

# Reflections on Community Conversations at the Local level

- **ACTION:** To initiate social discourse that supports global solidarity & local action.
- A small group from **6 Rural Communities** met several times to determine the
  - **What,**
  - **Where**
  - **How** of starting 'public' conversations exploring issues of human & environmental well-being



# Our Process

- **Creating & Testing tools geared to initiate conversations around human & Environmental Wellbeing**
  - Questionnaires to assess one's reality regarding well-being
  - Creating Topic Cards to frame Well-Being Issues & stimulate brainstorming/consultation
  - Creating a safe public space conducive to consultation
  - Attract people to such a meeting

## Our Obstacles Moving into Public Sphere

- Apprehension
- Lack of confidence
- Lack of certainty regarding Interest/awareness in our communities

# Our Actual 'Lines of Action'

## First Step

### Exploration of Community Well-Being Topics for Community Conversations

Human Well-Being & BASIC NEEDS seemed a good starting point.



### A Gallery of Potential Community Vision Topics

Pick 1 or 2 topics to brainstorm & consult on *(Topic cards provided)*

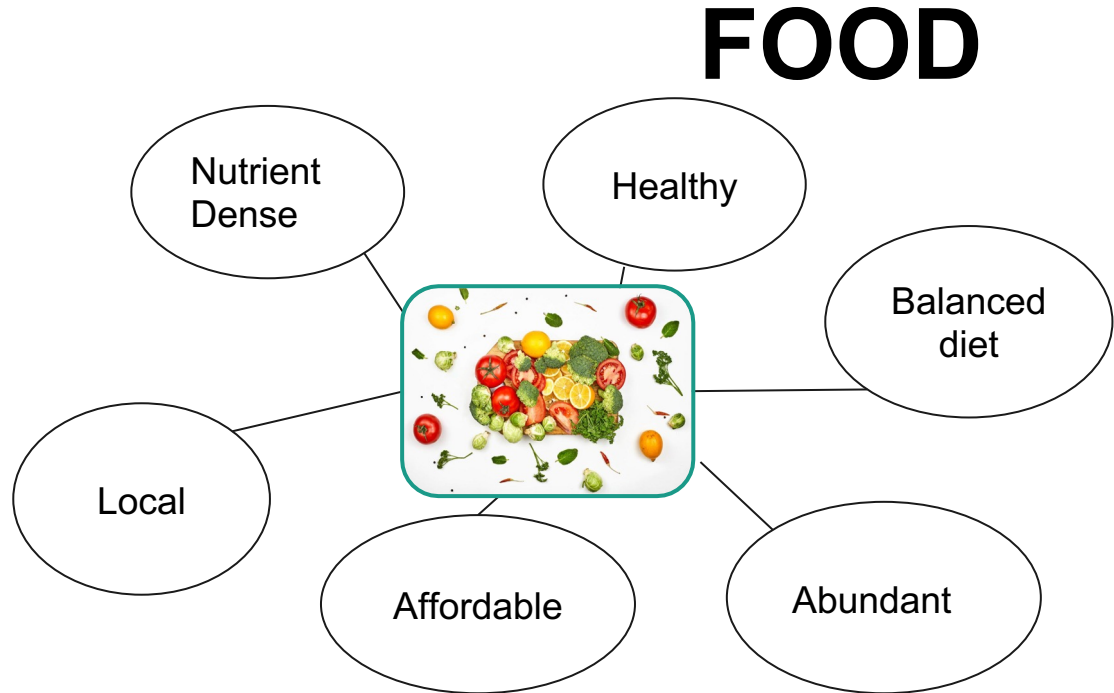
In a sustainable, thriving community.....

- Food
- Health
- Shelter
- Air
- Land & Soil
- Water
- Knowledge & Education
- Work & Employment
- Spiritual Capital
- The Family Unit
- Community
- The Commons
- Carbon
- Biodiversity
- Transportation
- Globalization
- Regional/Local Economies
- Energy
- The Arts
- Fiber & Clothing

## Second Step:

**PRACTICE** elevating conversations around human & environmental well-being. Discovered that **Food & Shelter** were already part of the public discourse & thus good places to start.

