



**GOOD JOBS  
FOR A GREEN WORLD**

*Putting people to work healing the planet*

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

**Alliance for Reason and Knowledge**

*Planting the seeds of a sustainable tomorrow*

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SUBMISSION TO:  
US Economic Development Agency- Good Jobs Challenge

EDA-HDQ-ARPGJ-2021-2006964

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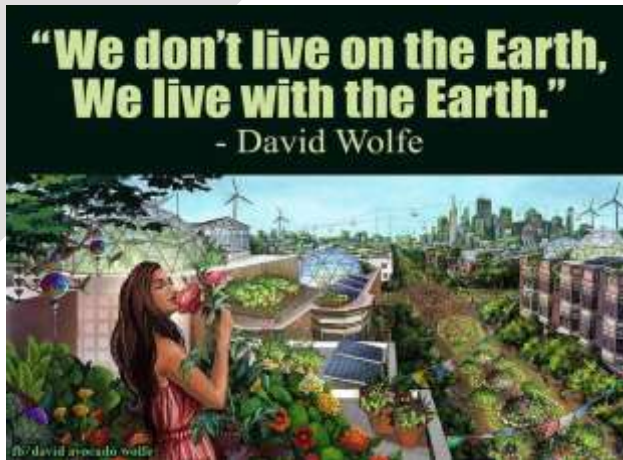
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## Abstract

In a regenerative economy, all jobs are ‘green’ jobs. Our proposal seeks to utilize this opportunity to drive private equity investments into capacity building projects. Using food sovereignty as the foundation for economic development we can put people to work healing the planet. As a business partner, Nature provides models for scaled replication and sustainable growth. Investing in the training of people to utilize these models is a means to drive investments into local living economies. Partnering with businesses, community leaders, and civic agencies can provide workforce development in every field from agriculture to aerospace on how to build a brighter world for us all.

## Section 1: Overview



What is a “good job”? In the context of personal career aspirations, the answer would likely differ by everyone asked. However, people of every profession have some material needs that boil down to:

- Providing reasonable compensation for fair labor
- Proper training
- A safe working environment
- Advancement potential
- A sense of belonging and contributing to the ‘greater good’.

Those agencies, companies, and organizations who can provide all or some of these attributes<sup>1</sup> have a 34% lower turnover rate and a greater retention than the one and a half years as is the industry norm.

What is a ‘green world’? The international definition of ‘sustainability’ is the ability of one generation to meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. There are few that intentionally wish to harm the ecosystem, which is our home, recognizing the simple fact there is no business to be done on a dead planet. However, generations of short-sighted political policy, failures to invest in maintenance, and the profitability of exploiting labor/resources are collectively driving a social, climate, and economic crisis that we are facing on a global level.

The Alliance for Reason and Knowledge (ARK) has chosen to submit this application to build a bridge between the economy and the environment. The simple goal is to solidify our path for the remainder of the decade as a workforce development and business incubator to accelerate the mainstream adoption of the regenerative economic model—to catalyze local markets of food, energy, and zero waste. We are expanding our corporate board, taking on a global advisory council, and establishing state and community chapters to reach that goal. Via adaptive templating on publicly accessible platforms, ARK aims to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.plantclub.io/en/blog/workplace-factors-that-impact-employee-retention>

develop and strengthen regional systems that resonate outward globally. Establishing training centers for the workforce to design, develop, and maintain that economy is the focus of *the Good Jobs for a Green World* program. A holistic perspective that provides a bottom-up approach to giving workers the skills to obtain and retain good jobs in the markets of today, including indigenous communities, coal communities, and regions of future markets to thrive in perpetuity.

A sad common denominator for too many marginalized groups is landing up in jail. After serving time in the corrections system, individuals are at the beginning of a new life, and many are entering a whole new world from the one they left behind. It is here, at this moment, that the cycles of abuse, violence, and addiction can be broken. For the right individuals, these experiences can be transformative because they will be investing in themselves and the community. By offering them a stable way to live and provide for their immediate families it can position them to influence the development of local living systems where Nature's economy, permaculture, can be rooted to provide generational wealth and prosperity. This should keep them, and most of their communities out of the criminal justice system in the future most effectively.

