



Unity Centers

The immediate goal of oneVillage is to mitigate the AIDS epidemic in Africa through the development of rapid response teams that can begin to mitigate the AIDS Pandemic.

Unity Centers will serve as the base for these teams. The larger and more long term goal is to create wealth creation models reversing the negative trends associated with grinding poverty that has gripped the developing world while promoting sustainable development.

Multi-Track Strategy

This strategy is based on the belief that to create the one village whole—the concept of the global village—we need to address issues and problems in both the developing and developed worlds. The fundamentals of sustainable development are similar in both developed and undeveloped societies. Development programs for poverty-stricken nations and redevelopment programs in the affluent nations should complement each other. What this entails is a major refining and overhaul of what is now taking place in the development community. Ecovillages around the world serve as prototypes in eco-living. We anticipate that Unity Centers will demonstrate on a practical everyday basis the services, models and approaches we expect to offer to people in developing world while also promoting these concepts in America.

Phase I organizational Infrastructure

This involves organizing the administrative infrastructure to effectively plan, design and allocate the necessary resources to both manage the projects associated with oneVillage and in parallel develop the Unity Center that these projects will eventually be based at:

- Develop the organizational infrastructure that includes the resources to pay for a public relations person, design consultants, fund raiser, grant writer, project managers, human resources director, technical writers, and web designer/webmaster.
- Develop implementation strategy—focus on inclusiveness and the participation of Africans.
- Designs—sustainable development, life cycle analyses and other sustainability studies to select more environmentally friendly materials and processes
- Build the necessary network for procurement and construction

Phase II Seed Funding

With “seed” (planting the seeds that we grow into functioning eco-living prototypes) funding we want to begin to construct a small-scale “proof of concepts.” Creating a



demonstration One Village Unity Center on a smallest possible functional level will allow us to begin to demonstrate the feasibility of the ideas and concepts commonly discussed within the ecological design and development communities.

Phase III “critical mass”

At this stage we concretize the One Village concepts into a global network for change. We seek a balance between modularity and scalability and the ability of each particular locale to modify and innovate these models to suit their own particular needs. The toolsets are what we will use to put together the larger interlocking building blocks of the sustainable society. The variables that we will plug in will be in relation to the specificity of each particular group and locale.

Phase IV Large Scale Unity Center Models

In Senegal there is a network of 12 ecovillages with the coordination center based in Dakar at a urban ecovillage named Eco Yoff. What we envision is more Unity Centers linked up with others engaged in similar projects, where the capacity to increase the level of services and the scale of projects will be increased. Throughout the world, interest in sustainable development will continue to increase and our academic program will become more relevant to the shifting of academia towards the real-world application of technology and knowledge sharing to promote sustainable development.

Biosphere 2 is a project in Arizona, which was constructed as part of an attempt to replicate the planetary ecosystem in a 3 acre sealed building that was designed to do important research helping us better understand how the planet’s ecology works. Recently Columbia University has decided to terminate its relationship with Biosphere 2, thereby defaulting to the original owner, Decisions Investments Corporation, that now has a property without a tenant. The proposal we have submitted to DIC serves not only as a potential integrated solution for Biosphere 2, but also as a conceptual model for integrated approaches of sustainable development throughout the world. We envision Unity Centers as prototypes in urban living (meaning dense human settlements that can be built in both urban and rural settings) where people are involved in teaching, research, participation in design-build functions as well as living within an evolving sustainable system.

Conclusion

Sustainable technologies hold great promise. Yet they have been held back from their full potential because they have not been organized to achieve the full promise of sustainable development. This proposal is a unique opportunity to make a powerful statement to the world by assembling these technologies and approaches together in a compelling way.



oneVillage Foundation

Guiding the unity and transformation of the global village.

The evolution and realization of the Unity Center concept is linked to the promotion of relationships and partnerships between different research, business, ecological design, tourism, and educational networks each building on the energy of others in an integrated whole system. A system that demonstrates the benefits of constructing built environments that facilitate the overlapping potential of these technologies and approaches. Perhaps Unity Centers could also become a point of convergence for a great intersection of new thinking, of not just environmental science, but a larger joining of art, science and technology in new ways could allow for the development of an expanded social consciousness.