

# A Sustainable Social Model

## Ecovillages: Building an alternative

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# Ecovillages



*“Ecovillages are urban or rural communities of people, who strive to integrate a supportive social environment with a low-impact way of life. To achieve this, they integrate various aspects of ecological design, permaculture, ecological building, green production, alternative energy, community building practices, and much more” (Global Ecovillage Network, 2012).*

Diversity

Ativism

Community based

Research and Education

Advocacy



<http://gen.ecovillage.org/>

# Goals

- Integrate a supportive social environment with a low-impact way of life.
- Create and experiment lifestyles which are "successfully continuable into the indefinite future"
- Combat the degradation of social, ecological and spiritual environments.

**Experimentation**

**Sustainability**

**Care politics**



# How?

- Combining traditional knowledge with new technologies
- Voluntary simplicity
- Alternative hedonism
- Cooperation with nature
- Local self-sufficiency
- Solidarity Economy

# A practical example



**Tamera**

— Healing Biotope I

Creating **peace knowledge**

Select your language:

TII 2012 Copenhagen - Sustainability -  
Innovation Services for a Smarter Economy

# Tamera: “Healing Biotope 1”

- **Location:** Alentejo, Portugal
  - **Age:** 15 years the ecovillage, 34 years the idea.
  - **Residents:** +/- 200
  - **Areas:** politics, education, ecology, technology.
  - **Economy:** visitants, education, donations.
- 
- **Goal:** Create a local model towards a global peace culture based in decentralization, sustainable solutions and cooperation.

# Technology



- Application, research, development and experimentation, technology transference
- Permaculture
- Linked to traditional and local knowledges
- Based on local resources and needs
- Cooperation with nature
- Autonomy and self-subsistence

# Water



# Water



- Water retention landscapes: Sepp Holzer permaculture

“ *A Water Retention Landscape consists of a series of interconnected retention spaces, from pond-sized up to lake-sized, in which the rainwater can collect behind a dam constructed from natural material. The retention spaces themselves are not sealed with concrete or any artificial film, so that the water can but steadily diffuse into the earth-body.*”  
(Bernd Mueller, 2011).



: “WATER IS LIFE - The Water Retention Landscape of Tamera”

# Water



## **Model project development for natural water management and the natural regeneration of damaged landscapes:**

- Prevention of floods in Winter.
- Correction of the effects of erosion caused by floods.
- Slowly allows the ingress of water into the soil.
- Restores fertility and good conditions for reforestation.

# Water



## 4 Years later...

- Water available throughout the year for irrigation and fire prevention
- On the terraces they produce vegetables and fruit in abundance
- Appearance the first sources of water
- Large wildlife - such as 97 species of birds recently sighted, among other species.

# Energy



# Energy



- Testfield 1
- Renewable energy
- Technology development
- Energy Autonomy – 20%
- Energy produced and used: Kinetic, thermic, electric

 : Tamera: SollarVilage Testfield 2011  
Broadcast Yourself

# Technology transference

- Education and visits
- Application in crisis places and 3rd world countries
- Consultancy

# More information

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