*Family*  
*Friends*  
*Home Visits*  
*Reflection Meetings*  
*In our communities*

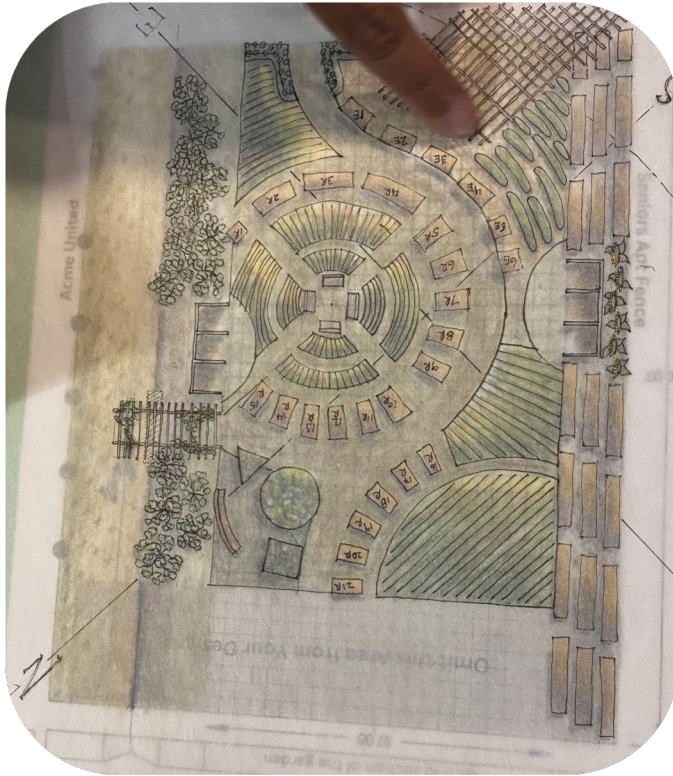


Guiding Principle: Law of Oneness-Human Right



## Third Step

**ACTIVELY LOOK** for & get involved in Human and/or Environmental initiatives in our communities.



### Example 1: Mount Forest Community Garden Addressing Food Insecurity



## Example 2:

**Become Citizen Representative on Township of Southgate  
Affordable, Attainable Housing Committee; and,**

## Example 3:

**Join the Institute for Southern Georgian Bay**

**A Citizen-led Think and Do Tank**

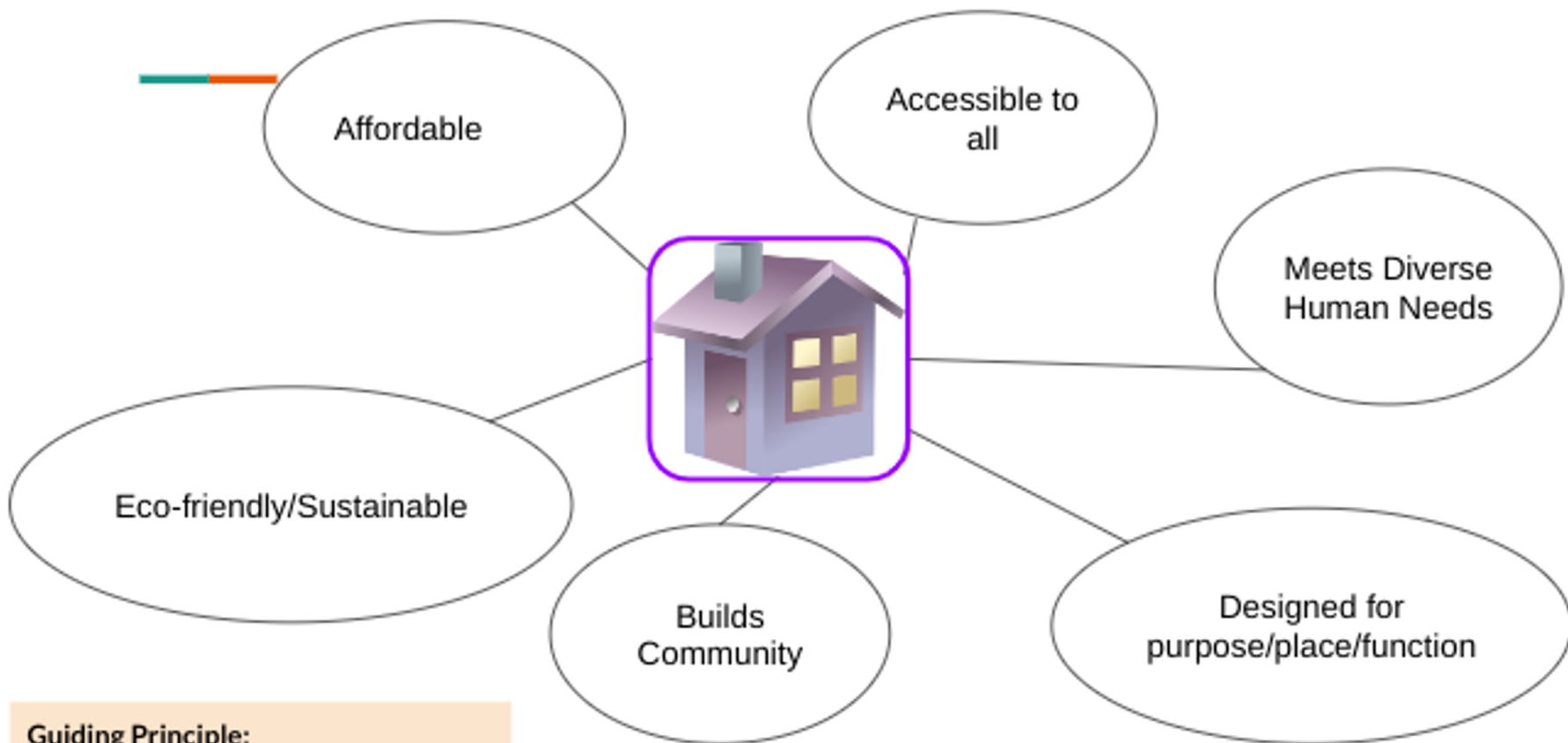
- *Social Finance & Affordable Housing and Sustainability & The Green Economy*

