

Cohousing Now!

National Cohousing Open House Day April 29th



National Cohousing Open House Day is Back, Better than Ever.

Raines Cohen, [Cohousing Coach](#), [East Bay Cohousing](#) / [Cohousing CA](#)



Will you join us?

Is it that time of year again? After its incredible debut last year, [National Cohousing Open House Day](#) is back, better than ever, this year on Sat, April 29. We're again joining several other places where you'll find "cohousing clusters" in doing regional organizing, so people can visit several communities and make the most of the day.

Living in cohousing for the past 17 years, it's easy to take this way of life for granted, with all its charms and challenges. But I do find it helpful to meet new community seekers and experience our community through their "fresh eyes" and questions that can revive a sense of what's possible.

The list of [participating communities](#) is [ever growing](#), but places you can find more than one cohousing neighborhood you can visit (without strapping on your

jetpack) include:

- Durham-Chapel Hill, NC: Several communities around the region are throwing open their doors; I got to see quite a few after the 2015 National Cohousing Conference there, and was delighted with the variety of approaches to intergenerational and senior living.
- Boulder-Denver, CO: If you'd rather you can see both forming communities and established ones reachable by bus and light rail (perhaps with an assist by bicycle).
- Sacramento Valley & foothills, CA: Explore cohousing at a range of altitudes in the Golden State, from a long-established community near the Capitol building to senior cohousing in Grass Valley, high above the dams.
- Portland, OR: This city may feature the most cohousing neighborhoods in the US in its metro area, so it shouldn't be a surprise to learn that communities here have been co-marketing for decades, and that quite a few are doing complementary activities on this day. You can even dip south to Corvallis
- East San Francisco Bay Area, CA: We're organizing a bus tour and providing self-guided tour maps in the booming East Bay Cohousing region, and Pleasant Hill Cohousing is hosting an afternoon forum that's included.



When communities combine marketing efforts, they can reach many seekers.

What are your plans? [Visit here and share in the comments.](#)

Conferences & Events



Join us in Nashville on May 19-21, 2017!

[Learn more here.](#)

[Register Now!](#)

-->Community discounts through March 31st

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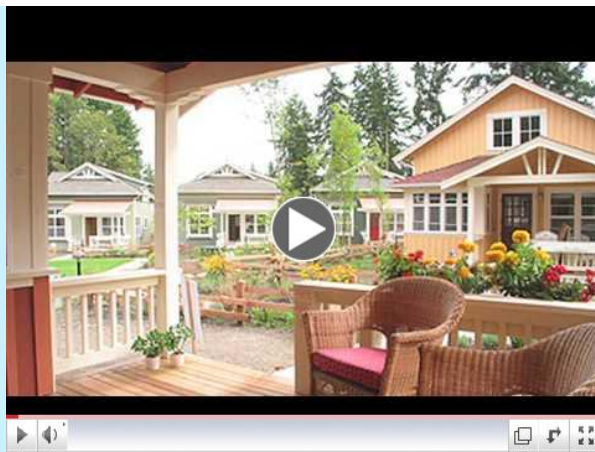
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Homes for Sale



What's Your Style?

Thank you to our Conference Sponsors:



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Join us as we share the joy of our collaborative neighborhoods. The **National Cohousing Open House Day** inspires individuals and families to consider joining communities and sparks the creation of new groups. [Communities learn more here](#) We'd love to have you sign up! [Click here for a great flyer to post.](#)



Getting it Built Workshop: April 8-9, 2017 near Las Vegas Southern Nevada Cohousing

Workshop led by Kathryn McConant and Charles Durrett. Limited to 30 participants and the slots are filling fast sign up now!

Cohousing Blogs

More than Cohousing - Cohousing Like and other Alternative Housing Solutions - What's the Difference?

Ty Albright, Texas Cohousing

Join us at the Nashville Conference to continue this conversation, with Ty Albright, *Is it Cohousing? Group Participation Game*; also with Laura Fitch and others: [More Than Cohousing](#).

One emerging goal for cohousing is how cohousing can be used as a model for unique needs. There is often debate or confusion about communities that are "Cohousing-like".

