

Resources for Land Access, Community-Based Economic Development, & Affordable Housing:

Models:

1. [Community Development Corporations](#) (by Community-Wealth.org)
2. [Community Development Financial Institutions](#) (by Community-Wealth.org)
3. [Community Land Trusts](#) (Wikipedia)

Projects:

1. [Amah Mutsun Land Trust \(CA\)](#) – Works in partnership with public land owners and educational institutions to restore and apply indigenous land conservation and stewardship practices within the traditional territory of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band.
2. [Atmos Totnes \(UK\)](#) – A community-owned, mixed-use (commercial & affordable housing) development in Totnes, UK, on the site of a former industrial park. Atmos Totnes is the first project of the [Totnes Community Development Society](#).

“I’ve been involved in Atmos since about 2009 because I believe it is the key ingredient in changing the economy and the economic future of the town.” – Rob Hopkins, Transition Network & Totnes Community Development Society

3. [Berea Urban Farm \(KY\)](#) – A 1.4-acre lot in a residential neighborhood of Berea, KY which grows food, hosts workshops, and serves as a model community farm. [Initially funded by a regional/federal “Livable Communities” grant](#), BUF is a project of non-profit and Transition Initiative [Sustainable Berea](#).
4. [Cooperation Jackson \(MS\)](#) - A multi-layered plan to support economic democracy in Jackson, Mississippi, and the surrounding area which includes developing a network of community land trusts, worker-owned business cooperatives, and housing cooperatives. Learn more in the report [Casting Shadows: Chokwe Lumumba and the Struggle for Racial Justice and Economic Democracy in Jackson, Mississippi](#).
5. [Ecological Land Cooperative \(UK\)](#) – Community-based model of land ownership promoting smallholder farms and low-impact housing.

“Over my seven years of involvement with Transition Towns in the UK, one particular large-scale problem that has come up repeatedly is that of land access. Food is an issue that galvanizes almost all Transition communities, but many of the classic Transition activities (e.g., the Landshare idea—connecting those who want to grow with those who have some spare land) are essentially ways of working around the lack of available growing space. There has been a clear necessity for some form of large-scale framework that could defend the rights of communities to develop and sustain their own small-scale solutions to feeding their localities, using established methodologies such as agroecology and permaculture.”

-Shaun Chamberlin, “Transition Towns and Beyond: The Ecological Land Co-operative”

6. [Ecovillage Charlottesville \(VA\)](#) – A new ecovillage that also serves as a hub for the local Transition Movement.
7. [Landless Workers Movement/Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra, or MST \(Brazil\)](#) – A grassroots land reform and social movement. Brazil’s constitution states that land property must hold a social function. By occupying large, privately-owned land holdings, MST has won land settlements for more than 300,000 poor rural families. With 1.5 million members in 23 states, MST is one of the largest social movements in the world.
8. [Lopez Island Community Land Trust \(WA\)](#) – A CLT dedicated to affordable housing and ecological land stewardship. LCT is unique among community land trusts because of its commitment to sustainable agriculture and green building, including use of straw bale construction, rainwater catchment, solar hot water, and more. Learn more about LCLT’s approach in this [case study](#) by the Capital Institute or in the LCLT’s manual: [Land, Water, Energy, Resource Use: A Systems Approach: Understanding Our Fourth Affordable Housing Development](#).
9. [Occupy the Farm \(CA\)](#) – Community effort to prevent 20 acres of publicly-owned urban agricultural land, the Gill Tract, from being commercially developed and privatized. Over three years of organizing community members have gained access to a small portion of the land for the [Gill Tract Community Farm](#) (which is stewarded in part by folks from Transition Albany & Transition Berkeley). Recently OTF organizers have partnered with the [Indigenous Land Access Committee](#) and proposed a vision for shared land stewardship, which you can read more about [here](#). There is also a great documentary about this project called Occupy the Farm.

*“The seed of Herrera’s vision was planted as Herrera took part in the **Occupy the Farm** movement. The police repeatedly told protestors “You are trespassing. This land belongs to the University of California”.*

“I kept turning over this thought in my head, ‘how can I be trespassing on land that my ancestors lived on for thousands of years?’” Herrera recalls.

10. [Native American Land Conservancy \(CA\)](#) – Acquires, preserves and protects Native American sacred lands through protective land management, educational programs, and scientific study.
11. [Revive the Roots \(RI\)](#) – A Transition Initiative organized by youth who were granted use of a historic home and surrounding land in exchange for restoring and maintaining the property. Revive the Roots provides their community with access to public gardens, permaculture education, youth literacy and ecological stewardship programs, and more.
12. [Transition Lab \(CO\)](#) – Provides affordable housing while resourcing community service/Transition projects through housing work trades, with an emphasis on relationships as currency. Read more

about [Transition's Lab approach in this article by founder Russell Evans](#), or listen to this teleseminar series: Part 1 – REconomy: Where Cash Takes a Back Seat and Part 2: Relationships Through Transition.

“Economic Power is always tied to Political Power. And what is happening is that we want political power, but we put ourselves into economically powerless situations and wonder why we aren't more empowered.”

-Ashley Sanders, Transition Lab

10. [Totnes Community Development Society \(UK\)](#) – A non-profit organization supporting community ownership, management, and low-impact development of land in Totnes, UK.

Websites:

[Community-Wealth.org](#) : By The Democracy Collaborative, which helped start Evergreen Cooperatives

[REconomy.org](#): Transition Network's project on local economic transformation

[National Community Land Trust Network](#)

[Sustainable Economies Law Center – Urban Ag Library: Land Access](#)

Additional Resources:

[An Open Letter to Transition Towns](#) – article by Martin Adams, author of “Land.” The article focuses on the role of Transition Towns in addressing gentrification, homelessness, and wealth inequality.

[“Land: A New Paradigm for a Thriving World”](#) – book by Martin Adams

This document was compiled November 2015 by Marissa Mommaerts, Director of Programs at Transition US. If you have suggestions or additions to this list, please email marissa@transitionus.org. Thanks!