We propose making a concentrated, limited investment into training a select group of individuals exiting the prison system in regenerative urban development, an emerging practice with a growing job market that opens countless opportunities for social entrepreneurship. By selecting people who are committed to serve as investments in their community, we will create a force multiplier for instigating positive systemic changes in the socio-economic status of the districts where they live and the states where they collaborate. Studies show clear benefits to educating people who spent time in prison, with a 43% reduction in recidivism rates among those who choose education. Taxpayer investment in educational programs for convicts saves them five times as much money in prison expenses<sup>2</sup>.

ARK has identified an ideal curriculum for people immediately up for release from prison: the EcoDistricts Accredited Professional path, which teaches a foundational knowledge of how to accomplish economical community planning that lowers the cost of living and improves the quality of life for everyone involved. We are applying for this grant to develop, administer, and publicize a training program based on the EcoDistricts rubric that also incorporates financial literacy, critical thinking skills, and support from a dedicated 5-person team to provide the best environment to nurture the growth of industry leaders who can rise to the challenge of healing traumatized communities.

## **Section 2 Strategic Partnerships**

ARK volunteers to be the backbone organization of this *Good Jobs for a Green World* program, having existed for the last decade as a support mechanism for change makers and an educational support system for the advancement of permaculture principles. Our mission is to create educational opportunities that empower individuals and enrich the communities in which they live. As a volunteer organization, this has been carried out

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<sup>2</sup> <https://sites.northwestern.edu/npep/benefits-of-prison-education/>

largely through hosting annual Solar Tours, Regenerative Planet Summits, and the Food Sovereignty Taskforce, culminating in the planning of resiliency institutes: living labs for training the next generation of permaculture professionals. These activities have connected us with a broad range of industries and interests that allow us to build bridges from the smallest remote villages to the largest metropolitan areas. People from all these places share a common desire to have good places to live, work, and play.

Evolving to become a national economic development enterprise, ARK is planning a cycle of systematic growth where the connections and partnerships developed in Alaska can mature to encompass an international agenda of peace, prosperity, and progressive economic development working in harmony with Mother Nature. Advancing the regenerative economy through workforce development and business incubation are the practical steps we are taking to realize these ambitions. A partnership with the EDA, at the state and federal level, will serve to accelerate the development of the programs and the number of people we can serve.

The growth of any web begins with strands of action that form the bridge of relationships. While there are several interests and numerous partner firms that will be necessary to carry out this mission, we have decided to focus on two.

1. EcoDistricts- An industry partner with their feet in the ground focused on practical steps to increase the quality of life for the planet and her people now.
2. Kepler Shipyards-An industry partner with their eyes on the sky, launching themselves boldly forward to make huge leaps for human advancement that serves to preserve our species in perpetuity.

Preserving the Earth while preparing for life among the stars is the regional development sector through which investments can have multiplying profitable returns and generational yields.

### EcoDistricts<sup>3</sup>

Within every neighborhood (or district) lies the opportunity to design truly innovative, scalable solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing city planners today: income, education, and health disparities; blight and ecological degradation; the growing threat of climate change; and rapid urban growth. EcoDistricts is advancing a new model of urban development to empower just, sustainable, and resilient neighborhoods.

The EcoDistricts Certified guide and Protocol provide decision-makers the tools to take a collaborative, integrated approach to community design to achieve rigorous, meaningful performance outcomes that matter to the planet and her people, in both the short and long term. EcoDistricts aims to mobilize, empower, and accelerate sustainable and equitable urban development leadership throughout North America and beyond.

EcoDistricts promotes equitable, resilient, and sustainable cities, starting from the neighborhood scale (the apex of people and place), by training/accrediting professionals and advancing a new model of urban regeneration and community development rooted in a relentless commitment to authentic collaboration and social, economic, and ecological

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ecodistricts.org/>

innovation. Their work is powered by the growing number of inspired urban change makers that are reimagining the future of cities.

