



# Book Information

## Gaian Economics Living Well Within Planetary Limits

Edited by Jonathan Dawson, Ross Jackson & Helena Norberg-Hodge

*Gaian Economics* is the second volume in the Four Keys to Sustainable Communities series and sets out to explore how we can develop healthy and abundant societies in harmony with our finite planetary resources.

Using contributions from a wealth of authors (including *Small is Beautiful's* E.F. Schumacher, eco-philosopher Joanna Macy and Rob Hopkins of the Transition movement), the editors address ways of reducing our consumption to levels that enable natural systems to self-regenerate and to do so in ways that permit a high quality of life - that we live within our means and that we live well.

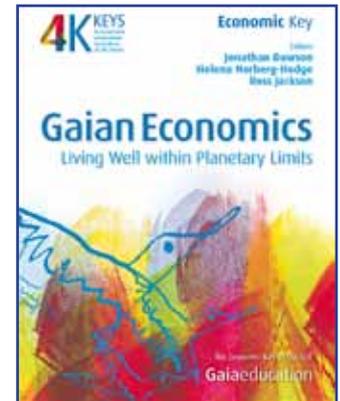
Since the advent of the Scientific Era in the 16th century, humans have stood apart from the rest of nature, seeking to manipulate it for their benefit. Thus, we have learned to refer to the natural world as 'the environment' and to see it, in economic terms, as little more than a bank of resources to be transformed into products for human use and pleasure. This has brought us to the brink of collapse, with natural systems straining under the weight of the population and the levels at which we are consuming.

We are, however, on the threshold of a shift into a new way of seeing and understanding the world and our place within it - called, by some, the 'Ecological Age'. It will be characterised by a new understanding of our place as a thread in the Web of Life, of our interconnectedness with all other living things.

*Gaian Economics* offers ways forwards towards this Ecological Age, giving suggests for how it may take shape, and how it would work.

The Four Keys represent the four dimensions of sustainable design—the Worldview, the Social, the Ecological and the Economic. This series is endorsed by UNESCO and is an official contribution to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

The other books of the series are *Beyond You and Me*; *Designing Ecological Habitats*; and *The Song of the Earth*



Published: 2010

ISBN: 978-1-85623-056-8

245mm x 190mm

Illustrations: 8 b/w tables & graphs

Paperback

256pp

£14.95

File:

Economics

Environment

Business

Social

The Publisher:

Permanent Publications  
Over 40 titles offering  
inspiration for self reliance

Winners of The Queen's Award for  
Enterprise in the Sustainable  
Development category (2008)

### PUBLISHERS

Permanent Publications  
The Sustainability Centre  
East Meon, Hampshire GU32 1HR  
Tel: 01730 823 311  
Fax: 01730 823 322  
Email: [info@permaculture.co.uk](mailto:info@permaculture.co.uk)  
Web: [www.permanentpublications.co.uk](http://www.permanentpublications.co.uk)  
Magazine: [www.permaculture.co.uk](http://www.permaculture.co.uk)

TRADE/DISTRIBUTION ENQUIRIES TO [INFO@PERMACULTURE.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@PERMACULTURE.CO.UK)



## What people are saying about GAIAN ECONOMICS

The challenge that lies before us today as a global civilization is to find a way of living well within our means. This will require us to reorientate our values away from consumerism and towards life-affirming sustainability; to make do with less and to make much better and more efficient use of what we have; and to create systems that help us live and stay in harmony with our planet.

This publication provides a wealth of views and perspectives. Containing contributions from some of today's most eminent theorists and most effective activists, it represents an overview of cutting edge thinking and practice in the evolution of an economy that serves the needs of people and planet. We hope that this reader will both inspire and empower people to learn their way to sustainability.

*From the Foreword by Mark Richmond Director, Division for the Coordination of UN Priorities in Education UNESCO Education Sector*

A useful collection of articles explaining many aspects of this vital subject, I'd recommend this book for anyone wishing to understand the essential subject of economics for a sustainable planet, and alternative possibilities for our collective future.

*Stefan Geyer is Chairman of the Permaculture Association (Britain)*

### ABOUT THE EDITORS:

Jonathan Dawson is a sustainability educator and activist. He has spent much of the last 20 years working in Africa and South Asia as a researcher, author, project manager and consultant, primarily in the field of small enterprise and community economic development. He lives at the Findhorn ecovillage, where he teaches sustainability studies up to undergraduate level. He is former president of the Global Ecovillage Network and former Executive Secretary of GEN-Europe. He is author of *Ecovillages: New Frontiers for Sustainability*.



Helena Norberg-Hodge is a leading analyst of the impact of the global economy on cultures around the world. She is founder and director of the International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC), co-founder of the International Forum on Globalization, and is a recipient of the prestigious Right Livelihood Award. She is director of the Ladakh Project, renowned for its twenty-five years of groundbreaking work in sustainable development on the Tibetan plateau, an experience which led her to write the inspirational classic, *Ancient Futures: Learning from Ladakh*.

Ross Jackson, PhD, has for many years been an innovative leader in both the business and NGO worlds. He is chairman of Gaia Trust, a Danish-based charitable entity he co-founded in 1987 to promote a more sustainable and spiritual world. In his capacity as Gaia Trust Chairman, Ross, together with his Danish wife Hildur, is co-founder and major funder of the Global Ecovillage Network, (GEN) and Gaia Education and has supported hundreds of sustainability projects in dozens of countries over the years. He is author of *And We ARE Doing it: Building an Ecovillage Future*, the story of his conversion from businessman to environmental activist.



The list of contributing writers reads as a Who's Who of sustainable living thinkers: Rob Hopkins of the Transition Town movement, Vandana Shiv, David Korten, David Fleming, Margrit Kennedy, Hazel Henderson, E.F. Schumacher, Joanna Macy, Hildur Jackson, Richard Heinberg, Diana Leafe Christian, Alex Walker, Tony Sima and Maddy Harland, the editor of *Permaculture Magazine* ([www.permaculture.co.uk](http://www.permaculture.co.uk)).