

# Foundation of Sustainable Living Membership & Levels of Participation

## Statement of Purpose

*The Foundation of Sustainable Living (FOSL) is a non-profit Organization whose specific purposes are to teach, preserve, and expand knowledge about, and the implementation of, the skill set and soft technologies needed for sustainable living within nature's bounty, in socially harmonious communities.*

*FOSL promotes and teaches local responsibility and skills for sustainable: food; fiber; shelter; fuel; biodiversity; education; and community. By sustainable FOSL means repeatable, stable, socially just, and environmentally benign. Just as in any fruitful investment we must live on nature's interest, its annual bounty, not erode nature's principal, not stealing from children. If mankind is to continue in a cultured fashion, we must learn to, and practice, living within the means nature provides, while living peacefully with one another in order to teach our children and their children to husband the necessary skills and resources both natural and social.*

**Summary of Current Status:** FOSL is an IRS 501c3, and through its core governing documents, an educational non-profit organization. A legal inheritable use of the land model is being designed as a Land Trust that will enable members to have equity, equal voice, and buy/sell/inherit shares in the community. The Foundation will manage the funds for buying land in different regions, for funding Community Supported Agriculture, Community Supported Sustainable Manufacturing & Businesses as well as Educational and Service Organizations. FOSL is based on framework of a democratic, council-style Governance model designed to be adaptable to each regional community, with each bio-region represented and integrated in the whole network.

**Current Core Members:** A core group, the Leadership Council (LC), has been formed and is meeting to further the Vision and Purpose of FOSL. FOSL has a Board of Directors, and a number of working committees as we meet the need to prepare and plan for a future of living in community, in harmony with nature and each other.

The LC and committees have been doing extensive research; reviewing draft documents and proposals outlining the vision and possibilities, creating brochures, attending to the initial legal aspects of building community, and researching land for acquisition. All the legal and internal documents are available for review either in hard copy or on the web site [www.foundationofsustainableliving.org](http://www.foundationofsustainableliving.org), and all members are welcome to participate in a dedicated email server (xxxxx@thefosl.org).

**Growing FOSL's Membership:** Climate change, resource diminishment, the obvious bankruptcy of our federal system to support common people, Trans-national Corporations lack interest in us except as consumers, is making the vision of self-sustaining community more compelling. It is time to add a level of organizational structure, create a larger membership base, and begin to raise money to support growth for FOSL.

**Membership Privileges and Benefits:** FOSL is a community that holds the value of equality among members. All members have a voice, regardless of levels of contribution of property or funds, or, length or type of service.

- ✓ Workshops and presentations with FOSL founders and other experts
- ✓ Invest yourself and plan for an uncertain future
- ✓ Develop positive life skills and technical skills needed now and in the future
- ✓ Plan for perpetuity
- ✓ Create a model for a knowledge-based sustainable community aligned with nature and one another
- ✓ Participate in a movement for change
- ✓ Create libraries of resources
- ✓ Connect with people who share your values of permaculture and an aligned community
- ✓ FOSL Newsletter and web site

**Who can be a member?:** FOSL values contributions of any kind, time, talent, personal or real property, and people of all walks of life contributing what they know, or want to learn that contributes to sustainable living. FOSL welcomes youth, adults and the elderly to participate in any level they can, in our endeavor.

**Who cannot be a member:** FOSL has a vision of an inclusive democratic, socially harmonious process that honors each other's contribution. If it becomes apparent that a participant does not fit with this vision, the Leadership Council will ask them to discontinue their participation in the group.

## Community events and introductory meetings

FOSL is open and eager to interface/network with other community-minded folks and communities to pooling ideas, information and interests. We are holding Community Events to explore the various aspects of creating

community and attracting new members.

### **What is needed now? People Participation-members**

- **Founders:** All of the FOSL founders are interested in evolving FOSL. All founders are members and besides some contributing money, founders are participating in the exciting experiment of building Community and learning the skills/technology to sustain a Community.
- **Members:** The main agreement is that you keep your promises and are open to learning and growing personally, interpersonally (in relationship with each other) and collectively, for the good of the whole effort.
- **Creating a knowledge base.** We need to continue to research, format information, archive, distribute, and practice the many skills both social and technical needed for living on the land and together.
- **Teaching:** Share your skills: If you have hard or soft skills such as farming, glass blowing, tool making, communication— you can teach others. Set up workshops or classes, publish and/or post to the web site.
- **Committee member:** The Core Council will generate activities, projects and help for more and more members to help make FOSL truly a respected source for help with knowledge about sustainable living.
- **Speakers or event coordinators:** FOSL is receiving regular requests for information and workshops about what is possible in forming/building community. We are building a speakers bureau – interested?
- **Financial Supporter:** FOSL incurs ongoing expenses and is also raising capital for land purchases. Any and all contributions are welcome. See the next section below. Three levels of membership are outlined below.

### **Four Levels of Participation as Members** (All Levels of membership can be achieved by work or time, and so does not require strictly money dues)

- **Associate Member:** \$30 or skills, work-in-kind/ month. Associates will be kept informed on seminars, lectures, demonstrations, meeting updates through electronic mail. Associate will have full access to FOSL's educational, informative and contact databases.
- **Member:** \$31-49/ month and/or work-in-kind, skill. Members are kept informed on seminars, lectures, demonstrations, meeting updates through electronic mail. Members will have full access to FOSL's educative, informative and contact databases. Members will be given space available priority on a FOSL property(s) in a given bioregion(s) for visiting or working, education, recreation, and training.
- **Working Members:** \$50-499/ month and/or work-in-kind, skill. Working Members will be kept informed and receive updates on all activities and events and full access to educative, informative and participatory databases and web site. Working Members will be given priority for space available on a FOSL property(s) in a given bioregion(s) for visiting or working, education, recreation, and training.
- **Sponsor:** \$500 or more/month, and/or equivalent work-in-kind, talents, skills, time, donations or gifts. A Sponsor will be kept informed and receive updates on all activities and events and full access educative, informative and participatory databases and web site. For Sponsors space will be provided on a FOSL property(s) in a given bioregion(s) for visiting or working, education, recreation, teaching, and training.

### **Financial Participation**

- **Capital Fund:** Larger Conditional Gift or Pledge donations and designated for FOSL's land/infrastructure fund will enable the purchase of property, building sustainable infrastructure, and the support of local Community businesses. There is no minimum contribution required. Program access will be made available for the donors of money and time of an aggregate amount who will then be considered a Sponsor. If the donor wants specific conditions for their donation, individual variation on this paragraph will need to be worked out with FOSL management.
- **Real Property:** There are many levels of participation possible in gifting to FOSL non-cash or real property. Items, physical and intellectual, currently of value can be "gifted" to the Foundation with the commensurate tax write off and depending on the use or exchange FOSL is able to make of such gifts the givers level of participation will be defined.

Members who both pay equivalent dues and invest time in FOSL projects, leadership, and administration shall be considered Sponsors with regard to access to FOSL knowledge, events, properties, and all other FOSL benefits.

It is important to note that at all levels of participation or contribution in FOSL any differentiation in the utility of any such contribution, and as a consequence, accrual of "status" or any other real or perceived class delineation is not an intention of the FOSL structure, and is expressly condemned. "From all, one", the motto on the US currency is an appropriate sentiment for members of FOSL in regard to each person's ability to contribute. A person's merit in building our mutual vision should be the only acknowledgement granted to one another and only in the form of respect. Consensually validated merit should also be given more responsibility along with our respect.