

Preface

Many of our most critical global problems are rooted in local, day-to-day problems facing people. Atmospheric and potential climate change, for example, can be altered by individual local citizens and government officials making decisions about local traffic congestion, the cutting down of trees, burning wood in the fireplace, and inefficient land-use patterns. Local decisions about such issues affect all of us globally.

While global change, which is not only about environmental issues but also affected by socioeconomic dynamics, is reaching the point of daily mention on most national and international news broadcasts (related to weather, conflict over resources, social inequities, etc.) there is a wealth of important information, methodologies, and tools that can help us as individuals and communities to set each of our places, and in turn the planet, on a sustainable course. Unfortunately most of this information is not available through the mainstream media. I have endeavored here to integrate in a logical order how the individual and/or group can begin to think about and act on activities and programs that will culminate in sustainable community development outcomes.

It is my hope that as you read through the sequential presentation of processes that can guide the achievement of sustainability actions in your community, or even neighborhood, that you will begin to realize the difference that each individual can make in the improvement of the place they call home. In honor of the expectation that individuals can make a difference, I have chosen to present the lyrics from a song that I heard recently sung at a festival in Napa, CA. Considering the focus of this book as illustrated by the part of the title that emphasizes “A Participatory Framework for Change,” it is my intention to address in the following pages the individual within the community and highlight their importance in taking charge of their own destiny with regard to community development and improvement.

This song is sung by Kellie Fuller who also wrote the lyrics for the song. Besides being a song writer, Kellie is a jazz vocalist. I want to thank Kellie for the honor of using her song to emphasize the “Power of One.” It is my hope, as you read about the different tools and processes to promote sustainable community development in the following text, that you will find inspiration, ideas, and practical ways to begin

or strengthen your own journey toward greater community well-being, long-term prosperity, and sustainability. The following words should set your mood and strengthen your resolve to take the required steps.

One person in a world of billions
How can I do it all alone?
This little corner of my world
Can't build a mountain with just a stone

Every moment you have a decision
Life is a gift and love is the call
This little corner of your world
Can change for the better
When you give it your all

If we have hope than we have the power
Start with a ripple that grows to a wave
Work where you are
Say with conviction
If it's to be
It begins with just me

Chorus:

If we only knew how much we can do
Don't wait for a few
It starts with just you
Begin with a walk that turns to a run
We'll get it done
The power of one

Napa, CA

Kellie Fuller

R. Warren Flint

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Practice of Sustainable Community Development

A Participatory Framework for Change

Flint, R.W.

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