

BECOME A KEYSTONE COMMUNITY



CALL FOR ECOVILLAGES TO JOIN OUR
GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

STARTING APRIL 2025

**Applications close 16 April*



GLOBAL
ECOVILLAGE
NETWORK



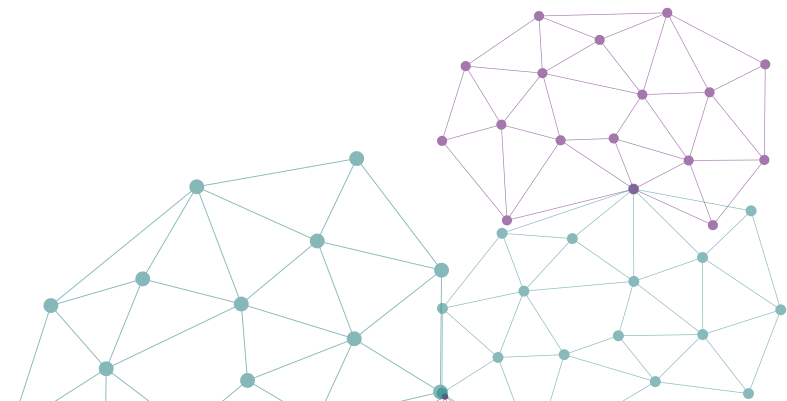
Project Background

Since 2022, our online community of ecovillagers, researchers and facilitators have explored how communities can take action to build resilience.

Now we are scaling and deepening the work in a new project: **Keystone Communities**.

Coming together for a world where local communities are sources of resilience and regeneration during deepening crisis; not only for all human beings, but for the whole web of life.

We are recruiting members of communities in the GEN network to develop the **Keystone Communities Toolkit.**





Overview & Scope

Join this 1.5 year peer learning and participatory research project

Together we will grow skills for ourselves, our communities and the whole GEN network to navigate the polycrisis together.

Key Components

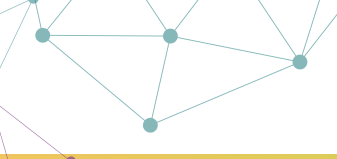
Weaving Resilience Course

Community of Practice (CoP)

Working Groups

Local Pilots





Key Results

Develop the Keystone Communities Toolkit - blending science, art, imagination and storytelling to create tools that help your community and others build resilience

Design interventions, systems, and long-term strategies that improve your community's capacity to live with uncertainty, absorb shocks, avoid tipping points, and retain capacity for system transformation.

<p>60</p> <p>ecovillages show tangible increases in resilience to climate crisis</p>	<p>200</p> <p>Members of the CoP for local resilience leaders, cocreating, testing and learning to use the Keystone Community Toolkit</p>	<p>4800</p> <p>People reached through further local activities carried out by multipliers and participants in regional trainings</p>
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Increased visibility for diverse community-led approaches to resilience and polycrisis response, with documented examples on all inhabited continents

Increased capacity of local leaders and communities to navigate systemic risk and disasters while upholding life-affirming conditions in their local social-ecological systems

Increased global solidarity and learning for community-led polycrisis response where humans and the rest of nature work together to extend and sustain safe habitats for life in a multitude of ecosystems and human cultures





BENEFITS OF BECOMING A KEYSTONE COMMUNITY PRACTITIONER

Receive training and practice in the Keystone Communities Toolkit to help strengthen resilience in your community, region, & networks.

Build solidarity, inspiration, and new global friendships within the whole Global Ecovillage Network.

Be a recognised cocreator of a globally relevant and innovative toolkit scaled throughout GEN and beyond.

Modest financial compensation available for engaged working group members

The header features a central graphic of a stylized tree with a globe as its base. The tree's branches are filled with colorful leaves in shades of green, yellow, and orange. Above the tree, a line of stylized human figures in various colors (white, blue, green) are holding hands. The background is a dark teal gradient with faint floral patterns.

Steps to Become a **Keystone Community Practitioner**

1. Participate in the Weaving Resilience course

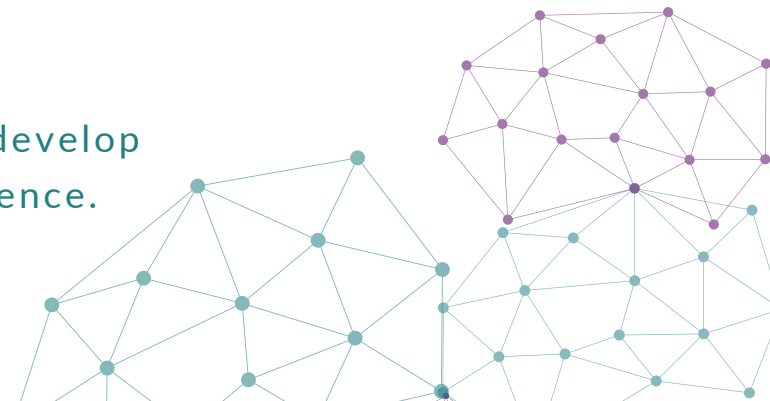
In April 2025, join the free online course [Weaving Resilience](#) in a regional cohort (free only for members of communities connected with GEN, see application below). After finishing the first module, you can join the Community of Practice

2. Join the Community of Practice

Attend regular live calls with a global community of practice of ecovillages exploring how to navigate the interlinked crises of our time

3. Join Working Group

If you feel called, you can also join a working group to learn and develop tools for the whole network focusing on a specific theme of resilience.