The core tenets of EcoDistricts encourage policies to nurture the economic environment that propels our values and principles into the future. These include but are not limited to:

- Neighborhoods and districts are the building blocks of sustainable cities.
- Everybody—regardless of class, race, age, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation—deserve to live in healthy, safe, connected, and vibrant neighborhoods.
- Economic opportunity, community well-being, and ecological health are fundamental ingredients for sustainable neighborhoods and cities.
- Neighborhood sustainability requires a new model for action—rooted in collaboration and greater inclusion—to co-create innovative district-scale projects.
- Environmental and social performance is fundamental to effectively promote and manage long-term economic security.

#### Kepler Shipyards<sup>4</sup>

Aerospace is intrinsically a “life sciences industry”. While the popular notion is to terraform other planets, that journey starts at home. Aerospace has a deep connection with environmental stewardship and the technology and sciences derived from these investments have improved the quality of life on this planet more than most will ever know. Aerospace is also an excellent career path for many skilled and educated people who are more socially and politically active. Kepler’s mission is to advance aerospace technologies and bring those benefits down to Earth. From the first Earth Day to scientific research and national security, investing in aerospace has always been good for improving the quality of life on this planet. In fact, Abu Dhabi<sup>5</sup> alone is looking to add 10,000 new aerospace related jobs by 2030 and with new advances in everything from food production to medicine, the benefits from this bold new frontier, are key to growing a global regenerative economy with the US taking the lead.

The Kepler Carbon Recapture (KCR) project is the latest development and is working to use a combination of innovative technologies, processes, and market practices to address one challenge as the means to solve many more. Bringing together teams of high caliber multidisciplinary professionals from around the world, their fully scaled solution can extract 300Mtons of CO<sub>2</sub>e and convert it into fiber, fuel, and food. Essential elements of life that can sustain a small population of engineers and can grow or multiply into floating commercial real estate platforms capable of housing hundreds of thousands of people, many of whom are currently climate, political, and economic refugees. Creating the equivalent number of living wage career opportunities along the way.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.keplershipyards.com/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.aviationbusinessme.com/airlines/business/content-92867>

The power of nature, in the wind, sun, and sea provides the energy to cost effectively extract CO<sub>2</sub>e from saltwater, creating the raw material for a multitude of industrial and consumer goods. Commercial partners can inhabit new space to create value-added commodities for global markets and establish, grow, and multiply an ecologically sustainable industrial base for an intentional community. This can drive investments into new carbon negative cities on the land, in the sea, and beyond. They are also the bridges by which we connect with the Earth and each other. Putting people to work healing the planet is the ultimate carbon recapture venture and KCR is rising to that challenge.

### **Section 3: Regional Description**

In pursuit of putting people to work healing the planet (creating a transformative program for workforce development in the most underserved segments of the United States population and beyond) we've started with the natural view of regenerative economics. While most consider a "region" by geographic or industry boundaries, the *Good Jobs for a Green World* program focuses on mainstreaming the region of emerging markets that are responding to the impacts of the pandemic, climate, and shifting cultures. To seed, nurture and grow new systems that are founded on permaculture principles, policies, and practices; collectively known as the regenerative economy.

ARK is uniquely positioned to develop this workforce framework into a global campaign to eradicate the apartheid of poverty as the conclusive endgame to the climate crisis. All the while creating an economic foundation on principles that see Nature as a profitable business partner and not just another cost of doing business. A comprehensive approach is deemed not only as the most expedient end to the current strife and struggle but to create an adaptable and resilient system that continuously propels our civilization forward to pioneer new frontiers.

In the context of a global regenerative economy, research indicates<sup>6</sup> the most impactful scale of regional development is within ever decreasing watershed boundaries and the "Eco-District" scale which covers villages, neighborhoods, and towns on the micro level of the socioeconomic spectrum and cities, metropolitans, and nation-states at the larger end. The "city-region" (or Eco-District) is the balance of focus serving as an engine of strategic growth and regular innovation. This scale serves as the ideal perspective for local administrations to build and maintain competitive advantage in global markets. Using the novel framework of progressive regionalism, regenerative development, and collaborative governance planning can shift the focus from economic growth to quality-of-life results.

