Building a Community of Partnerships

“Good design is a community process requiring people who know and value the positive things that bring them together and hold them together.” (Orr, 2004)

Awakening to the Problem

“...the propensity of all industrial societies to grow beyond the limits of natural systems.” (Orr, 1992)

“The power of grassroots innovations and local entrepreneurship for creating intangible and economic values for rural areas and communities deserves increased attention in political decision making.” (Susser, Doring, & Beate, 2017)

Energy-based economic development is a process by which economic developers; energy policymakers and planners; government officials; industry, utility, and business leaders; and other stakeholders in a given region strive to increase energy efficiency or diversify energy resources in ways that contribute to job creation, job retention, and regional wealth creation. (Carley, Brown, Nourafshan, & Benami, 2011)

Looking for a Solution

“What is a Circular Economy?”

“Healthy, sustainable systems are those which are self-organizing, self-healing, and self-renewing, and that are able to learn in order to maintain and adapt themselves.” (Sterling, 2001)

“Transformative learning theory is based on the notion that we interpret our experiences in our own way, and that how we see the world is a result of our perceptions of our experiences.” (Taylor & Cranton, 2012)

“The question is not whether we will change; rather, the questions are how we will change and what form the transition will take.” (Lerch, 2017)

Theories to Research

Critical Social Theory
Public Goods Theory
Political Ecology Theories
Trust-related Theories
Complexity Theory
Systems/Network Theories
Sustainability Theories

Possible Research Methods

Participatory Action Research
Sustainability Research
Community-based Research
Collaborative Inquiry Research

Working Together to Find The Answer

First Year Concept Poster
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EDSU 904
Artifact #2, Competency #1
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References:


Abstract

This concept poster represents both the linear and non-linear growth experienced in the program this first year. It is linear in the sense it is a continuum of experiences gained throughout my life that point towards the importance of community action and collaboration to deliver environmental, social and economic sustainability. Throughout the year, a variety of experiences – beginning with the residency that introduced me to my peers and colleagues and ending with a more disciplined and refined research focus incorporating several U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The non-linear path was much less straightforward, winding and wending around new concepts like complexity theory, self-sustaining systems, transformative learning, ecological literacy, place-based learning, etc. The literary journey, while messy, brought me to the same path as the linear and together provide a holism to guide further research.