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## Green Economics: A Decentralist, Bioregionalist, Globalist Agenda

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Our nation state systems are in transition toward a new world order that is a synthesis of both the political and the economic rights that have been advanced throughout the world during the past two centuries. On one hand the nation state is too large and on the other too small for the undertakings necessary to lead us into the 21st century. We must both and at the same time decentralize certain political and economic functions to more local levels and appropriately centralize certain functions to the global level.

Additionally, if the Green movement is to be consistent with its earth-centered values, it must as a whole endorse bioregionalism. If bioregionalism is to be internally and externally consistent with itself, it must in turn adopt an appropriate system of political and economic governance. The bioregion would then serve as an intermediary level between the local and the global.

A Green economic agenda in a decentralist, bioregionalist, and globalist framework would be a synthesis of the highest values of right and left. As such, it would be capable of uniting caring and thoughtful people from both sides of the body politic. The concern is for both efficiency and individual freedom in economic production and exchange as well as fairness in the overall distribution of wealth and just rewards for labor of all kinds.

The production and exchange of wealth in any society takes place within the constructs and constraints of two major systems: land tenure and money. In the United States, 3% of the population owns 95% of the private land, the top 10% owns 86% of all net financial assets, and 5% owns virtually all the capital wealth. To solve this maldistribution of wealth problem, the foundational underpinnings of the economy must be set on the moral and ethical ground of basic fairness.

A financial elite should not control the money system. Non-profit banks should issue and retire currency and should loan to the kinds of business enterprises which will broadly distribute ownership of wealth. The government's role would simply be to establish and enforce a standard monetary unit applicable to the issuance of currency.

We need a fundamental reorientation in our system of land tenure to provide a framework for the ecological use of land and to give effective recognition to the fact that land is a common heritage to which everyone is equally entitled.

Green taxation policy should be rooted in an ethic of fair rights to the earth for all. The dual problems of territorial conflict and the maldistribution of wealth can thus be addressed at their source. An overall policy of full ground rent collection, in lieu of most other forms of taxation, should be implemented whereby the socially created value of surface landsites and the unearned value of the oil and mineral deposits of the earth are shared by all. Ground rent is thus the appropriate revenue source for funding ecological restoration efforts and peacekeeping through world law. Dividends can also be refunded directly back to the people.

Within the framework of sound and ethical systems of land tenure and money, we envision a three-tier economy. Natural monopolies such as transportation, communications, and certain utilities and large scale key industries such as steel and other forms of heavy manufacturing should have a high degree of social input and control on the most local, decentralized level feasible.

The second tier consists of cooperatives and worker-owned industries and businesses formed through freedom of association and choice rather than through coercive mandates. The third tier is that of individual and family owned small businesses - shops, restaurants, services, and such.

Environmental costs should be factored into the total costs of production and polluters should be heavily penalized. While our economic goal is the production of high quality goods and services that satisfy genuine human needs, economic production is not an end in itself. Ultimately, economic production must further the evolution and development of the human being on the emotional, mental and spiritual planes.

Nobel Prize  
Winner  
Wangari  
Maathai  
planting a  
tree in Kenya.