Within this scope multiple employment opportunities will become available as older industries transition<sup>7</sup>, and newer ones emerge. The workforce for this new world is also emerging as seasoned laborers recognize their intrinsic value and new talent see working for themselves and collaborating as preferable to the traditional trickle-down economics

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<sup>6</sup>[https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21681376.2019.1584542?fbclid=IwAR2bg13HwYTKvdFGUXN0JxwvK\\_GcCeh040FVePocYw7iOKWKGg98L-Yi6QA](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21681376.2019.1584542?fbclid=IwAR2bg13HwYTKvdFGUXN0JxwvK_GcCeh040FVePocYw7iOKWKGg98L-Yi6QA)

of the current segmented markets. Furthermore, this scope requires an innovative approach to job training and civic engagement as participation in regional and regenerative governance seeks to ensure profitable social, environmental, and economic outcomes for those marginalized populations that are missed with traditional approaches of engagement.

EcoDistricts developments can become more inclusive of environmental, social, and cultural aspects, putting an emphasis on quality of life rather than on economic growth. This framework provides a set of principles to guide and improve policy formulation and implementation. It can be used as an analytical lens to investigate and assess city-regional practices. The *Good Jobs for a Green World* program is focused on growing an intergenerational workforce capable of delivering reliable results serving as working business, civic, and political leaders.

### Progressive Regionalism

Taking a progressive approach to the city-region anchors, people, and place at the core of all policies, systems, and practices. Recognizing that leadership and responsibility needs to be shared while integrated across scales. Top level decision-making is doomed to failure if all stakeholders are not meaningfully engaged.

The regional approach can effectively concentrate on reducing the ‘root causes of poverty, social injustice and environmental degradation’. To achieve these aims, places should be analyzed through their territorial specificities as well as their ‘complex and multi-scalar flows of material, energy, and knowledge resources’. Regional municipalities, thus, do not function in a vacuum, but are interconnected and influenced by neighborhood, local, national, and global levels. Moreover, ‘civically engaged research, critical thought, and collective actions should accompany decisions taken in the name of ‘progress’ and ‘development’.

### Regenerative Development

This concept advances from minimal or neutral environmental impact to creating positive effects for mutually supportive symbioses between the built, cultural, and natural environments. This includes the growth of a negative carbon economy. Having degraded not only the environment but also our social and cultural systems, we need to do much more to restore and enhance ecosystems and community health. Thus, considering the multiple crises that societies go through today, it is no longer sufficient to sustain or remain 100% neutral. Our ability to thrive requires us to courageously challenge the status quo that maintains a dysfunctional, exploitative human–nature relationship. Adopting instead a simple philosophy that the Earth is a complex living organism and we co-exist with her in a symbiotic relationship. Accepting a deep awareness that our knowledge, skills, and imagination give us great power to change this world and with this power we accept the responsibility to each be good stewards.

A regenerative city develops a restorative, mutually enhancing relationship with the natural systems that sustain it. At its core lies the model of urban metabolism which



differentiates between an existing state (linear metabolism) and a desirable one (circular metabolism). In the former, resources are inefficiently used, and the waste produced is further externalized. Circularity in natural systems, on the other hand, exemplifies how waste can be converted into nutrients. How trash can be treasured as the beginning and end of the materials economy.

In a resilient ecologically sustainable city, sectors such as transportation, food, energy, housing, language, science, art, water, and waste, as well as important key social aspects related to governance, participation, and engagement, are integrated. Cities may well be at the forefront of development, yet they have always relied on resources coming from outside their administrative boundaries. Thus, the regenerative development paradigm reconsiders the division between the rural and the urban communities. Processes of urbanization with afferent economic functions and environmental transformation are now clearly visible in the so-called countryside as well. Turning them into an essential operational landscape which supports prosperity elsewhere.

