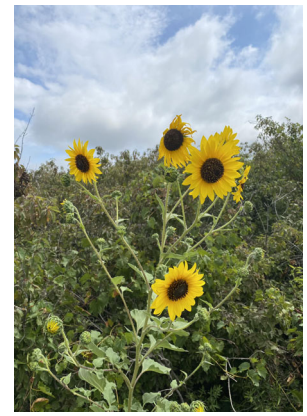


Net Zero C₆ Greenhouse Gas Emissions Collaborative



A Regenerative Agriculture
Demonstration Farm + Off-the-grid Community
Net Zero C₆ Greenhouse Gas Emissions Collaborative

Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Leecompton, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Stein
785.393.0746
davidstein@sunflower.com



December 2022

If we all work together and take action

we will solve climate change.

Net Zero C₆ Greenhouse Gas Emissions Collaborative

Their mission is to promote regenerative agriculture and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They work to aid in the development of new technologies, processes, and inventions through collaboration with farmers, academia, government, industry, engineering, architectural and design firms.

Since Net Zero C₆ is based in the Midwest, they focus on agriculture and livestock which produce the most GHGs of any industry - more than cars, trucks, planes, trains, cargo ships, and cruise ships combined. Through regenerative agricultural and grazing practices that are already known and achievable agriculture can change from being a carbon emitter to carbon sinks through carbon sequestration.

They plan to develop a demonstration farm and community that utilizes these methods. It will be available to farmers to see the methods used and the result in real time. The community will also have conferences to share latest technologies, testing results and future plans.

Rockhill and Associates Architects

Through the work with Rockhill and Associates and Studio 804 Dan Rockhill, his associates and students from the University of Kansas have been leaders in the in sustainable design. They have completed 19 LEED platinum and three Passive House US certified buildings and are committed to development of new ways to build and live that address the problems of climate change.

To learn more visit rockhillandassociates.com and studio804.com

The Collaborative

A Vision for the Future

Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Leocompton, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Stan
785.393.0746
david@stanworks.com

R+A

Net Zero C₆ Board of Directors

Rick Watkins

Founder of Net Zero C₆
Rick Watkins is an environmental visionary who has spent the last 30+ years working to save the planet. Having previously founded two soil and water remediation companies. In addition to creating an off grid community he now sets his sights on reducing GHGs through regenerative farming techniques and providing a demonstration farm to do research and demonstrate best practices to heal the environment.

Dr. Peter Sam

Former EPA employee

Joe Harter

Attorney, McDowell, Rice, and Smith

Mike Heitman

CEO, Garney Construction

Jack McDonald

President, EOI of KCMO

Dan Rockhill

Professor of Architecture at the University of Kansas
Founder of Rockhill and Associates and Studio 804

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REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE and the SOIL CARBON SOLUTION

In 2014, Rodale Institute released its landmark white paper entitled “*Regenerative Organic Agriculture and Climate Change: A Down-to-Earth Solution to Global Warming.*” This work serves as an inspiration for much of the work in the proposal.

Regenerative agriculture is a conservation and rehabilitation approach to food and farming systems. It focuses on topsoil regeneration, increasing biodiversity, improving the water cycle, enhancing ecosystem services, supporting biosequestration, increasing resilience to climate change, and strengthening the health and vitality of farm soil. It is marked by working to achieve closed nutrient loops, reduction or elimination of biocidal chemicals, greater crop and biological diversity, fewer annuals and more perennials.

This approach revitalizes land. It is system based where farmers work with nature, not against it. It's a biological model based on principles of ecology and mimics natural ecological processes. Farm and rangeland can lock carbon underground, thereby restoring degraded soils, addressing food insecurity while mitigating the impacts of the climate crisis on food production by reducing the atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Agriculture as practiced across most of the world is not yet part of the solution. It is a net producer of greenhouse gas emissions both directly through conventional industrial farming practices, and indirectly through land-use change and the greater food delivery system.

Farming can build soil health by supporting biodiversity. Biodiversity is the primary driver of soil carbon sequestration and many more farm and ecosystem benefits. Soil organic carbon, and the soil organic matter in which it resides, are vital to plant growth by mediating soil aggregation, temperature, water infiltration and retention, and nutrient cycling. Soil organic matter also aids ecosystem services: reducing erosion, filtering pollutants, and providing habitat and food for diverse species.

- Diversifying crop rotations
- Planting cover crops, green manures, and perennials
- Retaining crop residues
- Using natural sources of fertilizer, such as compost
- Employing highly managed grazing and/or integrating crops and livestock
- Reducing tillage frequency and depth
- Eliminating synthetic chemicals



Regenerative Agriculture
A Vision for the Future

- The demonstration farm includes:**
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment/Renovation
 - Forage and Biomass Planting
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment
 - Forest Stand Improvement
 - Contour Buffer Strips
 - Riparian Restoration
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover
 - Alley Cropping
 - Range Planting for Livestock
 - Rotational Grazing
 - Filter Strips
 - Grassed Waterway
 - Hedgerow Planting
 - Wetland Restoration
 - Promoting Biodiversity

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Demonstration Farm + Off-the-grid Community
Net Zero C6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Collaborative

R+A
Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Leacompton, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Stan
785.393.0746
david@stanworks.com

Strategies to Achieve Carbon Neutrality

Net-zero carbon is achieved through reducing construction techniques and building materials that result in high carbon emissions. Net Zero Carbon = Total Carbon Emitted - Total Carbon Avoided. Reducing embodied carbon through a concise material selection and construction techniques often results in a decrease in harmful chemical off-gassing, which affects the occupants' productivity and well being

Passive Heating, Cooling and Lighting

By designing projects connected to the local climate and context, energy can be saved that is used for heating cooling and lighting for all living and support buildings.

