

Creating a Local Dept. of Peace in Your Community For a Sustainable & Peaceful Future

A lot of sustainable theorists focus on Sustainable Technology & Techniques to get us through this transition stage. Most forget about the community organizational & conflict resolution processes that must also occur in order to forge a future peaceful & sustainable world.

Congressman Dennis Kucinich's Department of Peace concept has appealed to me for a long time. When he ran for President, he promoted and shared this concept with people across the country. I feel, though, that he made a major organizing mistake. His focus was to create a national department, with programs and oversight from Washington DC. With the current state of national U.S. politics, such a bill would not pass for some time.

If during his presidential campaign, Congressman Kucinich focused instead on creating Local Dept. of Peace organizations/offices at a grassroots level, there would already be a network of grassroots Department of Peace organizations/offices in many cities & towns throughout the U.S.. Some would be local governmentally supported; and others would be local community grassroots organizations. Experience & knowledge would be shared throughout the whole U.S. network. Eventually the national government would catch on, and a National Dept. of Peace would be created.

Creating Local Dept. of Peace & Conflict Resolution offices/organizations in cities & towns across the U.S. during this transition time toward a sustainable world is a critical necessity. As weather changes & fuel prices increase, many sociological, economic, environmental & political changes will occur - food & water shortages; cost-of-living/goods price increases; unemployment; gangs & crime would increase; etc.. Each Local Dept. of Peace & Conflict Resolution office/organization would provide conflict resolution & information sharing services that would facilitate a positive, peaceful approach to these problems, including: better supply/food distribution systems; barter exchange systems; conservation & alternative energy systems; the creation of local community supported gardens & farms; job-retraining programs; crime prevention programs; etc.. Each local Dept. of Peace office would also network & coordinate with other local, state & national Dept. of Peace alliances to lobby for National & State Dept. of Peace offices; as well as work with other Peace Organizations on national & international issues/projects that would help create a peaceful & sustainable world.

To help facilitate the creation of Local Dept. of Peace branches throughout the country, Local & National Peace Organizations could be asked to integrate a local Dept. of Peace Branch into their organization. I am working towards creating a local Dept. of Peace in the Taos, New Mexico region with others. If you interested in creating a local Dept. of Peace & Conflict Resolution Center in your Community, and would like to network with others who are also interested, please contact me.

May Peace Prevail on Earth,

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