

1.1 TRANSFORMING REGENERATIVE COMMUNITIES SYSTEMS

1.1.1 THE SYSTEM

The members of the RCN are bioregional or other place-based (e.g. ecological megaregions, megacities, nations) collaborative action initiatives) working together to create regenerative economies within their chosen area. Each collaborative freely chooses to join RCN, is regionally led, and is committed to inclusive engagement with its region over time. Collaboratives often work within multiple focus areas at different levels of scale. They can spark neighbouring collaboratives to form larger clusters of action. they pay attention to other natural units of regeneration at larger (e.g. large mountain ranges or biomes) and smaller scales (e.g. neighbourhoods or districts in urban areas or watersheds).

RCN is a project of the Capital Institute, a US-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2010. It was publicly launched on October 3, 2018, with seven participating bioregional collaboratives in the United States, Mexico, and Costa Rica. In the long term, the RCN may transition to a suitable stand-alone legal and organizational form, like a platform cooperative.

The RCN has received expressions of interest in joining from 75+ communities on six continents. It recently launched work in Latin America to address some of these communities. However, it has not been able to address the vast majority of them.

1.1.2 ACTION GOALS

Broad Goals

To be a global action network designed to support place-sourced transformation towards regenerative economies.

Three Year Goals

1. Gather intelligence about the diverse regenerative economy place-based initiatives, networks and existing systems to understand their dynamics, structures, and development issues, and the different kinds of regenerative economy place-based transformation work occurring in the world;
2. Create a powerful ST that includes participation of diverse regenerative economy place-based transformations enablers and initiatives working towards the ST goals; and
3. To support actions to advance the development of regenerative economy place-based transformation infrastructure, including:

- a. Deepen knowledge of regenerative economy place-based transformation systems, by expanding the Regenerative Communities Network (RCN) from eight bioregional collaboratives on two continents to 35 bioregional collaboratives on six continents
 - b. Incubate a regenerative economy transformative leadership and education initiative across RCN linking multiple Bioregional Learning Centres
 - c. Use RCN to provide at least three test geographical regions to apply Blue Marble Evaluation with consistent baseline and approach
 - d. Grow a marketplace powered by a bioregional investment digital platform linking regenerative / transformational investors with regenerative / transformational projects grounded in bioregional context
4. Work with the Forum and its parts to (1) access other STs’ expertise, and (2) provide vehicles for other STs to develop their work in particular places; and
 5. Advance leading regenerative economy transforming places knowledge and practice.

1.1.3 BUDGETED ACTIVITIES

Line Allocations Summary

Core Funding Request – Total: €250K

- ST Years 1-3: No request. The RCN itself will provide direct funding for ST activities in the amount of €750K.
- Seeing and connecting Year 1: €250K

Revenue Generation Potential

RCN has designed processes for its bioregional collaboratives that focus on mapping, validating, and sourcing tens of billions of dollars of regenerative, well-managed, de-risked, community-driven projects per year. In addition, RCN has tremendous potential for robust revenue streams from leadership training; educational programs and licensed curricula; communications and collaboration platforms; systems mapping and monitoring services; regenerative decision support tools and evaluation software and services; and regenerative design and planning services

1.1.3.1 YEAR 1 DETAILS

An Experiment in Scaling: €250K

How to greatly scale impact is a core transformation question. The Forum, in general, is a strategy for this. Other questions relate to specific groups and networks, working to expand place-based transformations efforts. This initiative will explore how the Forum can support

expansion, in partnership with the RCN. This expansion will also include deepened engagement with associated Bioregional Learning Centres, Blue Marble Evaluation, and investment platforms across several of the bioregional collaboratives in the RCN. It will work with the Forum STs to identify how to do this in a way that can generate value for all those stakeholders working with the Forum, the RCN and, of course, the collaborating communities. This will involve in Year 1 local, regional and global mapping, designing, and convening to set a solid foundation. This activity will, of course, be closely coordinated with the seeing and connecting with place-based networks in general, as a scaling strategy.

1.1.4 LEADERSHIP

The Director and Systems Convener of the RCN is Dr. Stuart Cowan, who brings 25 years of experience with complex living systems, regenerative design, and regenerative finance. The Co-Founder and Strategic Advisor to the RCN is John Fullerton, who had 20 years of experience in senior roles with JPMorgan, before founding Capital Institute and authoring foundational papers on regenerative economics. The ST includes the RCN Director; the RCN Strategic Advisor; systems conveners for the bioregional collaboratives in the RCN from the US, Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico and soon Brazil, UK, Canada, Australia, Himalayan region, and other areas; a delegate to the Place-Based Transformation Systems ST; and representatives from internal RCN Steward Teams focused on key network-wide initiatives. Strategic implementation partners include LINEA, Global Ecovillages Network, Transition Towns, Seeds of Good Anthropocenes, Well-Being Economy Alliance (WEAll), C40, Club of Rome, Commonland, Ecosystem Restoration Camps, Netweaver Network, and others joining, as part of community building efforts.

1.1.5 PROJECT CONNECTION TO OTHER STS

The RCN Transformations Systems ST will support strong ST leadership and, through participation in projects of other STs, the following:

- Transformations Systems Analysis: Working with the ST for the analysis
- Place-Based Transformations: Scaling RCN experiments
- Transforming Evaluation: A place-based evaluation for transformation framework and process for the RCN Transformations Systems ST
- Transforming Capacity Systems: Support development of Bioregional Learning Centres within the RCN Transformations Systems ST
- Transforming Finance: Testing of bioregional investment platform and related innovations in the RCN Transformations Systems ST