Renewable Energy

A building should supply all their energy it needs from low-cost, locally available, non-polluting renewable sources while not being turned into a huge power plant. Energy efficiency to reduce demand must also be included .

Efficient Equipment

To achieve a balance between generation and consumption, the efficiency of the equipment in the building is vital. Choosing high-efficiency lighting, refrigeration and heating, venting and air conditioning components as well as other facility equipment, tools, machines, etc. is required to achieve net zero.

The Building Envelope

For a building to be sustainable a well-designed envelope that responds to the climate and its context is a must. This includes high performance windows and doors that are not allowed to become the weak spot in the assembly.

Eliminate Fossil Fuels

Eliminate the use of gas or oil for cooking, heating and cooling. Use clean energy produced by renewable resources like geothermal heat or by producing electricity with the sun and/or wind.

Embedded Carbon Awareness

The carbon embodied in each material refers to the sum of greenhouse gas emissions during extraction, transport, fabrication and installation.



Net Zero Architecture
A Vision for the Future

Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Leecompton, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Stan
785.393.0746
david@stanworks.com



By definition, "net-zero", also known as carbon neutrality, is the act of negating or canceling out the amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activity, by reducing existing emissions and implementing methods of absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Climate Change and global warming is essentially inevitable in the coming decades. The question is how to prevent destructive warming and all the effects on the climate it will cause.

We must limit our greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. We need to phase out fossil-fuel use, build new clean power plants and swiftly move to power our homes, offices, schools, and transportation systems with clean energy.

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Carbon Sequestration Through Farming

Photosynthesis

Is a process where the energy of sunlight is converted to chemical energy in the form of sugars. Oxygen is released during the process.

Nutrient exchange

Plants pull elements from the soil through their roots and from the air through their leaves. The result is the creation of plant-derived carbon that enters the soil. Soil microorganisms (fungi and bacteria) live in association with plant roots and decompose these organic compounds. During the decomposition, nutrients are released to support plant growth.

Capturing carbon

Carbon can be stored in the soil in plant roots or in the soil microbes the plants interact with. When the soil microbes die, the carbon locked up in their cells - as well as by-products from the microbes' life - remain in the dirt for long periods of time

Restoring balance

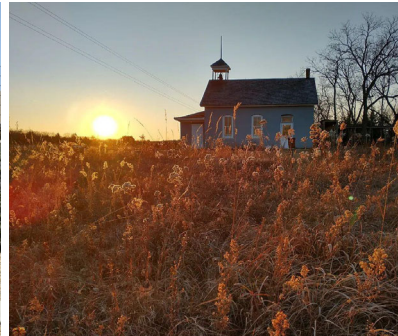
Increasing the number of microorganisms in the soil helps bring carbon levels back into balance, which leads to healthier soil, healthier food, and a healthier planet.

Carbon Sequestration Through Architecture and Planning

When a building is constructed from biogenic materials such as timber, bamboo and straw the building becomes a form of carbon storage. The carbon in the materials is locked up until the building is demolished and the biogenic elements are destroyed.

Architectural landscaping is another opportunity to sequester carbon in the built environment. The ability of landscaping to sequester carbon varies widely depending on the approach to plants and hardscaping.

Plants absorb CO2 and release oxygen, which benefits the overall carbon balance of a property but expanses of grass lawns are not beneficial for carbon sequestration — and, in fact, are usually net-carbon emitters due to the energy intensive fertilization, mowing, and other maintenance required for lawns. The use of more woody native plants that do not require regular maintenance and watering are beneficial.



Carbon Sequestration
A Vision for the Future

Carbon sequestration is the process of storing carbon in carbon sinks, which is anything, natural or otherwise, that accumulates and stores carbon containing compounds for an indefinite period. It thereby removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