Regenerative development requires restoring and nourishing the relationship between urban and rural areas. City-regions, in this respect, offer scope for measured growth. The emphasis of the regenerative paradigm can overcome the traditional urban–rural divide because it offers the countervailing vision that can challenge the metro-centric bias that takes the rural areas for granted.

While taking a relational approach, regenerative development acknowledges the importance of place since all processes occurring are influenced by bioregional and cultural particularities. Below is a list of fundamental actions encompassed by regenerative development:

- Resource regeneration, which allows switching from linear to circular flows.
- Natural capital and ecosystem regeneration, including urban agriculture and enhanced ecosystem service infrastructure within the urban area.
- Regeneration of built spaces, densification to avoid sprawl and significant improvement for the citizens' quality of life.
- Community regeneration is strengthened by the involvement of local individuals, communities, and businesses in management activities within the city.
- In this case, policymakers create an inclusive framework for collaboration that encourages 'the informal sector, local youth and marginalized groups' to participate actively as well.
- Consequently, the regenerative model highlights the idea that change cannot happen without the active engagement of all stakeholders. In the end, the behavior of the end users can determine the success or failure of a certain plan.

Seeing humans as part of nature – just another ecosystem among the many is a major paradigm shift. Through this non-hierarchical lens, people can learn to co-evolve and create a harmonious relationship with the places they inhabit, acknowledging that any action will produce multiple interactions and effects.

The intensification of natural disasters in the past decade might be the best proof that steps undertaken so far in the quest for sustainable development have not been sufficient and we urgently need to reconsider our existence and lifestyles. EcoDistricts measures the metrics of happiness (not throughput as GDP does) to lower the cost of living and improve the quality of life for all species that share this home. This paradigm provides hope for a brighter tomorrow and the efforts can light up the world.

#### Collaborative Governance

The reconceptualization of EcoDistricts as spaces for regenerative development through collaborative governance offers new perspectives. The ideas were already available in the different literature strands, yet their combined effect and potential for empirical application have never been highlighted before. By capitalizing on these synergies, this integrative conceptual framework can be used to study, understand, and improve policy, processes, and practices. It is not a one-time program that can be implemented, but rather a standard that should guide the formulation and enactment of policies.

In segmented markets we think of linear movement such as supply chains. In a circular regenerative marketplace, we think in terms of webs. Multidimensional constructs that respond to and are impacted by the slightest motion of a single strand. Our global efforts to participate in progressive collaborative development allow for language, culture, and traditions to be preserved and maintained as the treasures of generational wealth while collectively we boldly go where no one has gone before.

### **Section 4 Impacts on Regional Workforce**

In a regenerative economy, all jobs are “green” jobs. Consideration given to our industrial activities and their impact on the Natural World is an inevitable shift of perspective on how we do everything from mineral extraction to waste management. Furthermore, in a regenerative economy, inspiration, intellect, and innovation are the primary yields from educated and engaged whole people who enter the marketplace, not to contribute to the GDP, but to enhance their own sense of happiness using something like a Quality Of Life Index (QOLI)<sup>8</sup>. Even the extraction of minerals would come under review considering current levels of market ready technologies. Those industries won’t go away but will transition with the rest to remain profitable and relevant.

The ARPA Good Jobs Challenge is designed to help get Americans back to work by developing and strengthening regional systems to develop and execute sectoral partnerships that will lead to well-paying jobs. The regenerative economy approach of *the Good Jobs for a Green World* program goes a step further to ensure that coming out of a two year deadly global pandemic, people have the mental capacities to deal with chaotic changes in the workplace and the rapidly changing climate. To succeed in this new “post pandemic” world the employers that will profit recognize their role in the ecosystem of resilient communities that thrive using the regenerative economic model. Just as it takes a local village to raise a global citizen, so does it take thriving local small businesses to support a regenerative planetary economy.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ihda.org/developers/market-research/quality-of-life-index/>

The permaculture principles of the *Good Jobs for a Green World* program allow us to achieve the stated goal of creating regional workforce training systems by developing and implementing effective employer-driven onboarding programs that will connect the existing and emerging skills needed by employers in the regenerative economy with labor partners. Workers who are willing to negotiate the terms for quality jobs that advance their chosen career path. The nature of the resiliency institute model provides online learning and a supportive environment to nurture the growth of graduates and the general population through grassroots campus projects that anchor the knowledge while increasing the area's capacity to be resilient.

