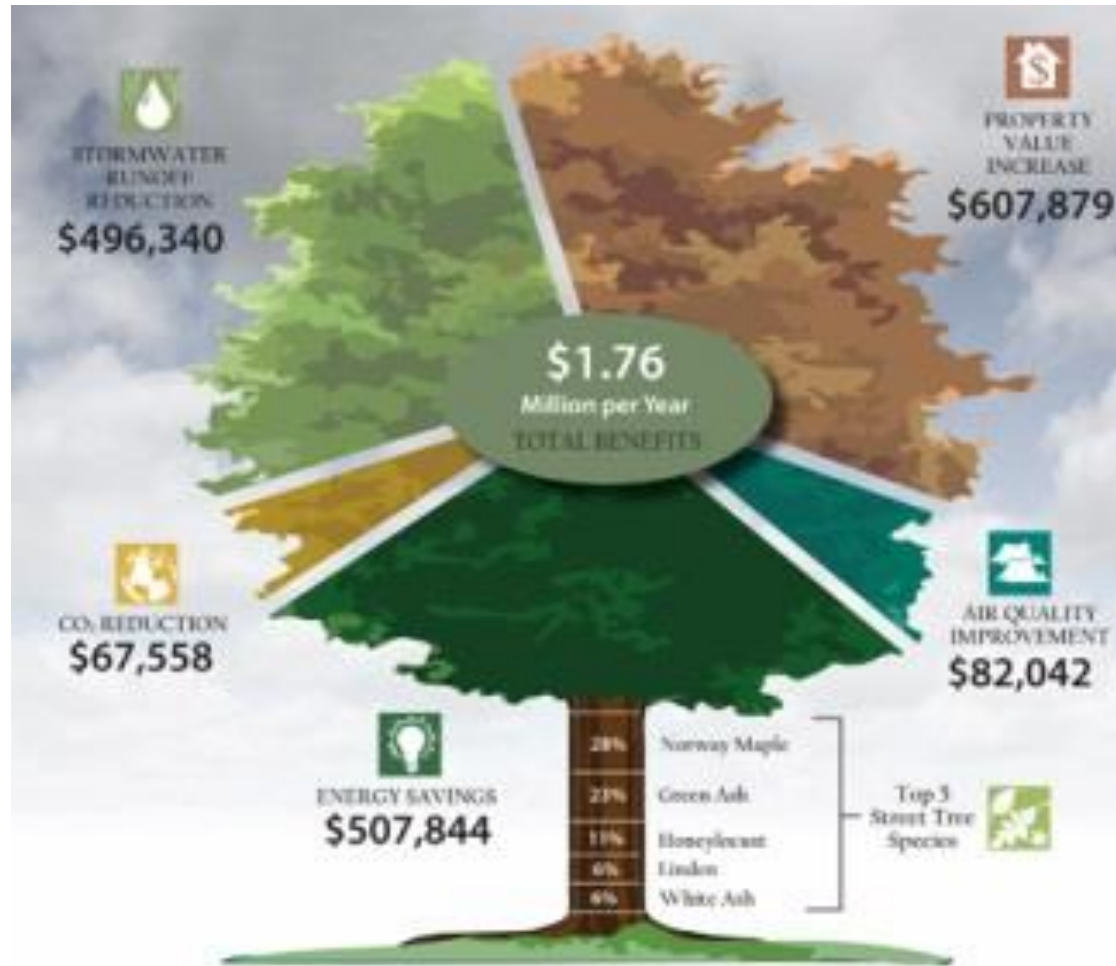


[Servicing those ecosystems:](#)  
[The value of trees](#)



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## Green Infrastructure

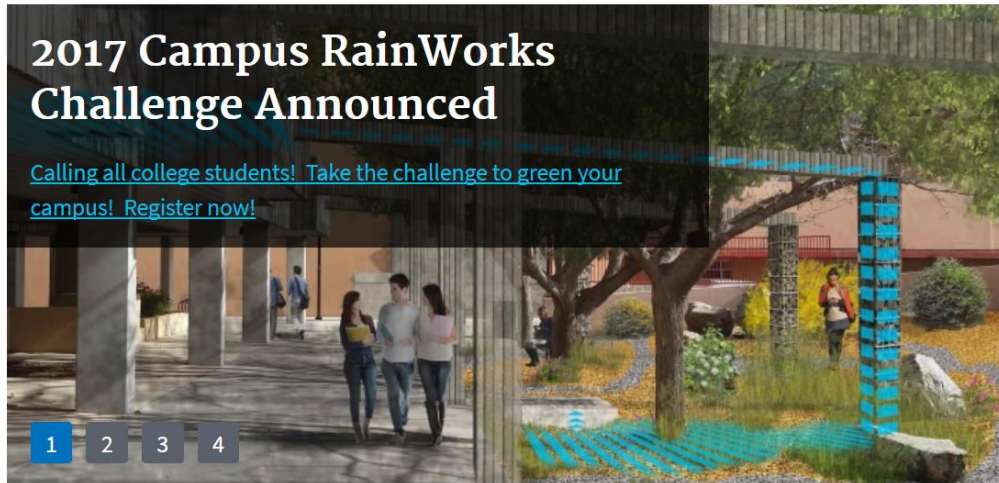
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Large Corporate Retail Stores Wreak Havoc on  
Local Economies



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## WAL-MART The High Cost of Low Price



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[www.ChangeWalmart.org](http://www.ChangeWalmart.org)



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## The New Way That Walmart Is Ruining America's Small Towns



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## Examples of Local Currency



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**Berkshares – Massachusetts  
since 2006**



**Ithaca HOURS – Ithaca, New York  
since 1991**



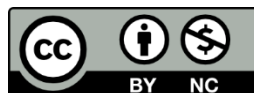
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**Stroud Pound – Stroud, England  
since 2009**



**Chiemgauer – Prien am Chiemsee,  
Bavaria, Germany since 2003**



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## Organizations Helping Regenerate Local Economies



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**NEW ECONOMY COALITION**



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**Sustainable  
Economies  
Law Center**



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## Local Business Renaissance



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- Alternative Economics Systems
  - [Gandhian economics](#)
  - [Buddhist economics](#)



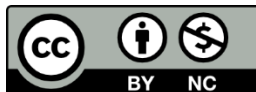
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- Alternatives to Systems of Exchange, e.g. money or barter
  - [Dana](#)
  - [Gift Economy](#)



# Questions?



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# Contact

Christian Stalberg

Enersim, Ltd.

2009 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Oakland, California

USA 94061

Tel. 415-942-3487

Email: christian@energymodeling.net

Website: <http://energymodeling.net>



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