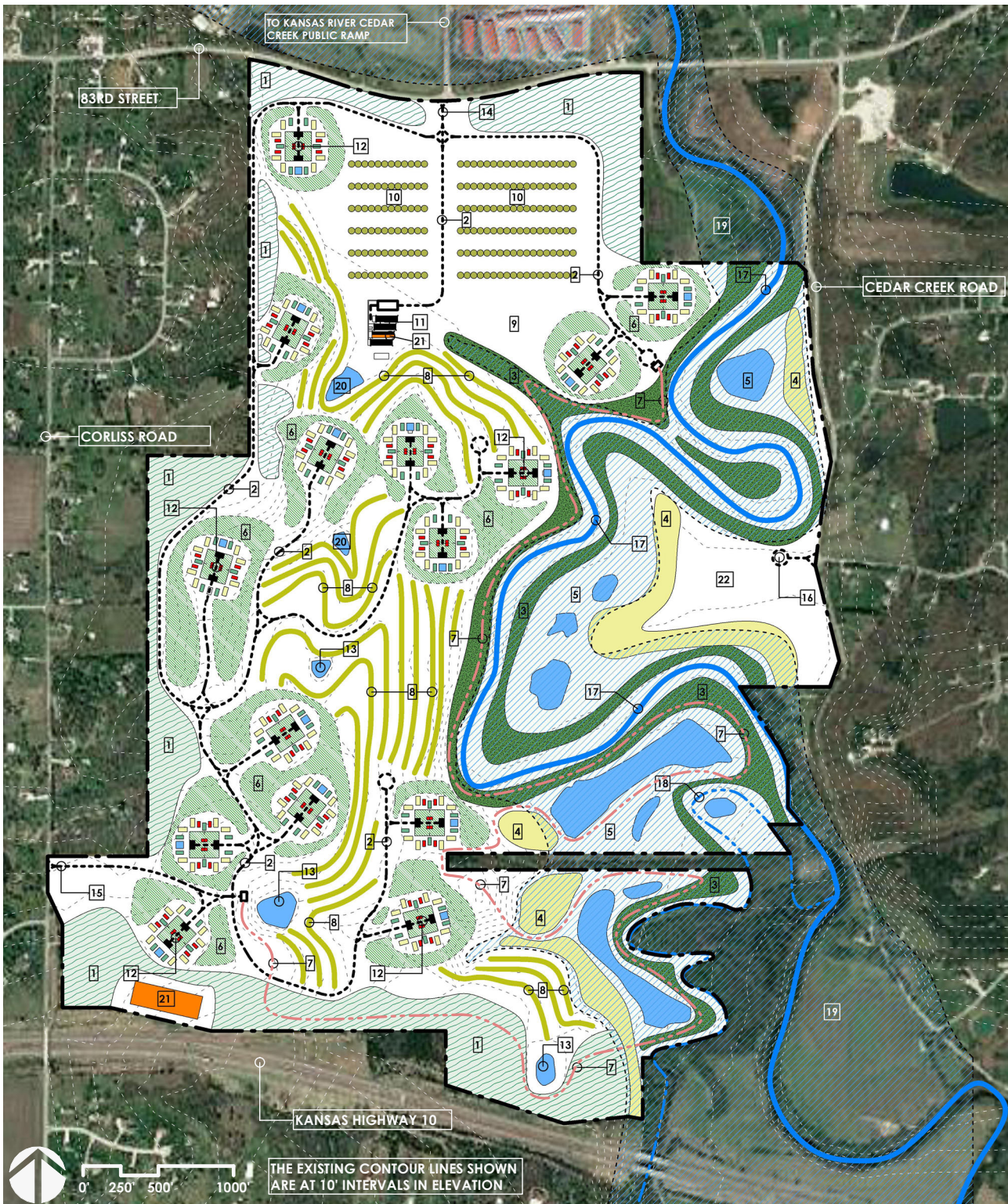
Common Carbon Sinks

- Grasslands
- Agricultural Lands
- Northern, boreal forests
- Tropical Rainforests
- Peat Bogs
- Freshwater lakes and wetlands
- Coastal ecosystems such as seagrass beds, kelp forests, salt marshes and swamps
- Coral reefs

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Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Leecompton, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Stein
785.393.0746
david@stanworks.com

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LEGEND

1. WIND AND SOUND BREAK THROUGH TREE AND SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT
2. ROAD WITH FILTER STRIP PLANTINGS AT THE SHOULDERS
3. RIPARIAN FILTER RESTORATION
4. RIPARIAN HERBACEOUS COVER
5. RESTORED WETLANDS
6. NATIVE PLANTS/TREES TO SUPPORT NATIVE ANIMALS AND INSECTS AS WELL AS MIGRATORY NEEDS
7. WALKING TRAIL
8. CONTOUR STRIP PLANTING
9. FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING
10. ALLEY CROPPING
11. THE BARN
12. HOUSING CLUSTERS
13. EXISTING PONDS
14. 83RD STREET ENTRANCE
15. CORLISS ROAD ENTRANCE
16. CEDAR CREEK ROAD ACCESS FOR FARM WORK
17. CEDAR CREEK
18. CAMP CREEK
19. FEMA DESIGNATED FLOOD PLAIN
20. NEW WATER HARVESTING PONDS
21. PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAYS (EACH DWELLING ALSO HAS AN ARRAY ON ITS ROOF TO POWER THE UNIT)
22. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (INITIALLY USED FOR FARMING)

Overall Site Plan

A Vision for the Future

This community is a demonstration of how we can live and farm in harmony with nature through regenerative and restorative agricultural techniques and self-sufficient off grid housing

Housing overview

300 houses
 15 clusters of 20
 Each cluster has:

Eight 1880 square foot Large family units
 Six 1200 square foot Small family units
 Six 800 square foot Individual or couple units

Black water treatment facilities as well as the ability to harvest rainwater

Screened centralized parking for each cluster

The Barn

It is the 23000 square foot heart of the community with facilities for education, community outreach, research, greenhouses and equipment maintenance

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Site Features Incorporated into the Community

Wind and Sound Break Through Tree and Shrub Establishment

The perimeter of the land will be used to establish a densely planted landscape of trees, shrubs and native undergrowth. These areas will not only help control wind and sound from neighboring roads but also create a carbon sink.