Our regional workforce training systems and sectoral partnerships will connect employers in the professional permaculture industry with key regional stakeholders, including state and local governmental entities, economic development organizations, workforce development boards, employer-facing organizations, education and training providers, community-based organizations (CBOs), worker-serving organizations (WSOs), and/or labor unions. As much as they can facilitate economic opportunities, graduates from this program are also ideal employees for the above-mentioned agencies as part of the transition from a linear to a circular economy.

A holistic focus on nurturing systems and partnerships that address populations with labor market barriers such as persons with disabilities, at-risk youth, individuals in recovery, individuals with past criminal records including justice impacted and reentry participants, and veterans is the key to strategic success. The impacts of the current social and economic approach to social investments are woefully lacking, leaving hundreds of millions alone and in the dark well of generational poverty and the scarcity mentality.

#### The Profit of Investing in People

Thirty-six thousand dollars per year to incarcerate someone<sup>9</sup> is about the same as taxpayers incur each year for the chronically homeless<sup>10</sup>. A full-time annual income, calculated at fifteen dollars an hour, is only thirty thousand dollars per year. These numbers show this investment strategy isn't working. Or perhaps the challenge is those currently making investment decisions simply fail to accurately calculate the value of an educated adult capable of critical thinking. Generations of innovators and business leaders are all economic multipliers as the wealth builders and job creators of nations.

Just as we value gold, oil, and mineral wealth, in the age of information, everyone has the potential to revolutionize the world, given the support and tools they need to thrive. Beyond training workers for good jobs, investing in the incarcerated and the homeless is the most economical decision to reduce the national debt, while ensuring a social safety net for each American citizen. A net we can then demonstrate to other nations to cast for

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/04/30/2018-09062/annual-determination-of-average-cost-of-incarceration>

<sup>10</sup> <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/ending-chronic-homelessness-saves-taxpayers-money/>

their own citizens, as they see fit, and America can invest in innovation and discovery at the expense of defense spending and carbon fuel consumption.

This encompasses our system development process as we focus investments on those who have been failed by the current system. It engages them in building the next version of entrepreneurs and innovators capable of driving forward a more equitable America, thriving as leaders of the fossil-free world. Investments into marginalized communities provide a foundation to marketplace developments of cultural significance. Training ten people seeds a movement that trains one hundred then one thousand people. Building a bridge for future generations.

Investing in the use and further development of innovative tools like Magnova<sup>11</sup>, allow us to organize the global resources of people, places, and things. This is key to the fluid development of projects and programs that provide the transformational market opportunities we are seeking. In addition to organizing an engaged labor force we can use this phase to connect with invested traditional employers and create further opportunities for participants to facilitate graduated best practices for companies as they sprout new ways to reduce costs and increase their yield of revenue. Numerous metrics exist for companies to work with, and trained professionals can help them chart and navigate the course ahead.

#### Growing a Greener Economy

Building local living intentional EcoDistricts that can provide for the essential needs of all their citizens is a sound investment in security, cultural identity, has the lowest carbon footprint, and is the most resilient to climate and cultural shifts. Most importantly it provides for the greatest freedoms of individual choice by intentionally engaging in the ongoing development of the community. Similarly, investments into clean energy, healthy locally grown food, and sustainable intentional zero-waste cities that can provide for the needs of the humans living there is of equal importance to companies like Kepler Shipyards. Aerospace and ecologically based industries bridge several gaps including the one between the planet and her people.

The sustainable advantage of the *Good Jobs for a Greener World* program is simply that its endgame goal is to systematically provide training and skill development for the current and future generations of professionals who recognize the bounty of environmental health as the most precious form of generational wealth. Furthermore, the freedom of choice offered by the modern world lends to the organization of business enterprises that value the contributions made by employees and see them as whole people instead of simply a means to an end.

