

EcoVillage Ithaca

Ithaca, New York, U.S.



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Size:

175 acres, 100 units, 225 people

Dates:



1991 – 2013






Project Team:

Cofounders: Liz Walker and Joan Bokaer; Engineers: Taitem Engineering

EcoVillage Ithaca is a pioneering eco-village on former greenfield/agricultural land two miles from the town of Ithaca, New York. It provides affordable net-zero energy homes and apartments, minimizes waste and consumption of resources, creates a vibrant and diverse community, and builds educational relationships with the broader community.

Goals & Strategies

 Place	
Limits to Growth	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Strategies not reported.
Food	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Community gardens. Two organic farms producing food for the community. Educational opportunities for residents.
Habitat	Goals: Promote biodiversity, reduce ecological footprint by 70%. Strategies: 80% of the site is dedicated open space. 55 acres are placed in a conservation easement. Prairie landscape, permaculture, reforestation by an arborist.
Transportation	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Cars restricted to the perimeter of the community. Car sharing and carpooling promoted. Walking path within community. Must drive to services.
 Water	

Water	Goals: Use 1/3 of typical development consumption. Strategies: Rainwater collection. Composting toilets. Greywater infrastructure has been installed in units and awaits funding for completion.
 Energy	
Energy	Goals: Densely clustered net-zero energy community. Biomass technologies under study for application. Strategies: Net-zero energy-ready. Passive solar design strategies. Passive house envelope principles. Solar light tubes. Grid-tied solar PV. Community solar hot water. Heat exchange ventilation. 1 high-efficiency gas boiler per 6-8 homes. Energy Star appliances. The community monitors and reports energy consumption and continually seeks improvements.
 Health + Happiness (Details not provided by researchers)	
 Materials	
Embodied Energy & Carbon	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Recycled and recyclable materials used in construction and insulation. Salvaged materials. Selection of non-toxic materials.
Waste	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Greywater recycling. Composting, recycling services.
 Equity	
Neighborhood & Access	Goals: Affordable rentals available. A community for all ages. Promote sharing of resources between residents. Strategies: Cohousing. Apartment building, lots for purchase. Pedestrian-oriented.
Access to Nature	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Playgrounds.
Access to Community Services	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Community house and community center. Community members volunteer for running and maintaining the EcoVillage. Annual community report and newsletter updates on community.
 Beauty	(Details not provided by researchers)

> See next page for Performance Levels achieved

Performance Levels Achieved:

	Standard	Good	Better	Living	Regenerative
Place					
Limits to Growth					
Food					
Habitat					
Transportation					
Water					
Energy					
Health + Happiness					
Civilized Environment					
Neighborhood Design					
Biophilia					
Resilient Connections					
Materials					
Material Plan					
Embodied Energy & Carbon					
Waste					
Equity					
Neighborhood & Access					
Access to Nature					
Access to Community Services					
Investment					
Beauty					
Beauty & Spirit	Not specified				
Inspiration					

Sources:

<https://ecovillageithaca.org>

<https://inhabitat.com/ecovillage-at-ithaca-offers-sustainable-living-in-a-community-setting/>

<https://www.ic.org/directory/ecovillage-at-ithaca/>

**Note: This case study was developed using found information.*

21st Century Development is a model for the creation of regenerative communities that strives to provide a healthy environment for all people and living systems now and in a dynamic future.

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