Road With Filter Strip Plantings at The Shoulders

All the roads will minimize stormwater runoff and will be edged with a buffer zone of native plants to filter runoff before it reaches the agricultural land.

Restored Wetlands

Restoring a wetlands along Cedar and Camp creeks will create habit for native creatures as well as support migratory species. The wetlands will also filter water from the land before it reaches the creeks and help to minimize flooding of the Kansas river by creating retention ponds that hold water during high water events or heavy rains.

Riparian Filter Restoration

The riparian buffer between the community and Cedar Creek will be restored with plants and trees that are native to the region and would have been part of the long standing riparian landscape along a Kansas creek or river

Riparian Herbaceous Cover

Within the restored wetlands grasses, grasslike plants and wildflowers will be used to create a riparian buffer rather than woody plants that could add debris to the creeks.

Native Plants/Trees

Native plants evolved to exist in their climate without support of watering or fertilizers. The insects and animals, migratory or not, evolved a dependence upon these plants.

Contour Strip Planting

Two or more crops are rotationally planted in alternating strips along the contour of the land. A crop more susceptible to erosion, like corn or soybeans, is alternated with a cover crop less susceptible to erosion, like grass meadow, clover, or oats

Forage and Biomass Planting

Establish adapted and/or compatible plant species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production. The roots of the forage and biomass plants promote soil health by building soil organic matter, increasing soil nitrogen, retaining soil nutrients, and improving water infiltration.

Alley Cropping

Planting of rows of trees and/or shrubs to create alleys within which agricultural or horticultural crops are produced.

Existing Ponds

The riparian buffer for the ponds will be restored and they will be used for water and site beautification as well as storm water retention.

New Water Harvesting Ponds

New ponds will be constructed to add to the role of the existing ponds

Photovoltaic Arrays

Photovoltaics will be added to the site and the roofs of the structures to create an energy self sufficient community.

The Barn

It is the heart of the community. It will be designed to be a gathering place, a workplace and a place of education and community outreach.

Housing Clusters

The housing will be centralized into a series of 15 clusters of 20 homes that reduce the infrastructure demands, promote community and minimize the use of the car. The clusters are connected but dispersed through the agricultural land. This will promote a sense of community and all the advantages of a cluster of houses while keeping the regenerative farming surround close at hand. The housing units will be designed to be flexible and of varying sizes to solve a wide range of living needs.

Walking Trails and Paths

It is important to encourage walking through the site whether it be for pleasure or purpose

Site Features

A Vision for the Future

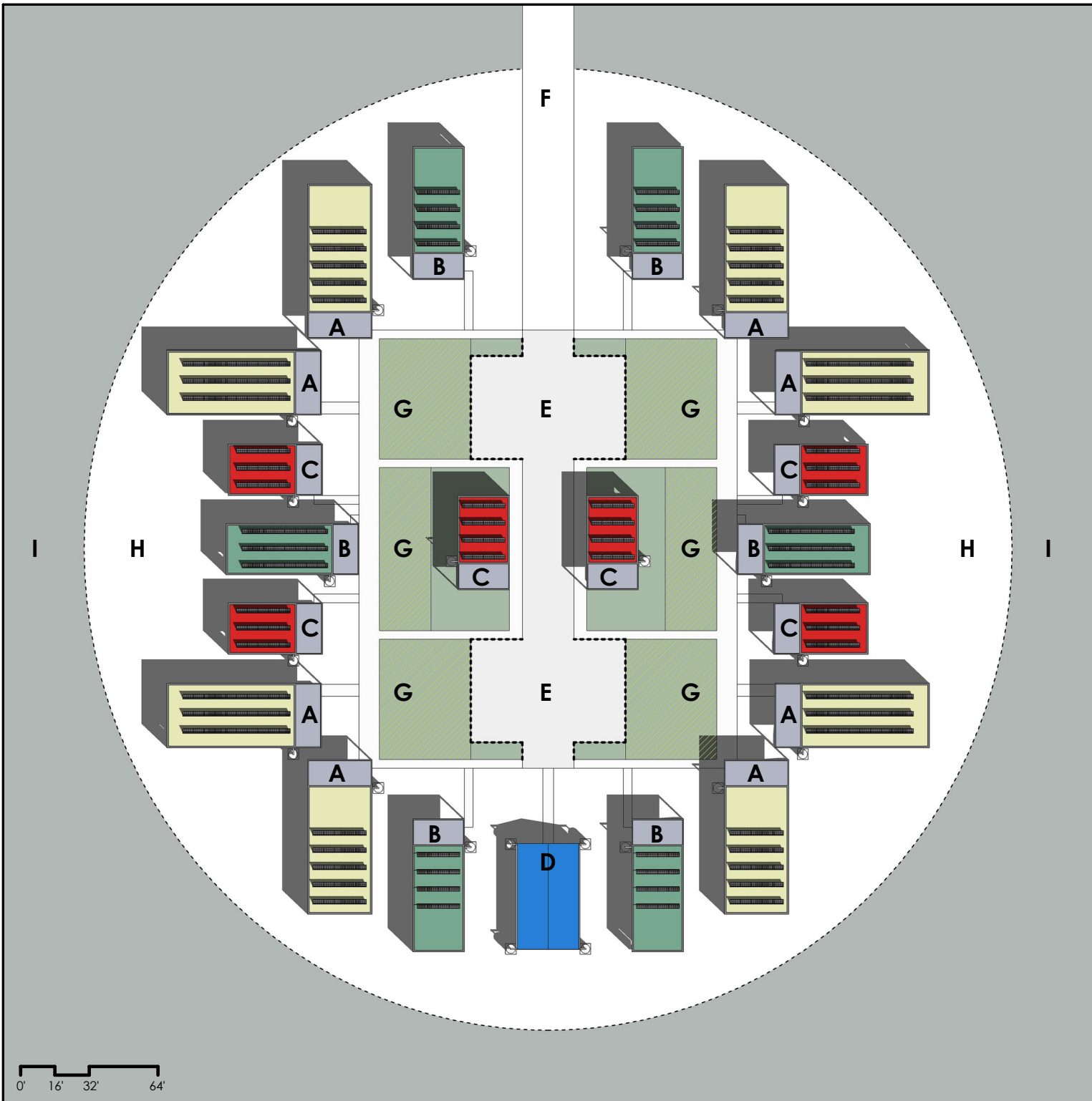
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December 2022

Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Leecompton, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Stan
785.393.0746
david@stanworks.com

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Housing Clusters

A Vision for the Future

- Typical Housing Cluster Layout**
- A. 1800 Square Foot Large Family Units
 - B. 1200 Square Foot Small Family Units
 - C. 800 Square Foot Single or Couples Units
 - D. Water Treatment and Commons Greenhouse
 - E. Screened Parking
 - F. Entry Drive
 - G. Communal Gardens and Other Commons Spaces
 - H. Cluster Yard
 - I. Native Plant Buffer

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R+A

Rockhill + Associates
 1546 East 350 Road
 Leecompton, KS 66650
 Dan Rockhill
 785.393.0747
 dan@rockhillandassociates.com
 David Stan
 785.393.0746
 david@stanworks.com



The Barn

A Vision for the Future

R+A

Rockhill + Associates
 1546 East 350 Road
 Leecompton, KS 66650
 Dan Rockhill
 785.393.0747
 dan@rockhillandassociates.com
 David Stan
 785.393.0746
 david@stanworks.com

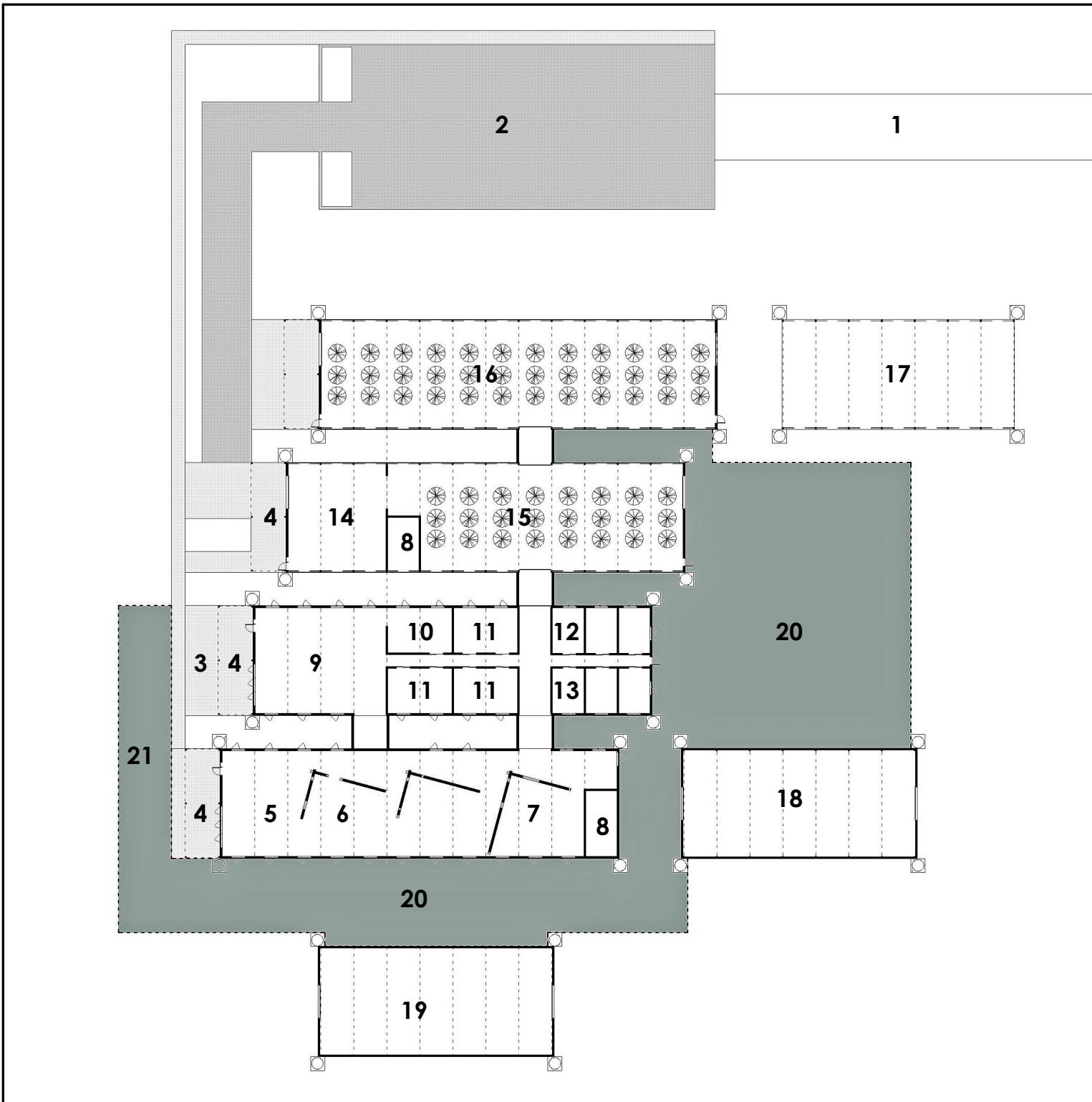
The Barn is the heart of the community. It will be a gathering place, a workplace, farm support as well as a place of education and community outreach

