

# EcoVillage *at Ithaca*



[Learn@Ecovillage at Ithaca](#)

The Mission of the Ecovillage at Ithaca Center for Sustainability Education:

To promote experiential learning about ways of meeting human needs for shelter, food, energy, livelihood and social connectedness that are aligned with the long term health and viability of Earth and all its inhabitants.

Adopted by the EVI Board 28 October 2009

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## Web Sites and Suggested Readings for Sustainability and Social Justice Visitors to

## Ecovillage at Ithaca, Our Farms and Tompkins County

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The Ecovillage at Ithaca (EVI) website – <http://ecovillageithaca.org/evi/>

Ecovillage at Ithaca Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/pages/EcoVillage-atIthaca/341917376090?ref=ts>

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Ecovillage at Ithaca is probably the best studied ecovillage in the world

**Get More Out of Your Visit to Ecovillage at Ithaca:**

→ Read as Many as Possible of the Items on the Following Pages  
Before You Come

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Walker, Liz. 2005. *Ecovillage at Ithaca: Pioneering a Sustainable Culture*. Gabriola Island, British Columbia: New Society Publishers. The basic introduction. This book is available for purchase at EVI after the free tour last Saturday of the month starting at 3:00 pm. Available electronically on [Kindle](#) and [Nook](#).

Two excerpts from Liz Walker's 2005 book were reprinted by Gaia Education in their 2007 ebook: *Beyond You and Me: Inspiration for Developing Community*. Pages 58-64 and 205-209.

Walker, Liz. 2012. Coming of Age: 21 Years of Ecovillage Planning and Living. *Communities* 156:36— 40. Overview of accomplishments and continuing challenges at the Ecovillage at Ithaca. A cofounder of EVI looks back. Click [here](#).

Walker, Liz. 2012. Ecovillage at Ithaca: Principles, Best Practices and Lessons Learned. Report to the EPA Climate Showcase Communities Grant. Overview of history and features with comparisons among the three neighborhoods. Click [here](#).

Franke, Richard W. 2012. Overview of Research on Ecovillage at Ithaca. In Andreas, Marcus and Felix Wagner, editors. *Realizing Utopia: Ecovillage Endeavors and Academic Approaches*. Munich: [Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society](#). Perspectives No. 8:111—124. Summary of research at EVI up to 2012 with bibliography, abstracts of articles and dissertations and links to the publications where available. To access just the essay about EVI, click [here](#). To view the complete issue with articles on other ecovillages, click [here](#).

Franke, Richard W. 2011. Everyday and Spontaneous Cooperatives in an Ecovillage. *Grassroots Economic Organizing* 2(7). Local village cooperatives residents have developed in printing, winter root vegetables and neighborhood photovoltaic cells at Ecovillage at Ithaca. Click [here](#).

Korkki, Phyllis. 2013. In Retiree Housing, Talking About Multigeneration. *The New York Times*, 12 March 2013. Photographs of EVI and interviews with residents about retiring with all age groups. Click [here](#).

### EVI's Three Organic Farms -

West Haven organic Community Supported Agriculture farm: <http://www.westhavenfarm.net/>

→ Read Walker, Liz. 2011. Bringing the Harvest Home: CSA Farming and Farmer Education at Ecovillage at Ithaca, Pages 118-123 in E. Christopher Mare and Max Lindegger, editors. 2011. *Designing Ecological Habitats: Creating a Sense of Place*. East Meon (UK): Permanent Publications. For Gaia Education. Describes a Community Supported Agriculture weekly pickup and other features of the 10 acre organic fruit and vegetable farm at Ecovillage at Ithaca. Also has info on the

Groundswell experiment that is listed below. For the link, be ready to scroll down to page 118, then click [here](#).

Kestrel Perch organic Community Supported Agriculture U-pick berry farm:

<http://www.ithacaberries.com/>

Local Businesses at Ecovillage at Ithaca: <http://ecovillageithaca.org/live/livelihoods/>

**Ecovillage at Ithaca Tour Handouts**  
**Free Public Tour Last Saturday of Each Month at 3 pm**  
**For Private Tours, click [here](#).**

Franke, Richard W. 2011. EVI Fact Sheet. A trifold brochure with the basic descriptions and statistics often covered in the tours. Click [here](#)

Franke, Richard W. 2011. FROG Energy Facts. One page handout with summary of research on energy and materials savings of the first neighborhood houses. Click [here](#).

Franke, Richard W. 2011. How Much Does It Cost to Live at EVI? Detailed cost analysis for the year 2010 of a FROG neighborhood house frequently visited on the tours. Click [here](#).

Gilmore, Jeff. 2013. The FROG neighborhood Solar Array. One page flyer summarizing the 50 kw solar array built cooperatively by the FROG neighborhood to supply about 55% of our electricity. Includes net metering and individual household viewing of electrical usage across time. Click [here](#).

