

INDIGENOUS REGENERATIVE ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES



NDN COLLECTIVE



Every Indigenous Nation had a traditional economy: a way of gathering and distributing what we needed to live and thrive. Pre-colonial Indigenous economies were connected to extensive trade routes across the Nations, allowing exchange of the gifts of the Land, knowledge, language and culture. These economies developed based on countless generations of learning from our lands and each other, learning to care for the beings that give us life while ensuring their continuance. These economies also reflected an understanding that our homelands are living beings to be in good relationship with in order to receive the blessings of abundance. Within our traditional economies, it was also critical to keep good relations with and resource distribution among community members.

NDN Collective holds this ancestral knowledge as a guide to designing the Indigenous regenerative economies of the future, working with financial systems and technology that are expressive of the values and strengths of our pre-contact economies. We intend to disrupt Western reductionist systems to create empowered Indigenous communities and new sustainable systems for abundance, impact, and equity.

We support development and investment that is based on the following principles ...

1. THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF ALL THINGS

All living things are interconnected, in relation to one another, and operate as a system. Relationships create life, and it is the quality, balance and health of our interconnected living relationships that determine whether an act is going to be healthy and regenerative of life. We support development and investment that places central value on maintaining and regenerating healthy and balanced relationships with the Land and all of the beings that give us life.

Being in good relationship can take many forms, including:

- **Reciprocity:** Honoring the gifts of life we are given by ensuring we also give back to the sources of life.
- **Generosity:** Ensuring that the benefits of a project, business, or program are felt and received by many. Building too much excess resource without distributing is counter to the teachings of our cultures and the teachings of the Land.
- **Mirroring of Creation and Natural Principles:** The ultimate source of knowledge of how to cultivate healthy, harmonious relationships is the Land. Healthy ecologies are diverse, have good energy flow, are circular/nonlinear, and feature an abundance of life and creativity at the “edges,” or where different ecologies come together. Diversity, ensuring energy and resource flow, circularity, and creation of “edges” where different ecologies, patterns, societies, ideas, intersect are just a few of the principles we can incorporate into our development projects and businesses.
- **Cooperation and Collaboration > Competition:** Cooperation and building of collaborative partnerships works better than competition at creating ways of being and acting that regenerate life.
- **Boundaries:** Boundaries are important for respectful relationships that honor the participants in the relationship. In our work we need to analyze which boundaries and limitations are necessary to ensure the continuance of health.



2. INDIGENOUS SELF-DETERMINATION

The self-determination of Indigenous Peoples is the cornerstone of our purpose and existence. We support efforts that are Indigenous-led and in alignment with our values. The people most impacted by systems of oppression must be the ones to lead their communities to equity, justice, and liberation. NDN Collective supports economic practices that ensure the maintenance and increase of our land base, sovereignty and rights.

3. INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING

We know that things are always changing, so we need to be innovative, adaptive, creative, and responsive to changes. The ultimate source of knowledge is the Creator and the Land, and we encourage traditional and contemporary practices designed to emerge new knowledge from these sources. We also need to have our knowledge rooted in our teachings and the cumulative knowledge of our ancestors. Development work and decision making should include a balance of both of these elements.

4. ROOTED IN AND HONORING OF PLACE

Inherently, Indigenous regenerative economics recognizes our responsibility to care for the continuity of our homelands and our cultures that came from these lands. Our practices need to be designed to ensure the continued ability of our lands to give life.

5. EQUITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

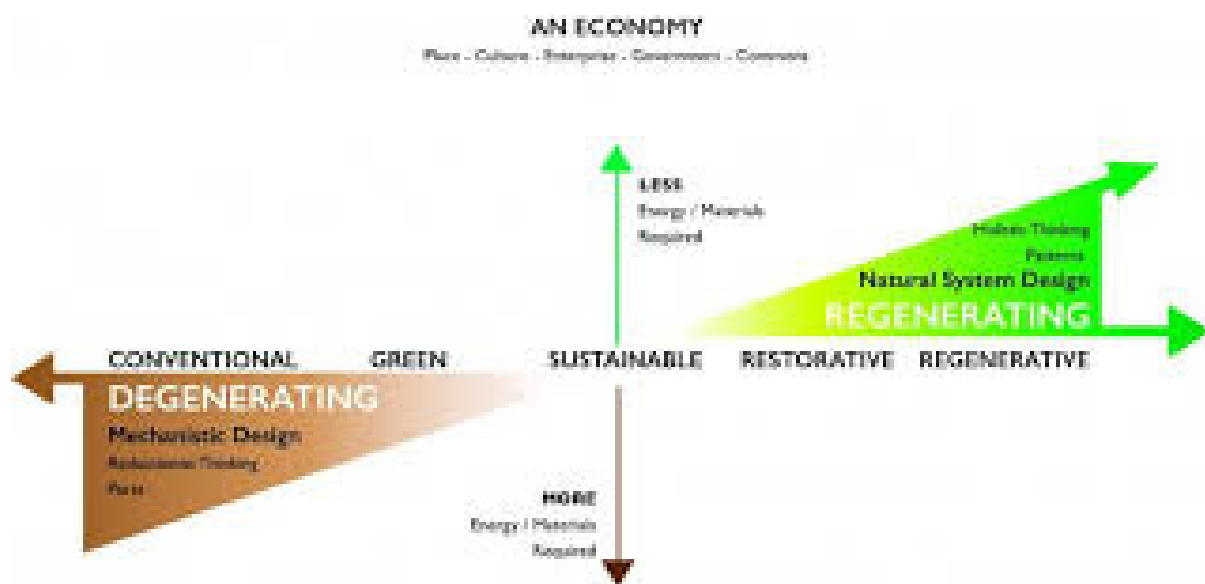
Our economic and investment decisions must be centered in the creation of equity and justice.

Examples of implementing equity and justice measures can include:

- **Community Participation and Investment:** Deep participation from affected peoples and communities in the design of the system. Ensuring childcare and transportation so that participation is truly accessible.
- **Accountable Leadership:** There should be mechanisms in place to make sure that leaders are accountable to the community and land they affect and are in relationship with.
- **Localized Decision-making:** Decision-making should be as local as possible so that the ones making decisions feel the impact of their decision-making.

6. RECOGNITION OF TIMELESSNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THE FUTURE

We understand that we are always connected to both our ancestors and descendants. Our planning, decision-making, and actions today should honor the legacy, struggle, and knowledge of our ancestors while working towards a healthy future for our descendants into perpetuity.



Adopted from Bill Reed's "Trajectory of Ecological Design." Diagram | ©John Fullerton

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