



Sustainability through Community
2010 National Cohousing Conference
Wednesday, June 16 – Sunday, June 20
University of Colorado – Boulder

Call for Presenters: Research and Writers Workshop

Wednesday, June 16, and Thursday, June 17

Led by Diane Margolis, Lisa Poley, and Dave Wann

Early research has begun to document the way cohousing addresses social, economic, and environmental sustainability issues at the neighborhood level. The intent of this two-day academic workshop is to bring together a diverse group of researchers, writers, and others who have an interest in the important role that neighborhood-level community can play in the sustainability of human culture and our planet.

The research and writers workshop will provide a platform for furthering scholarship and writing centered on cohousing and sustainability. It will also offer a space where practitioners, policymakers, and researchers from across the country can enrich understanding of sustainability and cohousing and identify areas to inform policy and programmatic action as well as guide future research. Working together, participants will share information and ideas, present research, brainstorm research possibilities, collaborate with others in the field, and meet people who are leaders in cohousing development, community building, and neighborhood design and who are also cohousing residents themselves.

Sub-Themes

Panel discussions, papers, and presentations are being solicited. Suggested topics should be relevant to neighborhoods, communities, and the “local” – but need not focus on cohousing. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- child development
- youth
- aging/gerontology
- sustainability
- design/neighborhood sustainability
- resilience in the face of environmental change
- communication
- coordination/democracy/consensus process
- community building/the commons/group process
- community/commons/values/culture

Wednesday, June 16

The first day of our gathering will focus on presentation of work completed and in progress. The principal forms of participation will be papers and panels.

Paper presentations: Author(s) of papers should submit an abstract. Based on the abstract, each paper will be grouped with three or four other submissions on a similar theme or topic for presentation and discussion.

Thematic panels: Researchers and writers are encouraged to organize focused panels to examine particular issues.

Thursday, June 17

The second day of our gathering will focus on sources of support and on ways that researchers and writers can collaborate or in other ways further research on cohousing.

Guidelines for the Submission of Abstracts

We invite the participation of anyone interested in or working on issues relating to cohousing, sustainability, or the possible relationship between creating strong neighborhood communities and building social and environmental health and resilience. We encourage scholars and practitioners to submit abstracts for panels and individual papers. The panel suggestions and paper abstracts can be submitted to the research and writers workshop committee by completing the R & W Presenter Information form at <http://www.cohousing.org/2010/cohou/research/proposal> or emailing them to cohoresearch@cohous.org.

Paper Abstracts: 100-300 words. Provide a title for the abstract and identify the relevant sub-theme(s). Please also provide names and contact information for all contributing authors. Note: Final paper should not exceed 6,000 words.

Panel Abstracts: 300-500 words. Panel abstracts should indicate the title and/or theme of a group of writers or researchers who wish to present together in a common panel and should include the names, titles, and organizational affiliations of all the contributing and presenting authors as well as their contact information.

Selection: The research and writers workshop review committee members will select papers based on quality and appropriateness to the workshop. Interested participants are encouraged to submit an abstract on their topic of expertise, even if it does not necessarily fit in the stated sub-themes.

Important Dates

March 31, 2010 Deadline for submission of paper, panel, and poster proposals and abstracts
May 30, 2010 Deadline for submission of papers

About the Workshop Leaders: **Diane Margolis**, PhD, writes about cohousing and is professor emeritus at UCONN. She has published two books – *The Managers: Corporate Life in America* (William Morrow) and *The Fabric of Self: A Theory of Ethics and Emotions* (Yale University Press) – as well as numerous papers, articles, and chapters on community, emotions, gender, morality, and culture. **Lisa Poley**, PhD, teaches in the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech and completed her PhD dissertation research on cohousing and democracy building. **Dave Wann** is an author, filmmaker, and speaker about sustainability. He’s now authored or edited ten books, including *Simple Prosperity: Finding Real Wealth in a Sustainable Lifestyle* and *Reinventing Community: Stories from the Walkways of Cohousing*, and has co-authored the best-selling book, *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic*. Wann has also produced 20 videos and TV programs, including “Designing a Great Neighborhood” and “Building Livable Communities.” All three workshop leaders live in cohousing.