



CoHo Ecovillage • 1975 SE Crystal Lake Dr #101 • Corvallis, OR 97333

## CoHo Vision, Values and Purpose Statement

### Vision

CoHo is a **cohousing community** that is designed to encourage interactions between people and enrich our lives with the pleasure of **cooperation** and **friendship**. We care about the earth and are committed to **environmentally sustainable** practices and building techniques. Our multigenerational community welcomes **diversity** and values the input of each person.

### Values

#### Sharing Our Lives

Coho is a community in which we share work, celebrations, laughter and tears. We support each other through the milestones of life. We sustain each other as we learn, raise children, and become wise elders. We strive to build a community where we can all belong for a lifetime.

#### Environmental Consciousness

We strive to make our community as environmentally sustainable as possible, while still providing affordable housing. We weigh long-term environmental impacts as we decide how to create our village. We support each other in making sound day-to-day living choices that reduce our impact on the earth. We recycle, reuse, and share resources whenever possible.

#### A Diverse Community

CoHo is committed to creating a diverse cohousing community. We embrace diversity in race, age, income level, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnicity and physical ability. We honor our differences and support the uniqueness and growth of each person. We respect individual beliefs and encourage diverse traditions, celebrations and explorations of the spirit.

### **Safety and Trust**

A feeling of safety and trust is a key component of community. We foster this element within our community by respecting each other's beliefs, accepting each other as individuals, and communicating openly and honestly. We build a safe and nurturing village for everyone, and especially for our children. We have governance structures and processes that maintain the social community and the physical spaces.

### **Consensus Decision Making**

We use the consensus decision-making process because we value every member's participation and inherent wisdom. Consensus empowers each of us as individuals while we work toward furthering the community's needs and goals. Communication and consensus decision-making skills are taught to and practiced by everyone in the community.

### **Balancing Community and Privacy**

We value both community and privacy and seek to have a balance between the two. We have shared spaces, such as the common house, in which we can participate in vegetarian common meals, celebrations, and activities. We also have the independent private space of our own homes.

### **Being a Part of the Larger Community**

We value the riches that being part of the Corvallis community brings to us. We seek healthy interactions with our neighbors, with the Corvallis community and the larger state and global communities. We strive to be an inspirational resource locally, and a bridge to other communities in the world at large.

### **Outdoor Spaces**

CoHo includes both community and personal outdoor spaces. Gardens, natural spaces, landscaping, and architectural design all work together to create a unique sense of place. Working together in the garden fosters our connection to the earth, and our connection to each other. We work to create an aesthetically pleasing place to live.

### **The Interconnectedness of Life**

We recognize that we are a part of the interconnected web of life, so we strive to treat the natural community with responsibility and respect. We consider this community when making decisions. We create and maintain habitat for native plants and animals.

### **De-emphasizing the Automobile**

To encourage connections between people and to reduce environmental impacts, we commit to de-emphasizing the automobile. CoHo is a pedestrian-oriented community. Parking and streets are on the periphery of the community. We encourage the use of alternative means of transportation by locating our community within walking distance of the bus line and within biking distance of downtown Corvallis.

### **Integrating Livelihood and Life**

We believe that integrating our personal lives and livelihoods is beneficial, and bringing our work to our home is one step in achieving that. We include space for cottage industries, home offices and artistic endeavors where funding and building code allow. CoHo is not an income-sharing community.

**continue to Purpose Statement on next page**

## Purpose Statement

**We partner as ecovillage neighbors to**

- enrich our lives  
and refresh our spirits  
through connection and cooperation
- meet economic and environmental challenges  
with creativity and resilience
- share the power of community to  
cultivate social and ecological sustainability  
within CoHo, the broader community,  
and the world

**(Explanatory text that follows was not adopted by consensus)**

This Purpose Statement highlights four themes from Step 1 - (Appreciative Inquiry) of our 2010 Long-Range Planning Process: 1) social sustainability - living/playing together, 2) task focus - working together, 3) ecological sustainability, and 4 ) modeling for others.

**We partner as ecovillage neighbors to...**

The first phrase is "arching over" the other statements because it is the "overarching" core of our purpose and provides the context for the rest of the statement.

We are neighbors in an ecovillage, partnering together by consciously choosing to collaborate in a new way of living. The dual meaning of "partner" also captures two of the themes--social sustainability and task focus. In a social context, we have a deep connection and commitment to our "life partners." In a work context, a "partnership" is created by individuals who collectively share their talents to create a successful joint venture.

The next statements flow from this starting premise. We connect and form community. We work as a community to face common challenges. We share how community leads to sustainability and connects us with a broader circle of community. And the cycle continues.

**...enrich our lives and refresh our spirits through connection and cooperation**

Social sustainability is the foundation of community. Through everyday connection and cooperation, we have deeper, fuller lives. We look to CoHo for joy, satisfaction, intersections (on the path and elsewhere). CoHo is home.

**...meet economic and environmental challenges with creativity and resilience**

Significant challenges impact our world. We band together as a community to create positive responses and generate the resilience to address change.

**...share the power of community to cultivate social and ecological sustainability within CoHo, the broader community, and the world**

Community is the key to living sustainably. We are energized and empowered within our own community and openly share our learning with ever-widening circles.

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