

GIVE THE EARTH A VOICE

Council and Deep Ecology

The ecology movement of the last 30 years has set many things in motion, but ecological change is still moving at a snail's pace. The self-destructive current in our culture is still stronger than the development of creative and life-affirming structures. The result: time is running out, more and more people are falling into resignation, environmental activists are experiencing the "burnout syndrome". Conventional public environmental protection has so far mostly been limited to repairing severely damaged ecosystems. The symptoms of our dealings with the natural foundations of life are treated, but not the sources and roots of our destructive behaviour.

Anthropologists, philosophers and cultural scientists have been pointing out for years that the root of the ecological crisis is our conventional world-view of the planet and of the human. In order to overcome the crisis with which we threaten our planet, we must redefine the role of humans in the world. Deep change is only possible if thought and transformation processes take place in every single human being, which change their consciousness of themselves and their position in the world. To promote this process is the task and goal of deep ecology.

Deep Ecology & Council

It is crucial that we develop forms of communication in which we can adequately express what is happening to our larger body, the earth. „Giving the earth a voice" means to be in good connection with our inner truth, to perceive the pain of the earth within us, to express it publicly and to communicate it in our social contexts in a way that creates solidarity and hope. Only the communication about the aberrations enables the system of human society to become capable of feedback and to overcome the crisis. The Council's methodology is also essential for this. At the same time, Council remains incomplete if it focuses only on communication between people. Council is a deeply nature-loving form of circle culture and needs our ability to perceive the 'more than human nature' and to give it a voice. This includes not only the connection with the web of life and identification with other life forms, but also communication with the beings of the future.

Synthesis of different approaches

Deep ecology or 'The Work that reconnects' (Joanna Macy) combines the sensual experience of nature with the intellectual examination of our world view, offering new perspectives and perceptions. Deep ecology draws from the diversity of world cultures and religions those traditions, exercises and rituals that create insight and make unity with nature tangible. Deep ecology combines old wisdom with new thinking in cosmology, chaos and system theory. Deep ecology links spiritual and personal growth with social and ecological action and supports those personal transformation processes that are necessary for the creation of a human civilization that is capable of long-term survival. Deep ecology emphasizes the intrinsic value of all nature independent of human benefit and aims to expand our narrow human self-image into an "ecological selves". Deep ecology sees the earth as a living system in which everything is interconnected and interdependent and understands man as a thread in the web of life, woven into the intelligent self-organization of natural cycles, from which we emerge, which preserve us, from which we draw and into which we insert ourselves. Deep ecology sees itself in the tradition of the womens-, peace- and eco-movement and has been developed over the last 40 years by the Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess, the Australian rainforest conservationist John Seed and representatives of the American environmental movement such as Joanna Macy, Dolores LaChapelle and George Sessions and many others.

Method

Change happens through new experience. Deep ecological seminar work uses role plays, guided meditations, old and new rituals, councils, dyads, triads and group processes as well as intellectual engagement with the new systemic world view of natural sciences and the strategic planning of ecological actions in order to conceive visions for a healthy future and to promote their implementation in everyday life. An essential part of this process is the recognition of our grief and despair for the state of nature. Through the confrontation with fear we break through the repression, exüeroence compassion, gain energy for action, experience compassion, solidarity and the readiness to assume responsibility beyond the limits of our egoism. Perception then no longer leads to a resigned retreat, but to political action.

The Seminar for the European Council Network

We are in the midst of a major cultural transformation process worldwide, which does not stop at personal life either. Supposed security breaks away, tried and tested strategies are no longer good, accumulated treasures become ballast, growing chaos in the most diverse areas of life trigger fears and insecurity. It seems as if collective dying processes already want to be practiced in the life of each individual. We tend to take these usually painful processes all too personally, while we repress at the same time the crises of the world and separate ourselves in such a way from the living organism of mother earth . An energizing alternative to this would be to help shape change and rediscover our connectedness and love, though accepting ther despair and the concern for the state of the planet. What would be if each of us were part of a gigantic transformation process that shapes itself with us and through us?

Joanna Macy's tools of deep ecology or the 'Work that Reconnects' invite us to integrate the personal into an all-encompassing context and to experience ourselves as part of a large network. Separated feelings of fear and helplessness can be integrated and provide new insights and a change of perspective that encourages the development of new creative forms of action. The experience of love, sense and being bound create creativity and joy for common acting. Thus the personal change becomes a process of 'death and rebirth'. The dissolving of old structures creates space for the new, as crisis creates future: the death of the caterpillar becomes the birth of the butterfly

The seminar will be led by

Dr. Geseko v. Lüpke (author, journalist, networker, vision search leader, council practitioner, seminar leader for deep ecology since 1990)

Gabriele Kaupp (Community Consultant, Therapist, Social Work, Deep Ecology Trainer since 1995, Head of Vision Search & Council Practitioner)

Costs: 160 - 190 € according to self-assessment. (payable **only** cash on begin of the seminar by Josef). Booking of the seminarhouse for this workshop also through Josef.

Language: The seminar can be held in English or German.

Registration: Belonging to technical subjects not over ECN, only by:
Josef Reichenspurner: vision-council@bighand.org

To the fact that the seminarhouse has at this time only 25 beds left, there can be **only 25 participants**.

