



Cohousing Now! How is Coho/US Doing?



April marks my one year serving as Executive Director of Coho/US. So how is the association doing? In a phrase, just fine, and getting better! Here's a profile of [Strategic Plan](#) progress.

Stabilizing Revenue Stream - As we refine a business model for long term sustainability, we now enjoy a much stronger financial position than one year ago, including:

- Cohousing Community Support - [48 communities](#) gave [\\$13,113](#), a record, with an average of \$247. Even better: more communities include Coho/US in their annual budget;
- National Conference Sponsorships - we are tremendously proud to be partnering with more cohousing professionals and communities than ever before.

Educating and inspiring through national and regional conferences

- The 2015 National Cohousing Conference will be our first since 2012. With a dynamite "Next Generation" program, we may attract over 400 participants, from as far away as Australia, China and South Korea.
- The [Regional Cohousing Conference in Boulder](#) (Sept 2014) - 90 folks attended from across the US and Canada. Our spontaneous flavor allowed for abundant story sharing and organic issue discussion.

Serving as a connector for communities, resources, services, and events

- Our redesigned [Coho/US website](#) receives 3,000 page views daily, and provides a growing database of resources; forming communities report a surge in inquiries after profiling on the Cohousing Directory;
- Our [Facebook](#) page is fresh and enjoys 2,000 likes and growing; we have a new [Conference Twitter feed](#) .

Building a national cohousing community

- A growing rate of listings on the [Cohousing Directory](#), confirms increasing interest nationally;
- Collaborations strengthened with several aligned organizations: [PFAC](#), [CRN](#), [FIC](#) and [SCA](#);
- A redesigned [Cohousing Now!](#) monthly eNews enjoys a subscription of 9,200;
- New [Cohousing Blogs](#) are on the rise with a growing authorship.

Elevating Cohousing to a Household name

- Media hits have doubled in the last year, including major outlets, such as the [US News & World Report](#);
- Redesigned [Cohousing Brochure](#) and [Slide Show](#) serve as great resources;
- Presentations by cohousing professionals and veterans at over a dozen national conferences raised visibility.

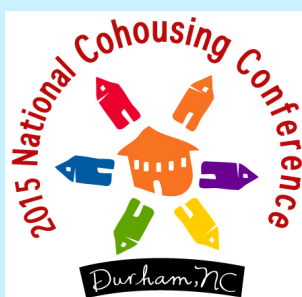
Creating a cohousing-friendly social and political environment

- Housing and Urban Development now treats cohousing condominiums the same as all other condominiums for certifying for federally backed mortgage insurance;
- Collaboration with CRN aspires to increase understanding, credibility and viability of cohousing;
- Initiative launched with PFAC to [increase access to financing and create affordable models](#)

In partnership with amazing volunteers, and a network of cohousing "burning souls" and professionals, we will continue to strengthen and expand the impact of cohousing. [Alice Alexander](#), Coho/US Executive Director

Conferences & Events

National Cohousing Conference - May 29-31, 2015



Discount Rate Ends April 30th

Cohousing is an ingenious tool for living a great life. Learn interesting non-traditional adaptations and also consider: How green is your community? Are you walking the talk?

*Bryan Bowen, Wild Sage
Attending a past conference....
I left re-inspired and re-energized
about my community and about the*

In This Issue

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Register Now!

*incredible amount of creativity,
interest and commitment in the*

*Cohousing community as a whole. It was great fun and very affirming
to be with "my people."*

Sarah Ross, Great Oak Cohousing

Organic Transit's ELF: Take a Ride at the Conference

500 Communities & Other Great Conference Gatherings

CohoUS Press Release: The Next Generation of Cohousing

Download the Conference Program

Sustaining Sponsors



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National Cooperative Bank

SageHill Cohousing Partners

Community Sponsors

Self Help Credit Union

Weinstein Friedlein Architects

Partnerships for Affordable Cohousing

Night Light Video Productions

Cohousing Communities

Heartwood Cohousing Elderberry Cohousing Community
Fair Oaks EcoHousing Hundredfold Farm Jubilee Cohousing
Liberty Village Richmond Cohousing Gainesville Cohousing

Twin Oaks Communities Conference, Sept 4-7, 2015, Louisa VA

Cohousing Blogs

Cohousing Development: Perennial Potlucks or a Land Development Project?

Mike Ortosky, Earthwise Company

Mike is our keynote speaker at the National Cohousing Conference

There are two possible approaches to building a cohousing

community: focus on land development process first, and community development second. Or, focus on community development first, and land development processes second. Historically, many cohousing communities did the latter. A group with burning passion for community gather and discuss how it would be to live in a vibrant, supportive community and begin the journey to build something together. Then, 5 years and



60 potlucks later, they find a piece of land. At that point, two-thirds of the members determine that the location, or the finances, or the

Classified Ads

Homes for Sale

Colorado Mountain Ranch & Farm
-- For Sale at Heartwood
Cohousing

Eco-home in Midcoast Maine

For Sale in New Hampshire's
Greenest Community

Traditional Farmhouse in
Amherst, MA

3 Bedroom Home at Mosaic
Commons, \$349,000

Solterra Home Near Duke
University

Passive Solar Contemporary in
Durham, NC

Seeking Members

Build your Home & Life at Katywil,
CO-farming, CO-homesteading,
CO-housing

Join a Green, Intergenerational
Cohousing Community near
Sacramento!

Riverside Living in Eugene,
Oregon. Breaking ground soon!

About Advertising with Coho/US

Cohousing Professionals

Caddis Architecture

CoHousing Solutions

Kraus Fitch Architects | Home -
Community - Planet

McCamant & Durrett Architects:
The Cohousing Co

schemata workshop | architecture
& planning

Zucker Architecture

In the News

A Toast For Fair Oaks EcoHousing!