Building Spaces/Uses

- Market Space
- Bookstore
- Assembly Area for 300
- Kitchen
- Laboratory Spaces
- Classrooms
- Offices
- Tool shop
- Greenhouses
- Communal Animal Barn
- Hay Barn
- Outdoor Gathering Spaces for the Residents and the Public
- Animal and Farming Educational Areas

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The Barn Plan

A Vision for the Future



Rockhill + Associates
 1546 East 350 Road
 Leecompton, KS 66650
 Dan Rockhill
 785.393.0747
 dan@rockhillandassociates.com
 David Stan
 785.393.0746
 david@stanworks.com

Typical Housing Cluster Layout

1. Entry Drive
2. Parking
3. Public Outdoor Space
4. Covered Porches
5. Lobby
6. Market
7. Bookstore
8. Restrooms and Support
9. Assembly Hall
10. Kitchen
11. Laboratories
12. Classrooms
13. Offices
14. Tool Shop
15. Greenhouse
16. Greenhouse
17. Hay Barn
18. Animal Barn
19. Water Treatment
20. Barn Yard
21. Animal Education Yard

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Hay Barn

A Vision for the Future

The Hay Barn

The barn will have all the amenities necessary to run a functioning farm including a place to store feed hay.

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R+A

Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Leecompton, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Scan
785.393.0746
david@scanworks.com



Animal Barn and Yard

A Vision for the Future

The Animal Barn
 A communal barn that can be used by residents for farm animals is part of the central barn area.

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 Demonstration Farm + Off-the-grid Community
 Net Zero C6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Collaborative

R+A
 Rockhill + Associates
 1546 East 350 Road
 Leecompton, KS 66650
 Dan Rockhill
 785.393.0747
 dan@rockhillandassociates.com
 David Stan
 785.393.0746
 david@stanworks.com



The Market in The Barn

A Vision for the Future

Rockhill + Associates
 1546 East 350 Road
 Leecompton, KS 66650
 Dan Rockhill
 785.393.0747
 dan@rockhillandassociates.com
 David Stan
 785.393.0746
 david@stanworks.com



The Market Space

One of the spaces included in the barn will be a market place for selling goods produced on the farm as well as books and merchandise related to regenerative farming and Net Zero lining.

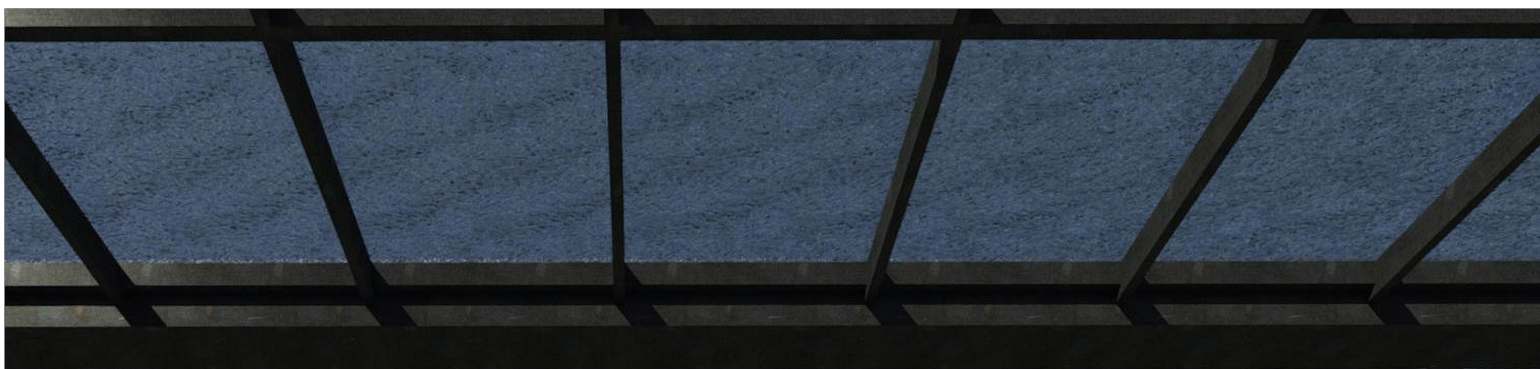
The buildings will be built with materials that will the lowest possible embodied carbon. Including the harvesting of materials, the fabrication of building components, delivery and installation.

