



ECOVILLAGE NETWORK OF THE AMERICAS  
RED DE ECOALDEAS DE LAS AMÉRICAS  
REDE DE ECOVILAS DAS AMERICAS  
RÉSEAU D' ECOVILLAGE DES AMÉRIQUES

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## Ecovillage Network of the Americas Activities Report January 2011 – January 2012

### Introduction

The Ecovillage Network of the Americas' (ENA) 19-seat Council, represents 9 regions throughout the Americas, and last met in Brazil in 2007. At that meeting, activities were focused to the local level, with Council representatives working to develop local projects and activate grassroots networking in their regions. The ENA Council tasked its representatives on the GEN Board, to participate in GEN's reorganization process and clarify the relationships and networking opportunities between GEN and it's Regions.

The Americas representatives have played a key role in providing organizational continuity, as the GEN Board representatives from EU and Oceania/Asia transitioned over that time. In 2010-2011, ENA served as the fiscal agent for GEN and ENA fundraising research, GEN/ENA coordinating staff, UN events, and, fulfilled GEN organizational responsibilities and Officer roles through GEN's expansion and reorganization. ENA representatives also assisted in launching new networking channels and tools, as the GEN Communications Liaison positions were established.

An ENA Steering Committee is in formation, to assist with activities planned for 2012:

- review of ENA's regional and Council structure;
- expanding networking opportunities in the Americas, via a new website and IT features;
- collaborating with GEN colleagues, partner organizations and educational programs - such as Gaia Education, Living Routes and Gaia University, to strengthen cross regional ecovillage networking and education activities.

ENA has served as the managing region for the Community Sustainability Assessment tool (CSA), since it's inception. A fundraising effort was initiated in 2011 to seek support to complete revision and updating of the CSA, and to bring the formatting into alignment with the Ecovillage Design Education (EDE) framework. Efforts will continue in 2012, in coordination with GEN-EU, and Gaia Education (GE).

ENA also served as the fiscal agent for:

- the Red de Ecoaldeas de México (Ecovillage Network of Mexico) project Ecocentro de Ciertos Habitantes (an artistic and ecological community in México);
- NextGEN, an international, youth-led focus group of GEN; and
- management of global activities, such as GEN's WebEx video-conferencing.

## Featured Activities and Projects in the Americas

**2011 Ecovillage Network of Canada Annual General Meeting and Gathering** was held 24. Jun 2011- 26. Jun 2011 in La Cité Écologique, QC

This exciting weekend, with all Ecovillages in attendance sharing presentations, featured Albert Bates, former President of the Global Ecovillage Network, as a guest speaker. La Cité and their wonderful project was fully explored, with lots of social time for fellow Canadian ecovillager enthusiasts to meet.

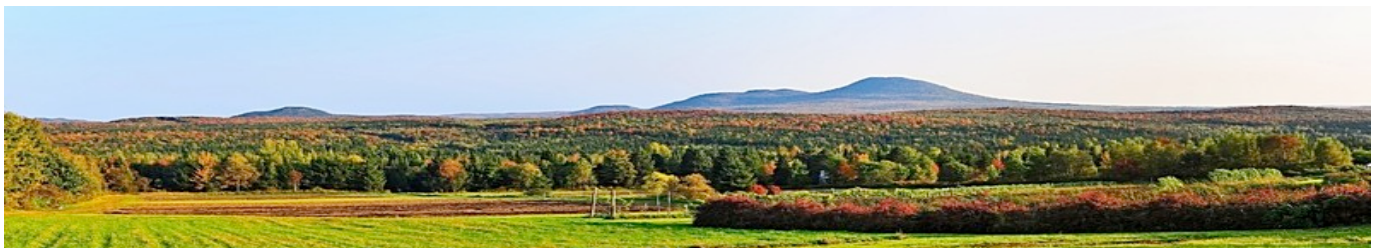


“The Cité Écologique started in Ham-Nord (near Victoriaville), Quebec approximately 27 years ago. Its population has grown to 120, including children. It started as an alternative school based on ‘Respect for Nature’. At the outset, the project was to create a new concept of school in the countryside where parents, teachers, grandparents, children, members of the community, and of course Nature itself, would become the ideal learning environment for children, a place-based education close to Nature. The project also consisted of creating ecological businesses where parents would work and children would learn through integrated activities and apprenticeship programs within the businesses.

Today former students have become the managers of community- based businesses that have extended their operations in Canada and to the USA. Organic food processing, organic culture, manufacture of clothing using only earth-friendly fabrics (bamboo, hemp, organic cotton, fair trade organic cotton, etc.), health care, craft, and import-export are some of the businesses run on the site.