For a detailed account published in *Home Power* 149:79–87, June-July 2012, click [here](#),

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**In Depth Reading about Ecovillage at Ithaca**

Franke, Richard W. 2015. EVI in Publications. List of known books, journal articles, dissertations and miscellaneous publications with information about Ecovillage at Ithaca. Includes abstracts and links where available. Last updated 13 September, 2015. Click [here](#).

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## Ithaca Area Sustainability and Social Justice Sites:

### General Overview

→ Read Walker, Liz. 2010. *Choosing a Sustainable Future: Ideas and Inspiration from Ithaca, NY*. Gabriola Island, British Columbia: New Society Publishers. Overview of several sustainability and social justice initiatives that make Ithaca and Tomkins County an advanced experiment with lessons for other communities. If you are visiting the larger Ithaca area along with Ecovillage at Ithaca, this book will provide you with valuable background information and ideas. Available after your tour of Ecovillage at Ithaca. Available electronically on [Kindle](#) and [Nook](#).

Greenstar Cooperative Natural Foods Market: <http://www.greenstar.coop/>

→ Read Greenstar's Most Recent Annual Report: click [here](#)

Alternatives Federal (Community Development) Credit Union: <http://alternatives.org/>

→ Read AFCU's 2015 Annual Report: click [here](#)

See also: Shuman, Michael. 2012. *Local Dollars, Local Sense: How to Shift Your Money from Wall Street to Main Street and Achieve Real Prosperity*. White River Junction, Vermont: Chelsea-Green Publishing. On pages 81–83 he discusses AFCU in the context of Community Banking.

Sustainable Tompkins: <http://sustainabletompkins.org>

Groundswell Center Ithaca: Farmer education and training courses using some of Ecovillage at Ithaca land as part of a program to train a younger generation of farmers that are organic and racially and culturally diverse. More info in Liz Walker's article above under the West Haven Farm entry. <http://www.groundswellcenter.org/>

Ithaca Farmers Market <http://www.ithacamarket.com/>

Said to be one of the biggest in the U.S. Open in summer Sat and Sun with downtown satellites Tues, Wed, Thurs and Congo Square Market at Southside Community Center on Fridays. Open January to March on Saturdays in The Space at Greenstar.

Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative <http://www.tccpi.org/>

Established as a multi-organization project to facilitate “a countywide energy efficiency effort and accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy.” Read their 2011 Annual Report [here](#).

Tompkins County Sustainability Center. Click [here](#).

Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan.

<http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/compplan/index.htm>

The Energy and Emissions Portion of the Plan is available separately:

“Its goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the county by at least 2 percent of the 2008 level for each of the next 40 years, achieving at least an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050.”

<http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/compplan/documents/EGGEEElementfromPublisher.pdf>

Town of Ithaca Comprehensive Plan.

[http://www.town.ithaca.ny.us/town\\_of\\_ithaca\\_comp\\_plan\\_draft\\_12\\_2012\\_complete.pdf?attredirects=0](http://www.town.ithaca.ny.us/town_of_ithaca_comp_plan_draft_12_2012_complete.pdf?attredirects=0)

City of Ithaca Comprehensive Plan. Click [here](#). For sustainability chapter, click [here](#).

### Additional Ithaca Area Websites of Interest:

Cayuga LION (Local Investment Opportunity Network): encourages local investment in local green and socially just businesses <http://www.cayugalion.net/>

Black Oak Wind Farm: a community owned wind farm about to be constructed 7 miles from Ithaca  
<http://blackoakwindny.com/>

<http://maps.sustainabletompkins.org/> master list of most sustainability and social justice organizations in Tompkins County

<http://www.greenresourcehub.org/site/view/44> list of green businesses in Tompkins County

<http://www.tcworkerscenter.org/> organizes for living wage and dignified treatment at work

<http://www.solarizetompkinsse.org/> Solarize Tompkins SE is a neighborhood solar buying club to lower prices possibly as much as 32% and encourage residents of the nearby towns of Caroline, Dryden and Danby to install PV and solar hot water through mutually agreed on contractors.

Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute <http://www.fingerlakespermaculture.org/>

“We offer opportunities to learn sustainable, ecological design methods including [workshops, study groups, apprentice programs, and the intensive Permaculture Design Certification Course.](#)”

[Moosewood Restaurant](#): Famous restaurant known for the Moosewood cookbooks. Reasonable prices; green practices, decent treatment of its staff. A favorite stop for sustainability visitors.

[Taughannock Falls State Park](#): beautiful waterfalls and hikes 10 miles from Ithaca

[Buttermilk Falls State Park](#): steep hiking trails along a gorge, 2.7 miles from Ithaca

[Robert H. Treman State Park](#): steep gorge trail, swimming in summer, 4.5 miles from Ithaca

### *Selected Short General and Background Readings*

What Is Sustainability? A trifold brochure with definition, a few main concepts, history and relation to social justice. By Richard W. Franke. Click [here](#).