Building Sustainable Local Economies
Preliminary Reading List 2007

General Readings

An Economics of Peace
Essays by E. F. Schumacher, Wendell Berry and Susan Witt
Three essays that sound a clear call for alternative economic systems as a means to a lasting peace the world over.

Cities and the Wealth of Nations, by Jane Jacobs
Article published in The Atlantic Monthly, March 1984

The Economy of Regions, by Jane Jacobs
1983 Annual E. F. Schumacher Lectures

Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in a Global Age (excerpts)

Land: The Community Land Trust Model

Land: Challenge and Opportunity, by Robert Swann and Susan Witt
Describes various working applications of the community land trust approach to land tenure, including affordable housing, affordable access to land for farmers, ecologically based land use planning, and safe-guarding of traditionally used lands by and for indigenous peoples.

A New Lease On Farmland: Assuring a Future for Farming in the Northeast
Published by the Schumacher Center for a New Economics
A guide to using the Community Land Trust model to ensure that farmland is used productively and sustainably over the long-term.

Capitalism, the Commons, and Divine Right, by Peter Barnes
2003 Annual E. F. Schumacher Lecture
A look at the potential for expanding the role and the rights of the commons. Barnes suggests that commons should be held in trusts for the benefit of current and future generations, as a way of counteracting the power of the market and its search for short-term private profits.

The Wisdom That Builds Community, by Greg Watson
1997 Annual E. F. Schumacher Lecture
Greg Watson tells the story of the Dudley Street Community Land Trust, which reinvigorated neighborhood pride and now supports hundreds of units of renovated owner-occupied homes, a productive greenhouse, and locally-owned businesses.

Community Partnership Saves Family Farm, by Susan Witt

Indian Line Farm Land Use Plan
An example land use plan used to clarify the possible uses, and limits to use, on a piece of land held in a community land trust.

Capital: Creating Community Financing Systems

Printing Money, Making Change: The Future of Local Currencies, by Susan Witt
Published in Orion Afield, Autumn 1998


Local Currencies in the 21st Century, by Susan Witt and Christopher Lindstrom
Published in *In Business*, July/August 2004

*Chapter 25: "Building a Community Banking System"* by Robert Swann

**Congressional Testimony about SHARE before the House Select Committee on Hunger** by Susan Witt (1988)

**What's Your Money Doing Tonight?** by Fred Zahradnik  
Published in *New Farm*, January 1984

**Labor: Self-management and Diversification of Wealth**

*A Direct Stake in Economic Life: Worker-Owned Firms*  
An excerpt from *America Beyond Capitalism*, by Gar Alperovitz (Wiley, 2005)

*Chapter 18: "Workplace Democratization" and Chapter 19: "Worker-Managed Enterprises: Legal Shells, Structures, and Financing"* by C. George Benello

**Additional Readings for 2007 Seminar:**

**Small Is Beautiful: Economics As If People Mattered**, by E. F. Schumacher  


*Chapter 6: The Self-Regulating Market and the Fictitious Commodities: Labor, Land, and Money*


**From the Ground Up: Essays on Grassroots & Workplace Democracy**  


**A Revolution in Every Cup!** by Elizabeth Schwartzapfel, *Rhode Island Monthly*, April 2006.