Members’ enjoy these benefits: job security, school with high achievement and professional support, community services such as: car pooling, buying group for organic fair trade products, health care, fun and sporting activities, child care with organic food, parties, getting together for movies, summer camps, etc. As an extended ‘family’, where you find security, friendship, non-violence, complicity between generations, care for the elderly, etc.

More than anything else, members appreciate that work is at a walking distance, that according to your feeling, you may take care of planting a tree, take care of flowers, fruits or vegetables, take care of the land, or take care of a child.”



### **New ENA website launched!**

The new ENA website (<http://ena.ecovillage.org/demo>) in preparation since Summer 2011, is launched at year end! The revitalized ENA website is designed to feature ecovillage initiatives, events, projects, resources, information and events throughout the Americas, in collaboration with the Global Ecovillage Network Information Services - website and database.



## GEN at Cancun Climate Change Conference

In late 2010, ENA staff coordinated materials and financial support to ENA and GEN delegates at this Summit.

“The GEN delegation has attended several meetings and events taking place in and around Cancun during the two weeks of the Climate Summit, both to disseminate information on GEN and GEN's activities and projects, as well as to network and connect with existing and potential new partners who have come to Cancun from all over the world, many with a similar vision and mission to that of GEN. For

the six officially registered GEN delegates, this will mean being able to attend the official COP16 meetings as NGO observers, as well as to join the other active GEN supporters and other interest groups in the several other side events organised by grassroots movements. These include the Klimaforum10, the Climate Change Village, the Conference of Youth, and many more.” *GEN-EU 2011 report*

### **ECOBARRIOS COYOACÁN: Sustainable Communities in the Neighborhoods of Coyoacán, México City**

“Ecobarrios Coyoacán aims towards the creation of sustainable communities within different neighborhoods of the Coyoacán Municipality. Ecobarrios encompasses: community building, responsible consumption, workshops, domestic and community solid waste management, domestic and community composting, organic urban gardening, domestic and community sustainable water and energy management, natural healing and local economy.



Ecobarrios is now being implemented in three “barrios” (neighborhoods) of the Coyoacán Municipality in Mexico City. Community centers in each of these neighborhoods became the



setting for exhibitions on different kinds of ecotechnologies, theoretical and practical workshops, recycling centers, composting and small scale urban gardening. Seed communities have derived from this first stage and for further stages we have set the following objectives: implementation of ecotechnologies in homes such as biodigestors and ecological toilets, biofilters and solar energy, domestic composting, organic urban crops gardening, harvesting of traditional herbal medicine, commercialization of organic products and improvement of local economy.”

2011 has seen the emergence of a Latin American network, a Spanish speaking ecovillage Facebook group with 1000 members: [www.facebook.com/groups/ecoaldeas/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ecoaldeas/)

In the last quarter of 2011, working in collaboration with the “Llamado de la Montaña” event organizers, ENA arranged to sponsor a 2-day networking session on site in Colombia, on January 5-6th, immediately preceding the main event, January 7-14, 2012. This opportunity for ENA activists from 7 regions to network face-to-face in Latin America will enhance ENA’s reorganization discussions in 2012.



The “Call of the Mountain”, January 7 - 14, 2012, taking place in Atlantida Ecovillage, Cauca, Colombia, will be the First Iberoamerican Ecovillage Gathering, First Vision Council of Colombia, VI<sup>th</sup> Colombian Gathering of Ecovillages and Alternative communities, converging with a Noosferic Council, and the XIII Iberoamerican Light Gathering. It’s organized by: [RENACE COLOMBIA](#) (Colombian Ecovillage and Alternative Communities network), CARAVANA ARCOIRIS POR LA PAZ, AND, CONSEJO DE VISIONES GUARDIANES DE LA TIERRA (Mexico).

This event is organized as a large Vision Council, in the style of the many already organized by the clans and tribes of Meso and North America, spicing it up with the Colombian flavor. Within the structure of the Vision Council there will be sessions for exchange of experiences on many topics, including ecovillages. ENA is supporting 9 representatives from 7 Americas regions, to gather for active ENA networking before and during the Llamado event. ENA is pleased that Diana Leaf Christian, editor of the online Ecovillages Newsletter, and author of “Creating a Life Together, Practical Tools to Grow Ecovillages and Intentional Communities”, will be attending and reporting on these events.

## **GEN Board, ENA Staff and Council Update**

ENA’s representatives on the GEN Board are:

**Giovanni Ciarlo** serving on the GEN Board from 2004 to present, and as president from 2009-2011, is a founding member of ENA and represents the MesoAmerica region on the ENA Council. He is a cofounder of Ecoaldea Huehucoyotl in Tepoztlan, Mexico, an ecovillage based on principles of sustainability through the arts and ecology, and, the Red de Ecoaldeas de Mexico (Ecovillage Network of Mexico). In 2011, Giovanni completed a curriculum development project for Gaia Education, and, attended Gaia Education and GEN Europe meetings.

