

Protecting what we love

At its heart, our movement for local living economies is about love. And its love that can overcome the fear that many may feel in the hard days ahead brought on by climate change and environmental collapse.

In my own experience, it was my love for animals that motivated me to challenge the factory farm system and begin building a local living economy in my region.

Our power comes from protecting what we love – love of place, love of life – people, animals, nature, all of life on our beautiful planet Earth.

And I would say, for the entrepreneurs amongst us – it's also about a love of business. Business has been corrupted as an instrument of greed rather than one of service to the common good. Yet we know that business is beautiful when we put our creativity and care into producing a product or service needed by our community.

Our materialistic society has desensitized us to the suffering that underlies our industrial economic system.

We're also desensitized by a false idea of masculinity based on control and domination. We need a more feminine, nurturing approach to life – to bring forth the goddess in each of us, men and women both, bringing care and compassion to our economy, and peace and harmony to our world.

We must open our hearts and eyes and ears - to hear the cry of the pigs in the crates, of a cow for her calf, of animals in laboratories, in the fur industry.

To feel the suffering of men, women and children enslaved in sweatshops, in the rug industry, in diamond and coalmines, and in chocolate production. The suffering of migrant workers in slaughterhouses and pesticide-soaked industrial farms.

The suffering of the people of Iraq, of Nigeria, of the rainforest tribes - everywhere where there is oil and natural resources to exploit, and fight wars over.

Let us hear the cry of the whales, of the polar bears, of the trees, of the coral reefs, of the whole natural world that is dying around us.

What provides the energy and passion for all we must do in this movement is simply to allow ourselves to love what we love.

And in so doing, find our place as humans in the family of life.