Properly harvested wood will be used on the interior and will be come carbon vaults storing carbon in the wood through carbon sequestration until the wood burns or decays.

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Animal Education Yard

A Vision for the Future

The barn will include space for the residents of the community for agricultural needs - including to keep farm animals. These animals will also be part of the educational aspects of the community.

The regenerative farm techniques and the housing clusters will be visible from the barn so visitors can not only learn about the science and techniques used but observe them.

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R+A

Rockhill + Associates
 1546 East 350 Road
 Leecompton, KS 66650
 Dan Rockhill
 785.393.0747
 dan@rockhillandassociates.com
 David Stan
 785.393.0746
 david@stanworks.com



The Regenerative Farm
A Vision for the Future

Net Zero living will include housing and outdoor spaces for work and entertainment. It will be woven into the fabric of the regenerative farm which will include existing and new retention ponds that will store water cleaned by the land that not only produces crops but also filters the water which can be used for irrigation, enjoyment and can be treated for potable water.

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R+A
Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Leechman, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Stan
785.393.0746
david@stanworks.com



The Housing Units
 A Vision for the Future

A development that is self-sufficient, off grid and carbon neutral requires taking advantage of the local conditions, available technologies, smart material choices, efficient building techniques and re-thinking the way a house works.

A prefabricated kit of parts is built off site or in the barn by local workers. The windows and door locations will be located to maximize natural heating and cooling.

The building envelopes will be high-performance to assure air tight highly insulated interior spaces and will assure that moisture does not form and get trapped in the assemblies causing unhealthy conditions.

Photovoltaics will be on every roof and batteries will store the energy needed to power the buildings. High-efficiency fixtures and HVAC components will help minimize the energy needs.

The carbon embodied in each material will be chosen to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and create healthy interior spaces.

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R+A

Rockhill + Associates
 1546 East 350 Road
 Leecompton, KS 66650
 Dan Rockhill
 785.393.0747
 dan@rockhillandassociates.com

David Stein
 785.393.0746
 david@stanworks.com



The Housing Clusters

A Vision for the Future



Rockhill + Associates
 1546 East 350 Road
 Leecompton, KS 66650
 Dan Rockhill
 785.393.0747
 dan@rockhillandassociates.com
 David Stan
 785.393.0746
 david@stanworks.com

The housing units are in clusters of 20 with three different sized homes. The clusters will create a sense of community at human scale as the buildings frame commons spaces at the heart of each cluster. They also minimize the amount of road and the distances driven on site.

Each Cluster will:

- Have centralized, screened parking for the residents and guests of each cluster
- The center of each cluster will be used for commons gardens, play areas, etc.
- The parking, drives and walks will use pervious pavement when possible to minimize stormwater runoff
- Each cluster will harvest rain water from the impervious surfaces of the roofs and paving for gray water uses.
- Each cluster will include a commons greenhouse that can be used for communal uses and water treatment.

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Water Treatment

A Vision for the Future

Ecological design uses sunlight, biodiversity and natural processes to create clean water.

This strategy uses state-of-the-art greenhouses as well as constructed wetlands allowing plants to clean up water. A series of ecosystems work together to break down water contaminants offering a natural and eco-friendly alternative to costly traditional water treatment plants and further allowing the community to be off grid and self sufficient while also promoting a more healthy way to live in the future.

For further information and examples of completed projects around the world refer to the work of:

John Todd Ecological Design

www.toddecological.com

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R+A

Rockhill + Associates
 1546 East 350 Road
 Leecompton, KS 66650
 Dan Rockhill
 785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
 David Stan
 785.393.0746
david@stanworks.com



Ecovillage and Intentional Communities Around the World

Around the world people are collaborating to find ways for humans to live sustainably on a threatened planet. They all focus on different things. Some are spiritual, some emphasize equality, some are primarily focused on off grid living. Some strive to be completely self sufficient and live off the land through permaculture and others cooperate with local communities. Some are back to basics and living simple, others look to technology as a tool for change.

Precedence
A Vision for the Future

The most common approach to off grid sustainable living is the ecovillage. An ecovillage is typically an intentional community with the goal of becoming more socially, culturally, economically, and ecologically sustainable.

They all strive to have the least possible negative impact on the natural environment through design choices and human behavior.

The following pages show just a few examples of these communities around the world.

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December 2022



Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Leecompton, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Stan
785.393.0746
david@stanworks.com

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Demonstration Farm + Off-the-grid Community
Net Zero C6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Collaborative

The Findhorn Ecovillage, Scotland



Example Communities

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R+A

Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Lecompton, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Stan
785.393.0746
david@stanworks.com

The Findhorn Village and Institute works to create a demonstration of the links between the spiritual, social, ecological and economic aspects of life. They work toward a viable solution to the eradication of poverty and degradation of the environment, while combining a supportive social-cultural environment with a low-impact lifestyle.

The ecovillage is at the heart of the community and is an evolving model of sustainable living used as a teaching resource by a number of university, schools and professionals for research and education.

It features more than 100 ecologically-benign buildings supplied with energy by four wind turbines and boasts a biological Living Machine for the waste water treatment as well as a biomass boiler.

