

# Imagine living in neighborhoods where you can:

- Get to know your neighbors and share resources
- Walk to see friends – and leave your car at home
- Let your children run free and schedule fewer play dates
- Spend less time in the kitchen and eat healthier meals
- Overcome the challenge of “plugging in” to a new city or town
- Cope with spiraling land and housing costs
- Shrink the size of your footprint on the planet
- Watch less TV and live life more fully



Berkeley (CA) Cohousing neighbors enjoy sunshine and fellowship.  
(Photo by The CoHousing Company)

## Imagine living in cohousing.



Children play on the pedestrian path at Hearthstone Cohousing in Denver, CO.  
(Photo by Evangeline Welch)

**COHOUSING NEIGHBORHOODS.** Some people consider these resident-created neighborhoods a return to the best of small-town America. Others say they are like a traditional village or the close-knit neighborhood where they grew up. Futurists describe cohousing as a new response to the 21st century’s social, economic and environmental challenges. Each holds a piece of the truth.

Cohousing communities combine the autonomy of private dwellings with the advantages of shared resources and more sustainable living where people know and interact with each other. The basic traits include shared facilities, a common house, self-governance by consensus and design input by the community.

Cohousing first emerged in Denmark more than 30 years ago. The first cohousing neighborhood in the U.S. was completed in 1991. By mid-2005, there were nearly 80 established cohousing neighborhoods in the U.S. and approximately 50 more in development.

Most of these intentional neighborhoods are intergenerational, offering opportunities to live among people in all stages of life, ranging from newborns to residents well into their 80s. In addition, several new communities are designed specifically for elders.

Cohousing communities have a clustered design, which not only enhances the feeling of connectedness with one’s neighbors but also creates as much shared, open space as a site allows. Residents typically own their own homes, which usually face a pedestrian, car-free walkway or courtyard. Homes are clustered near a common house with shared amenities such as a kitchen and dining room, children’s playroom, laundry, guestroom and more.

People living in cohousing share no ideology other than they want to know their neighbors very well. Yet cohousing offers an ideal balance of privacy and community, with members choosing to participate in neighborhood activities at the level they wish. Each private home is self-sufficient with a complete kitchen. Several times a week residents also can opt to share meals in the common house. Many residents participate in cooking teams once or twice a month and enjoy regular meals prepared by their neighbors.

In addition to enriching the lives of individuals and families who live in cohousing, this environmental lifestyle also offers promise for the larger society. Every cohousing community provides a comfortable neighborhood gathering place – for everyone from youth groups and book clubs to musicians and community leaders. Cohousing opens up new civic spaces in an increasingly privatized society, points the way toward more enriching lives and offers a model for sustainable living.

  
[www.cohousing.org](http://www.cohousing.org)



A community play day at Pleasant Hill (CA) Cohousing.  
(Photo by The CoHousing Company)



## Join the cohousing movement!

Research at major academic institutions has found that people live longer and healthier lives when they are socially connected to others. Cohousing offers the environmental solutions and sense of community that our society desperately needs.

The Cohousing Association of the United States (Coho/US) is a non-profit organization committed to educating, organizing and supporting cohousing's champions, so that cohousing is not merely a household word, but a viable option for many thousands of people.

Go to [www.cohousing.org](http://www.cohousing.org) to learn about many programs that advance the cohousing movement, including:

- Free subscriptions to *Cohousing*, an online magazine
- Bus tours of completed communities
- Workshops, seminars and conferences
- Regional councils of cohousing communities
- Community lists
- Services to professionals
- Classified and display advertising opportunities

## Cohousing helps us create a more socially sustainable society, one neighborhood at a time.

### IMAGINE A NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE . . .

**Neighbors know each other well and can, if they choose, catch up on each others' lives several nights a week during home-cooked dinners in a spacious and comfortable common house. . .**

**Kids are free to run and play together along car-free paths and in a central area in sight of their homes. . .**

**Neighbors own their homes, make community decisions by consensus and live more sustainably by sharing chores, resources and fellowship.**

Your support is critical in helping to advance the vision of cohousing. Coho/US relies on donations to support the hundreds of built and forming communities across the U.S. Your donation will have immediate benefits to future residents of cohousing communities, groups in development, completed communities and cohousing professionals. On a larger scale, your support of Coho/US can help transform our society. As a means toward creating a more civil, democratic and sustainable society, this is one of the best investments you could possibly make. To make an online donation, go to [www.cohousing.org](http://www.cohousing.org). Or write a check payable to the Cohousing Association of the United States and send to **COHO/US, c/o WHDC, 4676 Broadway, 2nd floor; Boulder, CO 80304.**

**Enhance your cohousing experience.**

**Support the cohousing movement.**

**Help create a better world.**

**[www.cohousing.org](http://www.cohousing.org)**