**Linda Joseph** is a founding member ENA, and one of two ENA representatives on the GEN Board of Directors, since 2004. She serves as ENA Secretary and Coordinator, ENA/GEN Communications Liaison and GEN Treasurer. She provides oversight to GEN networking activities, projects and staff for GEN Information Services (GEN IS). Linda is a co-founder of EarthArt Village, a rural residential cooperative in the Southern Colorado frontier; and a two-term County Commissioner in Saguache County, Colorado.

Beginning in 2011, GEN established Communications Liaisons, 2 from each GEN region, to assist with increased networking and collaboration between GEN Regions and with partner organizations. Linda Joseph and Lucia Batteggazzore serve as the Communications Liaisons for the Americas.

Lucia Batteggazzore is the representative for Southern South America on the ENA Council of the Americas (the ENA Board of Directors). Lucia co-founded IIFAC-Uruguay with Ana Rubio in 2002 where they offer training, facilitation and consulting services in Uruguay and other countries in Latin America. She specializes in facilitation and consensus decision-making, working with groups, community-based collectives and other projects related to sustainability. In September 2011, Lucia attended Gaia Education's Ecovillage Design Education program in Europe, and she looks forward to expanding ecovillage education in Latin America. Lucia designed and revamped the new ENA website, launched at year-end.

Orlando Balbas came on board in early 2011, to receive and distribute all inquiries coming from links on the GEN website. Orlando assists on ENA's website, moderates GEN db entries for the Americas, and coordinates eLists and other activities assigned for ENA/GEN.

In 2012, the ENA Council will review its current governance structure and determine whether and how to reorganize the Council and update the representation framework.

Current representatives on the Council of the Americas:

Lee Davies and Russ Purvis - Canada

Lois Arkin and Jeff Clearwater - West US

Daniel Greenberg and Diana Leafe Christian (nominated) - East US

Giovanni Ciarlo and Arnold Ricarde - MesoAmerica

Pato (Carlos Gomez) and Enrique Hidalgo - Northern South America

Silvia Balado and Lucia Batteggazzore - Southern South America

Vanessa Marinho (stepping down) - Brasil

Alberto Ruz and Penelope Baquero - Mobile

Going into 2012, there are open Council seats for representatives to ENA from the Caribe, and Brasil regions.

With the energy and inspiration generated at the Colombia gatherings in January 2012, the new GEN and ENA websites and database, and the availability of WebEx video conferencing, providing new opportunities for Council and staff to collaborate - networking activities in the Americas will be greatly enhanced.

Ecovillage Network of the Americas - Finances, 2011 <i>as of: 12/12/11</i>						
<b>INCOME</b>						
	Charitable Organizations/Foundations	26,420.01				
	Fiscal Sponsorship Donations					
	Individual donations PayPal	2,165.00				
	Interest					
	<i>2010 Cash Balance</i>	<i>30,488.71</i>				
	<b>Total Income +2010 balance forward</b>	<b>59,073.72</b>				
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>						
	Accountant (2010/2011)	435.25				
	Bookkeeping	1,950.00				
	Occupancy - Admin	3,400.00				
	CO Secretary of State (2011/2012)	20.00				
	Bank/PayPal Charges (2011)	399.83				
	Office Supplies	117.71				
	<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>6,322.79</b>				
<b>FUNDRAISING Development</b>						
	GEN/ENA funding Development	180.00				
	Misc. Expenses	18.30				
	<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>198.30</b>				
<b>PROGRAMS</b>						
<b>Communications &amp; Outreach</b>						
	ENA Coordinators	6,848.00				
	Global Communications Liaisons	4,323.00				
	GEN Activities/Work Sessions	4,750.09				
	UN Activities / Global Activities	2,239.00				
	<b>ENA networking mtg-January 2012, Colombia</b>	<b>7,000.00</b>				
<b>GEN IS</b>	System Admin & IT technical	4,000.00				
	hardware/software	555.48				
	ENA Webmasters/IT support/eList Mgmt/db moderation	2,590.00				
	DSL/ISP/Host	989.82				
	GEN IS Occupancy	3,400.00				
	<b>Sub-Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>36,695.39</b>				
<b>Fiscal Sponsorships</b>						
	<b>REM - Ecocentro</b>	<b>100.00</b>				
	<b>NextGEN</b>	<b>1,401.29</b>				
	<b>GEN</b>	<b>2000</b>				
	<b>TOTAL Program Expenses</b>	<b>40,196.68</b>				
	<b>TOTAL Admin, Funding + Programs</b>	<b>46,717.77</b>				
	Projected cash forward to 2012	<b>12,355.95</b>				