



Bioregional Financing Facilities

Reimagining Finance to Regenerate Our Planet

Case Study 11: ReCommon



BioFi Project



Capital Systems



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ReCommon – Regenerative Common Land Trusts

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About ReCommon

ReCommon is a US-based organization dedicated to building systems for regenerative community land acquisition and governance, using an adaptive bioregional framework.

ReCommon approaches this work on the “pattern-level” to create innovative yet grounded solutions that reflect foundational principles in nature. This approach is based on the understanding that there are common patterns present in most successful solutions, and that identifying and making those patterns accessible to others can greatly streamline place-based, on-the-ground action.

This work includes building governance protocols and legal templates that are designed to scale based upon natural patterns, such as land use patterns, community design patterns, and regenerative landscape intervention patterns. The groups that ReCommon works with then move from the pattern-level to the detail-level by adapting these protocols and templates to their place-based projects and communities – rendering them increasingly decentralized and interoperable, which cultivates systemic resilience.

Hybrid entity structure

ReCommon’s hybrid entity structure serves as an integrated bridge between impact investment capital and long-term regenerative stewardship of land in Trust by place-based bioregional communities. There are three core sister entities are:

ReCommon Foundation - 501(c)3nonprofit, cultivating Bioregional Nodes, governance and stewardship of land in Trust

ReCommon Trust - impact investment trust fund, acquire sland to be stewarded and governed by Bioregional Nodes and other aligned entities

ReCommon Labs - cooperative that builds digital tools to support the coordination, acquisition, and governance of land held in Trust

These diverse entity structures are able to work closely together towards a common goal while leveraging all pathways of capital formation. The Foundation accepts tax- exempt donations of all kinds and applies for grant funding, the Trust issues shares to investors for the acquisition of land from investors, and Labs accepts a blend of investor and non-investor members to build the ReCommon ecosystem.

Adaptive bioregional governance

ReCommon's place-based governance framework is called the Regenerative Community Land Trust (aka RCLT, RegenCLT), which builds upon core principles and functionality of the classic CLT model while expanding on it with ecological design principles codified into bylaws, leaseholds, and other documents. This model of land tenure serves as the foundation for how the land is managed, accessed, and stewarded by the community.

The distinct governance bodies that are responsible for the long-term stewardship of land in trust correspond to ecoregions and are called Bioregional Nodes. They oversee the agreements for use of the land, manage the Bioregional Node Treasury, and submit proposals related to use of funds, and use of land.

Land is held in Trust and is governed by Bioregional Nodes. Leaseholders access the land via long-term renewable leaseholds, and have direct ownership in the structures, businesses and activities that happen on the land. Each Node has five key stakeholder categories. Each category has equal weight— 20 percent – regardless of the number of members

- Stewards: leaseholders with direct stewardship responsibility for land in Trust
- Elders: members that represent rights of nature and Indigenous wisdom
- Patrons: Commons Credit holders, investors into land held in Trust
- Partners: aligned organizations that are working in and/or with the Node
- General Members: members located in the Node, with no other qualifiers

This structure allows for larger and smaller coordination bodies to form organically, honoring the complexity of relationships within and across landscapes and cultures.

Securing land for the bioregional commons

ReCommon Trust raises capital to build a distributed bioregional network of land holdings through the issuance of shares known as Commons Credits. CCs directly correlate to property acquired by the Trust, and are backed by the value of the land. Patrons – the owners of CCs – have a seat at the table in RCLT governance in the Bioregional Node that contains the property.

Governance of the land held in Trust is explicitly delegated to stewardship entities. Bioregional Nodes, via ReCommon Foundation, are the default stewardship entity, but the Trust has the flexibility to work with any place-based organization that exists specifically to support the multi-generational care of land.

The Foundation is a significant shareholder in the Trust, which means that when profits are generated – by scalable leasehold fees, etc. – and are distributed to shareholders, the Bioregional Node Treasuries are direct recipients of a portion of those profits. This serves as the foundation of a regenerative flywheel for resilient bioregional economies, where land in Trust generates revenue that is redistributed to the community for ongoing support of ecological bioregional initiatives.

This Case Study on **ReCommon** is an Excerpt from the book **Bioregional Financing Facilities: Reimagining Finance to Regenerate Our Planet**, by Samantha Power and Leon Seefeld. To see other case studies, or to buy or download the book, visit www.biofi.earth.

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