



Introduction to The Regenerative Development Framework

Regenerative Development

Building the capacity and capability in people, communities and ecosystems to renew, evolve, and thrive.

Principles of the Haudenosaunee

The Haudenosaunee, a historically powerful confederacy of six first nations in Western New York, have co-existed peacefully through participatory democracy and regenerative development. Building upon successful historic models of governance can support today's just transition to a regenerative economy.

The Law of Regeneration calls for an active, collective practice of self-governance by diverse people that builds on their bioregion's collective strengths to cultivate long-lasting prosperity. The Law of Regeneration requires three fundamental principles and practices: 1) **seventh generation planning**, 2) **giving thanks** for the web-of-life that sustains us, and 3) the **law of the seed**, designing *with* nature to support ecosystems. In combining cultural values of gratitude and sustainability, the Haudenosaunee cultivate practices which contribute to the natural world around them. These principles guide ecologically responsible development and fair allocation of resources.

The Great Law of Peace is the basis of a participatory democracy, grounded in the authority of the people and their responsibility to care for one another and their common home. Practices of retribitional justice were replaced with those of **restorative justice** to help diverse communities peacefully address conflict, heal harm, and collectively govern through healthy, collaborative relationships.

Building a Regenerative Economy Today

Western New York continues to be a hub for regenerative development. Leading voices in the non profit sector, public sector, private sector, higher education and spiritual traditions push for local projects in the Buffalo Niagara region that consider the holistic impacts of development. The Western New York Environmental Alliance (WNYEA) works to further principles of regenerative development and advance environmental and social well-being through inclusive governance and development.

Recently, thought leaders from diverse fields have been building on past traditions to develop frameworks for contemporary regenerative development. **Figure 1** displays five core interdependent building blocks of the regenerative economy. In contrast to an extractive and exploitative economy, this regenerative model is based on healthy social and ecological relationships. This shift in world view is further reflected in **Figure 2's** 8 Principles of the Regenerative Economy. Its second principle, a holistic view of wealth, is further reflected in **Figure 3**, which shows the many forms of community capital essential to an economy that supports social and ecological well-being.

Today, members of the WNYEA are leading the way to regenerative economy by putting many of these principles into practice. We seek to lift up these stories of regeneration and build a Field Guide to the Regenerative Economy in WNY.

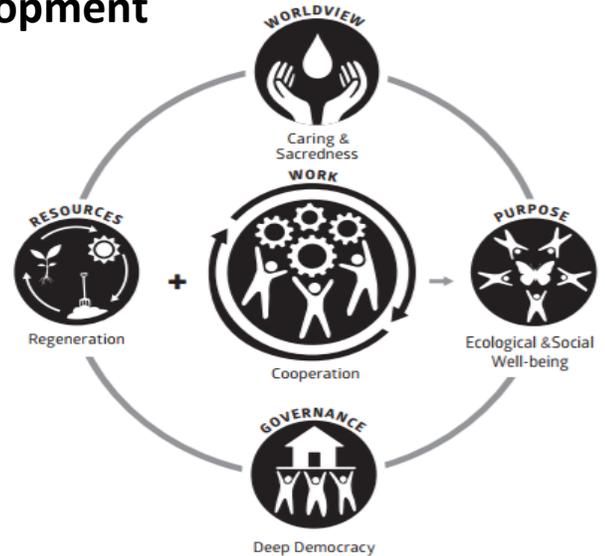


Figure 1: From Movement Generation's Just Transition Zine



Figure 2: From "Regenerative Capitalism", Capital Institute

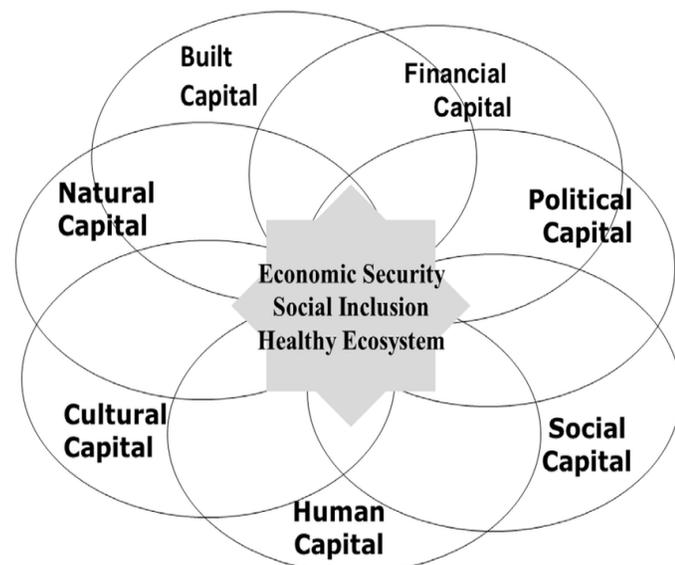


Figure 3: From Emery and Flora (2006) Community Capitals Framework