

# Introduction

Volumes 1 and 2 in this series address how to find your place in intentional community by either creating or joining one. But how can this experience—and communities themselves—last past the “honeymoon” phase? How can groups turn long-term ideals into reality within their lives together?

A combination of “soft” and “hard” skills and systems must be present for intentional communities and their members to endure, evolve, and thrive. Sustainability in both human and ecological relationships is key to developing a cooperative culture that lasts—and is the focus of *Wisdom of Communities Volumes 3 and 4*.

The stories in this final volume focus on the “hard,” practical skills and approaches that allow communitarians to live more ecologically now while preparing for the future. Authors share experiences, tools, advice, and perspectives that will benefit anyone who wants to help their community endure through changing local and planetary conditions.

Articles explore the nuts and bolts of developing eco-resilience: food, water, and permaculture; shelter and eco-building; energy and ecological footprint; ecovillage design and implementation; eco-education; and finding resilience in cooperative culture. These areas will prove more and more essential in allowing communities to navigate changing circumstances on our planet while growing into new, regenerative ways of living. Learning about these “hard” sustainability skills from others engaged in similar work can help communities immeasurably.

All articles are drawn from the past decade of COMMUNITIES magazine. For this volume we drew heavily from our specifically eco-themed issues, of which we publish at least one a year. Some of these issues proved so popular that they are out of print and available (until now) only digitally.

Every issue of COMMUNITIES contains further treatments of these and similar themes, so we hope that you’ll not only learn from these past stories, but also keep up with new ones by subscribing to the magazine ([ic.org/subscribe](http://ic.org/subscribe)).

Thanks for making use of these resources, and good luck on your community journey!

Chris Roth  
Editor, COMMUNITIES  
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# SUSTAINABILITY IN COMMUNITY

(Wisdom of Communities, Volume 4)

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