

Remember: next meeting is at the Friends House, Thursday March 1, 6 p.m. Potluck and bring a friend.

Report on what you have done to start gathering your neighborhood. What is working and not working?

“Notable notes” from Jim and Eileen Schenk who presented at our Feb 8, 2007 meeting.

1. In 2004 they pulled together 20 houses (96 on the street) to talk about how to have an ecovillage. Two things emerged:
 - a. Celebrate strengths
 - b. Deal with issues by finding positives

In 1995 Cincinnati Gas and Electric worked with them to insulate 2/3 of the houses.
They are located 7 minutes from downtown and on a bus line
They have organic gardening
They have 200 acres of forest
They have walking trails throughout
They put flower pots at the entrance of the street to signify that something special is happening in this block

In 2004, they created a brochure and a bi-monthly newsletter
They want to get people on board and keep out any hostility to their work.

They devised a way to buy houses on their street by asking people to pitch in 0 – 7% loans that would be paid back when the houses sold
They searched for and found people to move in who were also interested in living in an ecovillage
Some real strengths were their good location close to town and that they were already there...but the negative is they can't control the membership.

They started a green home owners association to encourage people to go green. The asset here is when the house is sold, people who want to live green will want to live on this street.

When people get excited about what is going on, they become trend-setters. They developed a marketing committee.

Flags, a street banner and flower pots were purchased to distinguish the neighborhood.

Kids were involved in the projects
A long range planning committee
A Green committee

Points to consider:

1. Do not start too large
2. 2-3 other families is enough to get excited and get started
3. 3. get to know people on your street

Talk about the kind of neighborhood that I want to live in.

Talk about ways to bring the neighborhood together: birthday parties, involve elderly and children.

Consider:

Website, listserv, phone book printed for street, newsletter

Some people do not like to go to meetings. Have alternative jobs for those people.

Have meals on the curb, picnics in the side yards.

Name your ecovillage: "Enright Ridge Urban Ecovillage"

Do a collage project to get people to list all the things they want in the neighborhood.

Found that people are interested in saving money, nutritious foods, safe neighborhood, care of children and elderly.