

Ecovillagers Alliance

Membership Policy: First Questions

Drafted by Joel Rothschild
September 2019



Community is made of its members. Without membership there is no community. But who are our members and how do they show up? And how do we show up for them? The more this understanding is an *explicit, shared agreement from the beginning*, the stronger, fairer, and more resilient is the community. Answering these questions early can save or ease struggle later.

Exclusion

- Who is the community *not* meant for?
- How should the community help a person understand if it is not meant for them?

Inclusion

- How must the community make it possible to reach agreements *without* assuming common class, race, ethnic, language, or education backgrounds?
- How is the community accessible to people with different incomes and access to capital?
- Does the community require its members to travel long distances or leave behind family in order to participate? If so, for what people is this an obstacle to membership?

Benefits, Rights, and Responsibilities

- What benefits must being a member *give* to a person?
- How should a person approach the community when they aren't getting that?