



Emerging Ecology

Promoting a Worldview for the Next Generations' Solutions

Progress Report
2013—2020

Guiding Purpose

Emerging Ecology demonstrates how creative responses to 21st Century social and ecological problems stem from individuals with contemporary and expansive worldviews. Substantive social change arises when individuals are equipped with skills and methods for actions that integrate the human and natural worlds. Through practical creation of sustainable structures of community participation, participants in Emerging Ecology's programs become catalysts for new patterns of social interaction.

Practical Mission

Emerging Ecology conducts programs for current and aspiring community leaders. The programs combine contextual workshops, practical action projects and group methods training.

These programs focus on three specific outcomes:

1. Implementing ecologically sustainable action plans,
2. Utilizing participatory community processes and
3. Developing personal skills by which individuals become engaged citizens working together within diverse communities.

Unique Characteristics

Emerging Ecology programs offer three distinct attributes:

1. They directly address connection between worldview and action, especially at the local level, in ways that are easily understood,
2. They provide practical skills for working together in groups with diverse cultural and economic backgrounds and
3. They motivate community and organizational leaders to conduct programs that are effective and practical.

Organizational History

Emerging Ecology started with a handshake. Tim Leisman and Nelson Stover met in May 2013 and began the process of forming an organization committed to long-term ecological responsibility at the local level. When joined by Martha Jane Stover and Lou Gordh, the four incorporators envisioned an organization that would draw on the contextual perspectives of Thomas Berry and the methodological wisdom of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) – particularly their *Technology of Participation (ToP)*[®] to conduct a wide range of programs. Since its incorporation in 2013 and receipt of 501-C-3 tax exempt status in 2014, the work of Emerging Ecology has been managed by a self-perpetuating Board of 8 or 9 members. Highlights of the results of the first seven years of Emerging Ecology's work are contained in this report.



Conducting Programs that Build Mutually Enhancing Relationships Between People and Planet

Emerging Ecology's activities are divided into four arenas: Contextual Programs, Public Performances, Capacity Building, and the Global Classroom. Together, this spectrum of programming is designed to enable people of diverse cultures and educational background to find creative ways to contribute to the ever-unfolding ecological, cultural, and social forms which comprise the new foundations of life on Planet Earth in the 21st Century.

Contextual Programs

Emerging Ecology's first programs centered on providing experiences and conversations which engaged participants in exploring the Universe Wide and History Long context in which everyone lives and makes decisions about their individual actions and the future of the Planet. The group at the right spent a weekend visiting the fossil site in Gray, TN where the remains of large extinct mammals spark the imagination to evoke images of transformation.



Another series of programs, the Worldview Salons, were held on Sunday afternoons. During these lively conversations and workshops, the participants helped build the contextual framework on which later Emerging Ecology programs would be built. The group expanded earlier work of the ICA's Social Process Triangles so that they included both the natural world and the interior dimensions. Their work also clarified the changing worldviews as human society journeyed from wandering bands to an interconnected global society.



Thomas Berry Award Recipients 2005-2014

Public Performances

Emerging Ecology worked with the Greensboro Public Library, the family of Thomas Berry and other recipients of the Thomas Berry Award to continue this tradition through 2019. As both the fiscal agent and active committee member, Emerging Ecology enabled the presentation events to continue to expose the greater Greensboro community to the important work of Thomas Berry.

Dance presentations of "Midsummer Moon" were organized to tell the story of the Universe in non-verbal forms. Emerging Ecology also commissioned recordings of three songs from early ICA songbooks which evoke the wonder of participating in grassroots social transformation.

Capacity Building

Emerging Ecology's Capacity Building programs are designed to demonstrate practical manifestations of creative ways for individuals, neighborhoods and organizations to respond to the new realities of the 21st Century. In so doing, Thomas Berry's challenge to embody the Great Work of our time is given visible form.

In partnership with Greensboro Beautiful, Inc., Tiny House Development Corporation and Environmental Stewardship Greensboro, Emerging Ecology helped secure and manage a \$44,000 project to purchase and operate a polystyrene foam (Styrofoam®) densifier in Greensboro. In the first five months of operation, four tons of foam were densified into 30# ingots which will be used to make furniture and other recyclable household items.

Beginning in 2019, Emerging Ecology launched an Enlivening Neighborhoods Project to enable communities across Guilford County to become demonstrations of ecological responsibility. Scholarships were provided for several people to attend ICA's ToP training courses. Presentations were made to neighborhood groups and previous work by greenschemes and ICA @ Greensboro was adapted to be suitable for virtual workshops. This work will provide a foundation for Emerging Ecology programing 2021 and after.

Global Classroom

The Global Classroom provides both personal and electronic interchanges between students and adults in North Carolina and western Maharashtra, India. What originally began as Skype calls between high school students has been expanded into more frequent conversations using WhatsApp and direct visits from Guilford College students. Over the past seven years, people associated with Emerging Ecology have made five trips to ICA India's Ashram Shalla at Chikhale. These delegations to the Chikhale School have included six college students and their professor along with ten other adults interested in supporting the work of the school and experiencing urban and rural India on a first-hand basis. In addition, donors have contributed over \$27,000 to enrich the learning experience of the Chikhale students and provide for the on-going upkeep of the school facility which provides residential learning for 650 tribal students from grades 1 through 12.

For the Chikhale Students, the Global Classroom provides an important exposure to the wider world whose influences will shape their families and careers. The project also builds the English language capacity of both students and faculty. Visitors to Chikhale have a chance to experience the massive transition which is required as individuals make the journey from the tribal culture of previous centuries into the global society of today.

Students from North America are exposed to the diverse cultures and energetic citizens of the emerging global community which will be working together to create the society for future generations.



Dr. Lavon Williams discusses smartphone technology with Chikhale School Students in 2017.

Financial Report 2013 – 2020

Income	
Grants	23,394.00
Sales of Books and Artwork	1,013.36
Program Fees	12,003.91
Individual Donations	<u>51,666.22</u>
Total Income	\$88,083.07
Expenses	
Direct Grants to the Chikhale School	27,792.87
Support of Thomas Berry Awards and Foam Densification Project	22,201.69
Programs and General Operations (Includes travel to support the Chikhale School)	<u>29,250.53</u>
Total Expenses	\$79,245.09
Cash on Hand as of December 31, 2020	
Available for Future Programs	7,837.98
Legacy Endowment for Long-range Viability	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Cash Reserves	\$8,837.98

Structural Affiliations

Emerging Ecology joined ICA International (ICA I) as an Associate Member in 2015. ICA I has like-minded organizations on every continent and maintains Consultative Status II with the UN's Economic and Social Council.

Emerging Ecology was a founding partner in the Greensboro Foam Densification Project which provides an important service to Guilford County and the Planet.

greenschemes™ provides consulting services to Emerging Ecology especially relative to workshop procedures and conversation design using ICA's *Technology of Participation (ToP)*® methods.

Emerging Ecology maintains an active membership in the Guilford County Non-Profit Consortium which provides technical expertise and interchange for nonprofits of all sizes and interests.

Through its association with the Solar Power Now initiative, Emerging Ecology has helped encourage the Greensboro City Council to adopt a resolution to move toward 100% clean, renewable energy by 2040.

On-going Support

Financial contributions for the specific projects and general operations of Emerging Ecology can be made on-line at www.EmergingEcology.org/Donate or by clicking on the QR code at the right. Checks, payable to Emerging Ecology, can be mailed to 5911 Western Trail, Greensboro, NC 27410. For further information email NStover@EmergingEcology.org.