ONLINE COURSE WEAVING RESILIENCE

Course Overview

Launching April 2025

- 40 hours self-paced journey through 8 modules (approximately 3-6 hours of study time per module)
- Reflection questions and activities
- 4 live facilitated sessions
- Hands-on activities in your community
- Additional resources for further exploration

This special opportunity is free of charge and open only to members of communities that are connected to GEN

This is a unique opportunity to deepen your knowledge of **community resilience** to climate change and polycrisis. You will **work with your own community** to map and nurture resilience, supported by tried and tested activities.

You will learn and connect with other ecovillagers in a **cohort dedicated to communities in your GEN Region** with a supportive team of regional GEN facilitators.

The course will help you cultivate a deep understanding of different levels of resilience and how they are inter-connected. Get ready to nurture **personal, interpersonal, local, and bioregional resilience** through a blend of activities ranging from systems mapping to ceremony.





COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Regular Online Meetings

When: Every 3-4 weeks

Who: People from intentional, traditional and indigenous ecovillages from all 5 GEN Regions.

(Simultaneous French & Spanish interpretation available)

- **Learn and explore** our key questions: "What is a keystone community? How are ecovillages nurturing resilience and a regenerative and just future? How can we learn and support each other as a diverse global network?"
- **Conduct participatory research**
- **Build tools and systems** that support resilience in our communities
- **Engage your community in testing and refining** the the tools and systems we co-develop and collect feedback
- **Explore values and stories** of what a keystone community could be



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Commitment Requested

- ✓ Complete at least 50% of the Weaving Resilience course, including the first 2 modules on resilience and ecovillages.
- ✓ Join monthly sessions for 1 year.
- ✓ Be committed to the ideals and principles of the ecovillage movement.
- ✓ Attend regular online community sessions (every 3 to 4 weeks) of sharing, learning and listening to each other.



WORKING GROUPS

As a CoP member, you are welcome to join any working group you want. The groups all focus on researching and developing tools for some aspect of resilience where we know many ecovillages need to improve. The themes of the groups came from the results of our [previous research into the resilience of ecovillages](#).

As a working group participant, you will be part of helping all of GEN build resilience while creatively learning, connecting and contributing together with other ecovillagers and researchers. Some financial compensation will be available for your time.

Acting on Risk and
Future Scenarios

Community-led Early
Warning Systems

Art & Narrative as
Tools for Resilience

Disaster
Preparedness &
Response - the
ecovillage way

Project Flow for Community of Practice

MARCH 2025

Local Activities, Trainings,
& Resilience Assessments

APRIL 2025

Launch Weaving Resilience course

JUNE 2025

Launch working groups

AUGUST 2025

In-person gathering

JANUARY 2026

First Draft of Keystone
Communities Toolkit

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2026

Testing new tools

MAY 2026

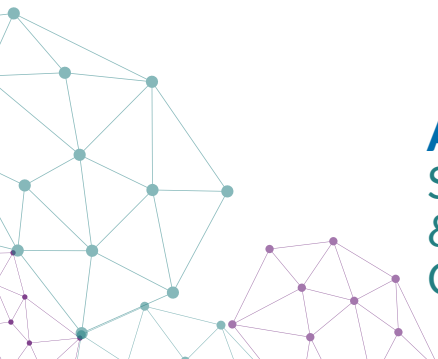
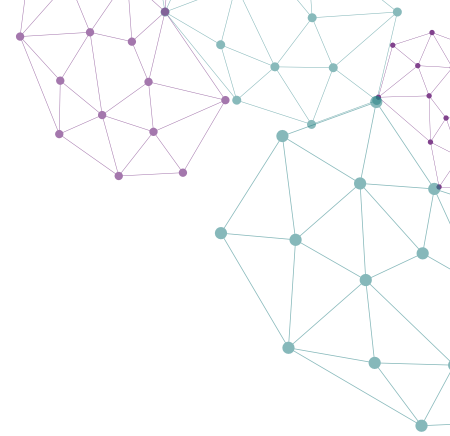
Publish Complete Keystone
Communities Toolkit

JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2026

Wider Dissemination & Training

AUGUST 2026

Sharing new Visions, Stories,
& Pathways to being Keystone
Communities during polycrisis



We want to make sure that **local communities** have the resources needed to play an essential role as safety nets and **sources of resilience and regeneration** in the coming decades - not only for human beings, but for the community of life we all belong to.

We hope you are inspired to join our quest to both deepen and scale ecovillage resilience!

[Apply here](#)



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