



## Conversations for a One Planet Region Society

Learn – Discuss – Understand – Imagine – Design – Create

<https://oneplanetconversations.ca/>

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## Bioregionalism, Regenerate Cascadia and Conversations

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### Understanding this place

We live in an eco-social and geo-political region at the southern tip of Vancouver Island. It has been home to Indigenous people for thousands of years, and more recently to settlers from Europe and elsewhere in the world. We recognise that we cannot talk about this place without understanding the natural and cultural history, as well as the current reality for the Indigenous people of this place.

Accordingly, we are committed to finding ways to work in partnership with Indigenous people as we move forward, not only as an act of reconciliation between non-Indigenous and Indigenous people, but because, in the words of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

*“Reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, from an Aboriginal perspective, also requires reconciliation with the natural world. If human beings resolve problems between themselves but continue to destroy the natural world, then reconciliation remains incomplete.”*

### What is a Bioregional approach?

The [Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition](#) (SPEC) has developed a Bioregional Framework that has been adopted by all three local municipalities on the peninsula (Central Saanich, North Saanich, Sidney). SPEC states:

*“A bioregion is defined by uniformity in environmental characteristics (such as plants, animals and climate). Instead of viewing the world as divided into political or administrative regions, we can think of it as composed of many distinct, yet interacting, bioregions.”*

### Its Bioregional Framework

*“outlines an overall approach to preserving, restoring and caring for a bioregion. The framework encourages political jurisdictions, companies, organizations and community members within a bioregion to collaborate to support the overall health of the environment and, by extension, the diversity of human cultures and interests in that bioregion.”*

## **Joe Brewer and the Design School for Regenerating Earth**

Joe Brewer has a unique background in physics, math, philosophy, atmospheric science, complexity, and cognitive linguistics. More than a decade ago, he left the academy to trail blaze a path for other practitioners to follow. His 2021 book "[The Design Pathway for Regenerating Earth](#)" offers a clear and cogent pathway for safeguarding humanity's future through an extended period of cascading crises.

Recently he has founded the [Design School for Regenerating Earth](#), which works on the ground in bioregions to support people in organizing themselves around holistic, integrated landscapes known as bioregions, while connecting those bioregions into a planetary network of learning exchanges. He and his colleagues have recently undertaken 'Activation Tours' of the Great Lakes and Colorado River bioregions, and are about to embark on a Cascadia Bioregion Activation Tour in partnership with Regenerate Cascadia.

### **Regenerate Cascadia and the Cascadia Bioregion Activation Tour**

[Regenerate Cascadia](#), of which one of our Board members, Clare Attwell, is a leading member, is working to address the social and cultural causes of the ecological and social crises we face, in an effort to undo the cultural and ecological damage caused by colonization and overconsumption.

***As part of that tour, we will be hosting Joe Brewer and his colleagues from the Design School for Regenerating Earth from October 21 - 24 2023.***

The tour will involve meetings with high school and university students and faculty, local business leaders, local Mayors, Councillors and staff, local NGOs and faith-based organisations.

**There will be a public event at UVic, Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 - 9 PM at the C103 Lecture Theatre, David Strong Building, featuring Joe Brewer and a panel of local leaders discussing "A Bioregional approach to the future of our shared region"**

### **Conversations on the Shared Future of Our Bioregion**

The [Conversations for a One Planet Region](#) Society exists to foster discussion in this region on the need to live in harmony with and within the natural constraints of the Earth, with the goal of becoming a region with an ecological footprint equivalent to one planet, while ensuring the wellbeing of all in the region - and beyond.

. We are working to initiate a participatory futures process for this region, provisionally titled "Conversations on the Shared Future of Our Bioregion". We anticipate this will include

- Dialogue and discussion e.g. through Kitchen Table Conversations
- Engaging residents in co-design workshops
- Fostering creative engagement through arts programs, festivals etc.
- Learning about and creating change
- Encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship
- Recognizing and celebrating what we already have going on

We welcome people and organisations to work with us on these and other activities that engage people in conversations about the shared future of our bioregion.