

**For Press Release Please Contact:**

Yael Marantz: [yael.marantz@ecovillage.org](mailto:yael.marantz@ecovillage.org)

In Bonn: Sarah Queblatin: [sarah.queblatin@ecovillage.org](mailto:sarah.queblatin@ecovillage.org)

## Global Ecovillage Network: Catalyzing the Power of Communities for a Regenerative World

Bonn, November 8, 2017 – The annual climate conference is taking place in Bonn, Germany this year and is bringing together NGOs, governments and people from all around the world to discuss solutions for climate change. As such GEN has sent a delegation of ecovillage leaders from all around the world to COP23 to share our best practices and success stories for drawing down carbon from the atmosphere, creating climate resilient communities, and as an opportunity for scaling up country ambition to achieve climate targets and goals.

The Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) is a growing network of regenerative communities and initiatives. GEN builds bridges between policy-makers, governments, NGOs, academics, entrepreneurs, activists, community networks and ecologically-minded individuals across the globe in order to develop strategies for a global transition to resilient communities and cultures.

Ecovillages are consciously designed through locally owned, participatory processes in all [four dimensions of sustainability](#) (social, culture, ecology and economy) to regenerate their social and natural environments. Ecovillages are living laboratories pioneering beautiful alternatives and innovative solutions that enable villages, regions, and nation states to fulfill the promise of the SDGs, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the outcomes of COP23.

Research on ecovillage impact agrees. The EU-funded TRANSIT research project identified ecovillages as key sources of the social innovation necessary for transitions to sustainability. And the TESS ([Towards European Societal Sustainability](#)) research project, which explored the role of community based initiatives in creating a sustainable, low-carbon Europe, concluded that if only five percent of the EU were to engage in effective community-led climate change adaptation initiatives, [carbon savings would be sufficient for 85% of it's countries to achieve their 2020 emission reduction targets](#). TESS also showed that 63% of the surveyed community-based initiatives have been replicated elsewhere. The potential to scale community-led regeneration is high!

To help scale community-led development, GEN launched the [Global Ecovillage Development Program](#) designed to radically reform current development practices and put communities, sustainability, and wealth creation at the heart of the development process. The full and inclusive participation of communities on the ground in the conception and implementation of activities, together with the sharing and transferring of expertise and grounded experience is the key to success. GEN will be meeting with government representatives following up on interest from 23

nations to include Ecovillage Development Programmes into their strategies and policies to reach the aims of the Paris Agreement.

In addition, a new group of civil society organizations led by the Global Ecovillage Network is launching a new initiative in Bonn. This initiative is focusing on what can be done to carry out a range of recommendations from a number of new studies and initiatives, including from the Commonwealth's Regenerative Development to Reverse Climate Change (RDRCC). They have put together a [Call to Action and Declaration of Commitment](#) that lays out both what is already being done by governments and others to ramp up regenerative development but also what further can be done to meet the required level of ambition.

GEN is calling on all people, stakeholder groups, and governments to join us in developing full plans to cooperatively implement these recommendations on Regenerative Development for drawing down greenhouse gasses, while putting communities at the center of development. A symposium and interactive workshop about the [power of community-led action for carbon drawdown](#) will be held on November 11. Please visit our [website](#) for more more information and several other side events hosted by GEN at COP23. Join us to discover how we can catalyze the power of communities for a regenerative world.

**About:**

The Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) was founded in 1995 and is a solution-based, multi-stakeholder alliance, that provides information, tools, examples and global representation to the expanding network of those dedicated to developing and demonstrating sustainability principles and practices in their lifestyles and communities around the world. GEN envisions a world of empowered citizens and communities, designing and implementing their own pathways to a sustainable future, and building bridges of hope and international solidarity.

<http://gen.ecovillage.org>