** **Cohousing-like** takes aspects of cohousing but is not cohousing.

** **More-than-cohousing** are cohousing-like communities with a social or economic mission.

[Santa Cruz, CA, Walnut Commons Urban Cohousing - Condo for Sale](#)

[2 Homes Available in Beautiful Shadowlake Village](#)

[One bedroom unit for sale in Westwood Cohousing, Asheville, NC](#)

[Rare opening in Greyrock Commons, Northern Colorado Community!](#)

[Two Lovely Cottages in Fantastic Vermont setting](#)

[Mosaic Commons: 1 bedroom homes for sale](#)

[Energy Star Home for Sale at Cobb Hill Cohousing, Hartland, Vermont](#)

[RARE Land & Housing Opportunity in New Mexico](#)

[Homes for Sale in New Hampshire's Greenest Community](#)

[Washington Village in the Heart of Boulder](#)

Seeking Members

[Join Iowa's first cohousing community- -Prairie Hill, in Iowa City.](#)

[Bristol Village Cohousing in Vermont to be ready for move-in this summer. Come join us!](#)

[Construction nears completion: Elderberry Cohousing](#)

[Village Hearth: Adult Cohousing on 15 Beautiful Acres in Durham, NC](#)

[Join a Green, Intergenerational Community near Sacramento!](#)

[Permaculture oriented community forming in stunning Vermont location](#)

Senior Cohousing

[PDX COMMONS, Portland - Only 2 homes left!](#)

[Phoenix Commons a Cohousing Community on Oakland Waterfront --- 1 & 2 bdrm Condos](#)

[Wolf Creek Lodge, California - Home Available](#)

Cohousing Professionals

[Cohousing Consortium - Join Us at the Nashville Conference](#)

[Caddis Architecture](#)

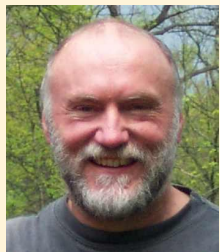
[CoHousing Solutions | Sustainable Neighborhood Consultants](#)

[Fitch Architecture & Community Design | Home - Community - Planet](#)

It is difficult to talk about "More than cohousing" without touching on the topic of "cohousing-like" communities and asking "Is it cohousing"? When is something cohousing, when is it something else, and when is it more than cohousing? Cohousing values and characteristics improve any community and aspects of cohousing can benefit people with unique needs. We need all sorts of cooperative, collaborative, community-oriented housing of which cohousing is one type. [Read more](#)

Community as Economic Engine Laird Schaub

Laird Schaub and Terry O'Keefe and will be presenting "Community as Economic Engine" at the 2017 National Cohousing Conference. Laird offered a version to a packed audience at the 2015 National Cohousing Conference in Durham.



Intentional communities sort broadly into two kinds: those where members share income (roughly 10-12%), and those where they don't (the vast majority). In the case of the former, the community takes primary responsibility for the economic welfare of its members. In consequence, the community rolls up its sleeves and develops community-owned businesses, and takes advantage of collective purchasing power to leverage economies of scale to make ends meet.

In addition to the day-to-day, this kind of community also provides for member vacations, health care, and retirement. It's cradle to grave coverage. Members put everything they earn (though not necessarily everything they own) into the pot. In return, the group picks up the tab for all expenses--within whatever boundaries the community sets. **For non-income-sharing communities**, the collective tends to leave the economics of member households untouched. This is a huge difference.... Both because most intentional communities don't share income and because the potential there is less explored, the primary focus of this examination will be the economic relationship between the collective and the individual in non-income-sharing groups. [read more](#)

A Q&A With Eris Weaver About Cohousing And Politics

Saul Of-Hearts, the Fellowship of Intentional Community



Eris Weaver is presenting at the National Cohousing conference, including [Cohousers in Politics](#) and [Let's Talk About Money](#). The FIC will be hosting a bookstore at the conference.

FIC: You're hosting a pre-conference intensive called *Let's Talk About Money*. How transparent should intentional communities be about money? Does being able to talk openly about income, debt, and expenses make for stronger communities?

Eris: For most of us, our house is our biggest financial investment. Deciding to live in community is one of our biggest emotional & relational investments (after marriage and parenthood). Decisions and conflicts about money are really decisions and conflicts about values. The more depth we bring to these conversations early in our group's formation, the better decisions we will make and fewer conflicts and greater understanding and connection we will have.