For more information:
www.ecovillagefindhorn.com

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Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage, Missouri, USA



Example Communities

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Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Lecompton, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Stan
785.393.0746
david@stanworks.com

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The Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage is a community formed in 1997 on 280 acre in northeast Missouri. They work to be a small, locally self-reliant town. All members of Dancing Rabbit agree to abide by ecological covenants and sustainability guidelines of the group. Residents are responsible for their own finances, food, housing, and other necessities.

There are coops the residents can be a part of that offer services for vehicles, food, health care, showers, phone, and internet. The town includes egalitarian communities, cohousing, and individual households.

The common desire for environmental sustainability underlies all decisions at Dancing Rabbit. The community's culture incorporates feminism, respect for the arts, consensus decision-making, nonviolence, and nonviolent communication.

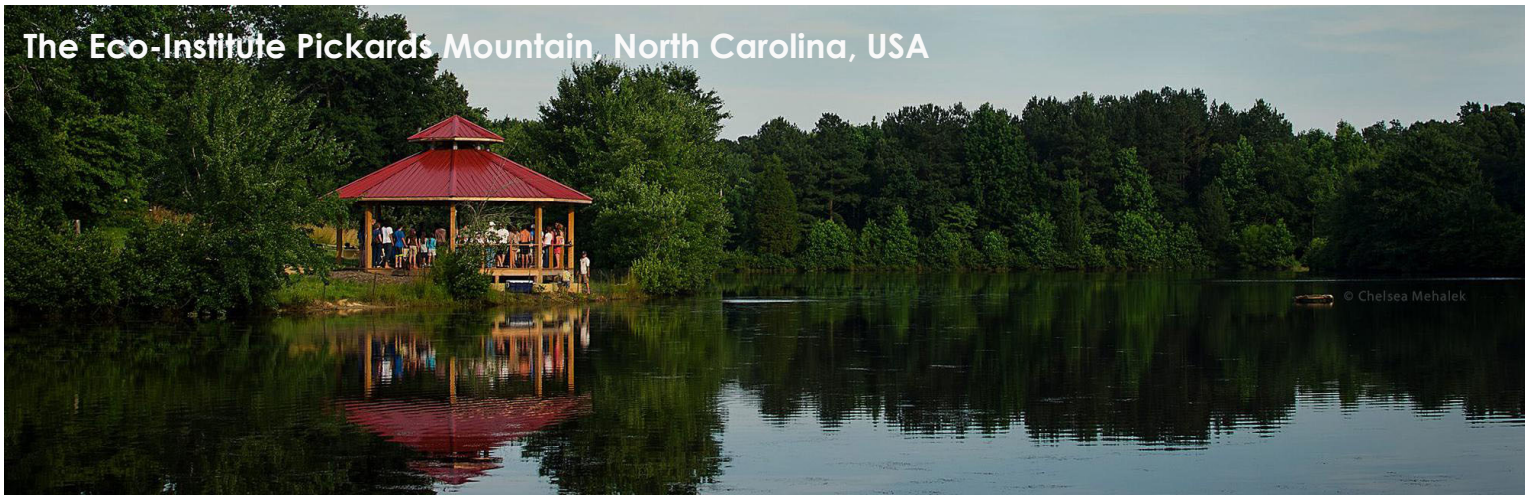
For more information:
www.dancingrabbit.org

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The Eco-Institute Pickards Mountain, North Carolina, USA



Example Communities

A Vision for the Future

Rockhill + Associates
1546 East 350 Road
Leecompton, KS 66650
Dan Rockhill
785.393.0747
dan@rockhillandassociates.com
David Stan
785.393.0746
david@stanworks.com



The Eco-Institute at Pickards Mountain refers to itself as an Earth Sanctuary and Learning Community that is dedicated to Healing the Human-Earth Relationship.

It is a non-profit educational farm and learning center on 28 acres in the Piedmont Valley of North Carolina.

They work to strengthen the skills for community resilience, spiritual ecology, and permaculture.

The Eco-Institute is a response to the detrimental effects of the industrial growth economy. They are promoting a life-sustaining society with the dream of a mutually enhancing human-Earth relationship.

For more information:
eco-institute.org

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December 2022

**A Regenerative Agriculture
Demonstration Farm + Off-the-grid Community**

Net Zero C6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Collaborative

ReGen Villages, Netherlands



The Future of Off Grid Living on a Changing Planet

The Net Zero C₆ Greenhouse Gas Emissions Collaborative is dedicated to the common sense efforts to live in harmony with the local climate. The buildings will be designed to take advantage of the sun's heat and the cooling breezes. Regenerative farming is based on a taking advantage of nature's ability to heal itself if we will permit it. This said there is much to be offered by being open to new technologies in building, farming, transportation, water treatment and energy.

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ReGen Villages is a master plan for a self-sustained housing neighborhood of 203 houses in the Netherlands. It is a model for the development of off-grid, integrated and resilient eco-villages that can power and feed self-reliant families around the world.

It is a holistic approach and combines a variety of innovative technologies, such as energy positive homes, renewable energy, energy storage, organic food production, vertical farming aquaponics/aeroponics, water management and waste-to-resource systems.

With the integration of such technologies the communities will respond to a growing population, increasing urbanization, scarcity of resources, the growing global food crisis as well as reducing the global CO₂ emission and reducing the burdens on municipal and national governments in dynamically changing planetary and economic times.

For more information:
www.regenvillages.com

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