## Both addressing Housing Issues:

- **Lack of Affordable Housing** for low to middle income families
- Growing homelessness

What happens when one is unable to peace, security & protection?

# SHELTER



**Guiding Principle:**  
Law of Oneness-Human Right

# Potential Ongoing Actions

1. Continue the development of tools that can assist local communities as they strive to read their local realities
2. Continue to clarify the values/spiritual principles in play today
3. Share the learning of efforts intended to stimulate meaningful conversations & positive public discourse at the local level, replacing apathy & despair with a hopeful vision for the future.
4. Connect global efforts & United Nation SDG's to national & local efforts to improve material & spiritual well-being by focusing on a triple bottom line of economic, social & environmental well-being.

## **The Value Added**

Reorienting the essential relationships that affect all of our individual & collective lives to reflect the spiritual principles for this day ensuring that all people benefit.





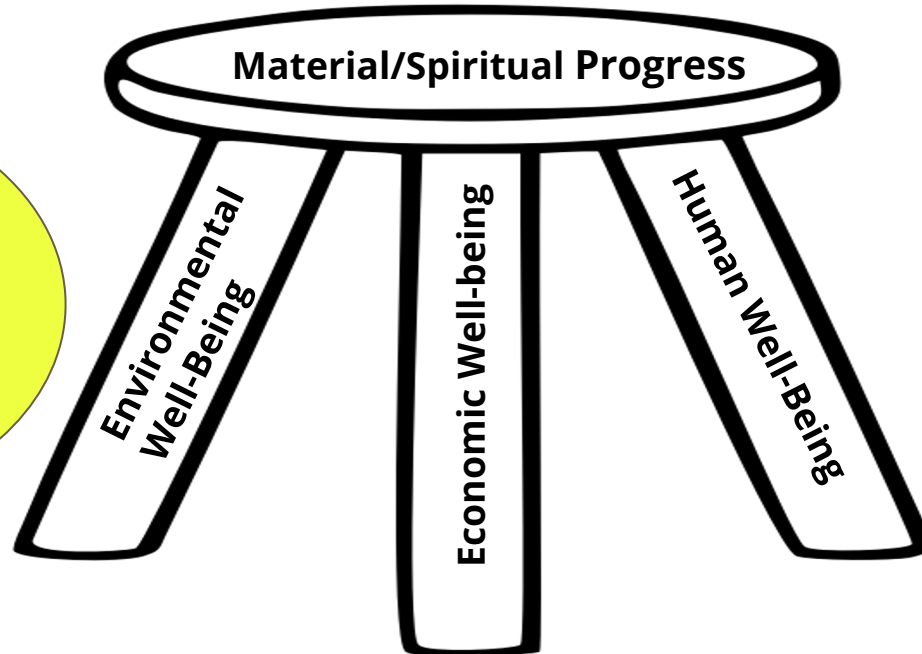
Q & A

# The Triple Bottom Line!

## What is a Well-Being Economy?

Which is to Value Human & Environmental Well-Being as Wealth

- to include the sources of our wealth: the land, water & air, our knowledge, trustworthiness and talents



**Global Issues  
requiring a Global  
response:**

- Climate Change
- Economic Injustice
- Nuclear Threat

**Individuals,  
Communities &  
Social Institutions  
must be informed of  
both global & local  
realities & work  
together for common  
purpose**