Kudos to Fair Oaks EcoHousing for project approval granted with the "highest praise" for cohousing as a community-focused model and housing type well suited to Sacramento's goal of building sustainable, safe and

logistics of development don't suit them and leave the group...[read more...](#)

You Take Care of Mom, but Who Will Take Care of You?

Grace Kim, Schemata Workshop

Family caregivers provide the majority of long-term services and supports. However, the supply of family caregivers is not likely to keep the pace with the future demand...According to a study by AARP, in 2010 the caregiver support ratio was more than 7 possible caregivers for every person over the age of 80, when the risk of injury or need for additional support is greatest. By the year 2030, this ratio is projected to decline sharply to 4 possible caregivers for every 80 year-old; with a further expected fall to less than 3 to 1 by 2050. As more individuals have fewer or no children, cohousing may offer a good alternative to assisted living, or to continuing care facilities. [read more](#)



Cohousing Research Network (CRN) Intensive Jenny of CoHousing Solutions

Have you ever been asked a cohousing-related question and wished you had a few nicely succinct, number-based facts to support your answer? No, stats aren't everything and measuring cohousing's success certainly has its deepest roots in the community-feel. But numbers don't hurt, and they certainly can offer a hand when evaluating and presenting on the success of the cohousing movement; as with buyers, neighbors, officials and bankers....There will be an excellent opportunity at the [Cohousing Conference](#) to help with shaping the future of cohousing research. There's a free, all-day intensive being offered on Friday, May 29th: [CRN: Networking & Presentation of Works in Progress](#) Until then, here's a preview of findings from the 2012 survey :

- 96% of cohousing residents say that living in cohousing has increased their satisfaction with life
- 75% percent of cohousing residents felt that their physical health was better than that of others their age
- 96% of cohousing residents voted in the last presidential election.....[read more on the Conference twitter feed](#)

Living in Community

Heartwood Cohousing Hens Keep Huber Busy: Egg production basis of farm operations

By Dale Rodebaugh, The Durango Herald

[Learn more about new agrarianism at the National Conference](#)

Rachel Huber came to Southwest Colorado looking for the active ingredient she wanted when she switched her major from engineering to natural resources and environmental science at Purdue University in 2009. She found it at [Heartwood Cohousing](#), a



a tight community of residents with common goals who own 360 acres of varied landscapes. Huber lives there and leases 2+ acres to grow vegetables in greenhouses and to raise chickens and pigs. Requiring her daily attention now are 150 black Australorp chickens, an Australian layer bred for egg production, that feed on

organic pastureland and non-GMO roasted-soybean grain from Montrose. The introduction of pigs and the arrival of garden vegetables will diversify Huber's production. "Now, I participate in my ecosystem every day, and I work with the Big Mama (Mother



environmentally-friendly neighborhoods. [read more](#)

What the Single Ladies Have Wanted for More Than a Century.

...removing some of the barriers to communal living would give America's growing population of single people the opportunity, at least, to decide if living with other people works for them. It might also encourage American in general to think more creatively about our homes, our cities and our social networks.



Residents of a "cohousing" community in Sacramento gather for dinner. Credit Max Whittaker for The New York Times

Construction begins at first Anchorage co-housing community



[Read more about Ravens' Roost](#)

Wary of retirement housing options, baby boomers make their own way.

The future residents of [PDX Commons](#), a 55-and-older cohousing community, haven't even purchased land or fully designed their development yet, but 15 of the proposed 27 units are spoken for.

How boomers are creating their own retirement communities - US New & World Report

"The individuals pick the community. The community doesn't pick them," Durrett says. "There is no such thing as like-minded people. Wait until you get into a discussion about cutting a tree down."

Chicago Radio Highlights Cohousing

Host Tony Scimeca welcomed journalist Chris Bentley in the studio, and [Katie McCamant](#) and Alice Alexander as phone guests to discuss cohousing's growing trend as a lifestyle choice.

[more news](#)

Nature)." Huber said. "I nourish the soil, and it nourishes me." [Read more](#)

End Notes

" **Community for Baby Boomers**" is the theme of the Spring 2015 **Communities** magazine from **FIC** (consider subscribing!), with great articles on senior cohousing, aging in community, and this one by Chuck Durrett: **The Power of Community**.

Today we can text our sibling to find out what they are having for lunch in Paris, but we don't know the name of our next-door neighbor, nor probably their birthday-unless we've looked him or her up on PoliceReport.com...because, you know, we should know who our neighbor is. It's only prudent to be cautious... [read more](#)

Thanks for reading

Cohousing Now! provides news and events on Cohousing... Now! From **Coho/US**, the Cohousing Association of the United States, Cohousing Now! is emailed monthly. Please forward to your friends, communities, and other lists to spread the word about cohousing!

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Resources

[Senior Cohousing: Existing and In-Process Communities List](#)

An evolving list of existing and in-process Senior Cohousing Communities; or as some prefer, "adult-focused" or "communities for pro-active adults." [Please share updates](#)

[Creating More Affordability in Your Community](#) - Chris ScottHanson

[Policy Example - Affiliates Guidelines](#)

from CoHo Ecovillage
"to create and maintain meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships with those outside our on-site community."

[CohoUS Press Release: The Next Generation of Cohousing](#)

[Cohousing Videos](#)

Cohousing Directory - New

[Catalyst Ecovillage](#)

Warwick, New York

[Village Hearth Cohousing](#)

Durham, North Carolina

[Bloomington Cohousing](#) - an update from Bloomington, Indiana

[SageHill Place](#)

Taylorsville, Utah

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