FIC: One of your talks, *Cohousers in Politics*, sounds particularly timely. Are there any politicians who have been vocal in their support for cohousing communities?

Eris: One of my experiences has been that local officials who are at first dubious (and make our development experience challenging) later become big fans...and court us as voters and community influencers. [Read more...](#)

Living in Community

Great Oak Cohousing in Ann Arbor: Their Work Program

Nan Fawcett, Prairie Hill Cohousing (Iowa City, Iowa)

Members of Prairie Hill have been curious about how other communities get their work done. We're all assuming that we will cooperate in many ways to make our community run well. And we're also assuming that there will be some things that we just hire out.... when I interviewed Sarah Ross about Great Oak Community, the work program was a big interest. Here's what Sarah told me: At Great Oak,

[Linda Herman Consulting](#)

[McCamant & Durrett Architects: The Cohousing Co](#)

[National Cooperative Bank](#)

[schemata workshop | architecture & planning](#)

In the News

Balancing Privacy and Community with Design in Cohousing - PBS



Laura Fitch Interview with PBS Senior Web Editor Corinne Segal. "The design process and the management process are things that actually mix the community together so that you have to get to know each other in order to make these decisions."

R.I.P. Jan Gudmand-Hoyer, a Visionary in Cohousing

Charles Durrett



The man who started cohousing in Denmark, and therefore the man who started cohousing, died the other day at 81 years old.

A Huntington Couple Plan to Turn Their Land into a Cohousing Community



"I've lived a long time and done a lot of things, but nothing has captured my imagination like this project," he says, as he surveys the land from a vantage point high above the valley. "It gets to the heart of my values about community and preserving open space for future generations." Learn more at [Permaculture oriented community forming in stunning Vermont location](#)

New Resources

[Storing Community Documents Online](#)



members are expected to put in 5-10 hours of community work a month. Rather than closely tracking whether this in fact happens, they have an honor system, trusting that members will pitch in to help as much as they can. If someone is sick or under stress, for example, the work from that person may drop down for awhile. And others fill in. On

our recent trip to Arboretum Cohousing in Madison, we found that they had a similar system. They recommend members do at least 4 hours of community work per month, but they don't monitor this. Some people end up doing relatively little and others do a lot. This may not be ideal, but they have decided that it works OK and is less stressful than trying to enforce hour commitments....**if the community is healthy, with good communication and a caring atmosphere, members can trust each other to do what they can manage.** [Read more...](#)

Coho/US Notes

Spring is a great time to visit cohousing or show off your community! Laura Fitch, Pioneer Valley (Amherst MA)

New to cohousing? National Cohousing Open House Day April 29th is perfect for getting a real taste for what it would be like to live in a cohousing community....you are sure to come away inspired and wishing for great neighbors like the ones who will host your tours.

Looking to grow your existing group or waiting list? Show off your project, add to your waiting list, educate the public, or just have fun. Consider pairing a tour with a seminar, "spring fling," work day, or kids' activity. Food always attracts people. [Learn more here...](#)

Resilient Together Tour: Fellowship for Intentional Community

Once upon a time, the world was infinite. The edges of the map simply defined what was known, not all that was. Then it became common knowledge that the earth was round, and "the world" started to become something finite. When we were able to see the entire planet, from outer space, it really started to set in. This is it. [Learn more here...](#)

Cohousing Directory Metrics

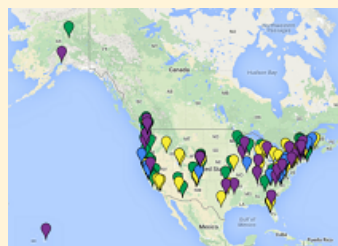
Established Communities = 164

---Completed = 148

---Building = 16

Forming** = 135

**Thirty one forming groups have acquired land they plan to develop



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## Thanks for reading

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[Reserve Studies: Why Every Community Needs One](#)

[Community Co-Care Agreements](#)

[Ten Tips for Success in Building a Cohousing Community](#)

[Resale Strategies & Turnover](#)

[Tag Cloud](#)

## [The Cohousing Directory](#)

New listings:

[Corvallis Senior Cohousing Project](#) (Corvallis, Oregon)

[Aniweda Cohousing Community](#) (Rosemary Beach, Florida)

[Edit your Community Profile here..](#)

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