The focus of our program design is to build on the relationships we've nurtured and create an effective means of training people to utilize environmental sciences and natural philosophies to influence the industrial activities of humanity. Engineers, architects, material suppliers, community planners, even restaurant and local merchants can all have

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<sup>11</sup> <https://magnova.space/>

a huge impact on building bridges between the human world and the natural one. Putting people to work healing the planet is the practice of training the labor force capable of moving communities from institutionalized to intentional where all members are important and play a critical role in the social ecosystem.

### The Regenerative Marketplace

What yields can be achieved over 3 years from an investment of \$10M? Any investment in workforce development for a region can create multiple and generational yields. However, in the beginning, we can create 10 full-time jobs and in year two provide training for 10 students, with supportive wrap-around services to fine tune the most effective roll out of the resiliency institute program in all US states and territories. With public support for engagement, private equity investments for infrastructure, and seed money for teacher salaries each location can create 20 full-time positions with a goal of 100 graduates from each class in year three.

Utilizing programs like apprenticeships we can match graduates with suitable employers with a 90% success rate. With these considerations a \$10M investment could potentially yield 1,050 direct employment opportunities and 4,680 positions in related industries by the end of 3 years. This is largely possible because of efficient workforce development tools like Magnova and the ability to invest in software and data connections as the primary tools needed for students, staff, and educators alike.

The Alaska Resiliency Institute (ARI) is the business model on which the *Good Jobs for a Green World* program is based. A \$1.1M investment in the physical creation of a learning practicum mirrors the ‘bounder’ experience Mr. Shields received from Sterling College<sup>12</sup> as an anchor for the academic education he received that led us here today. On a small plot of 3 acres, a “village” can be designed and built by the students as a foundation for generational learning.

These resiliency institutes further serve the community at large by providing experimental plots for economic incubators which can convert waste materials into value added commodities using locally available renewable energy. Even gold mining operations can lower their costs and increase their profits by implementing practices developed as the outgrowth of vertical schools of thought. We have recently secured the real estate that in 2022 will allow us to begin here in Fairbanks, Alaska building a seed bank of traditional and progressive knowledge. The EDA partnership can allow us to plant gardens all over the globe with these seeds of change.

The marketplace is the focal point for any economy and the high road training partnerships offered by regenerative enterprise are far too numerous to count. The contrasting low-tech industries normally associated with agricultural driven permaculture and the high-tech industries normally associated with aerospace driven permaculture both aim at lowering the cost of living and improving the quality of life without harming the

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.sterlingcollege.edu/>

planet or other people. The Bridge Ecovillage<sup>13</sup>, under construction in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is an inspirational forward-thinking organization who works with marginalized populations, in economically distressed areas to stimulate new growth using the vertical farming concept to turn a food sovereignty movement into economic and social security.

Ranging in scale from countertop hydro gardens to multi-level mixed used closed-loop terrestrial space stations, ‘vertical farming’ is a transformative investment into the planet, her people, and the economic games we play to keep the ball rolling. The strategic advantage of the *Good Jobs for a Green World* program in implementation phase is leveraging community, government, and business partnerships that enable graduates to engage their home communities in the development of a food sovereignty programs that could potentially drive an additional \$10- 200M<sup>14</sup> into the seeding and growth of local living economies. EcoDistricts provides the business foundation, while companies like Kepler Shipyards provide the innovation drive investors need to achieve balanced development and sustained growth of the community (colony).

## **Section 5: Budget Narrative**

Dividing the \$500M in dedicated funds among a total of 50 teams is how we established a \$10M budget around a three-year program. The objective is to:

- a) Launch ARK on the new journey as a community development enterprise
- b) Establish the mycelium network of connections amongst a fractured ecosystem of permaculture professionals
- c) Drive private equity investments into food sovereignty projects led by program graduates of the resiliency institute training centers to fill roles in good jobs and to create more for others.

### YR1: System Development \$1M

In the first year the expanded ARK corporate board will hire 5 full-time employees with an annual salary of \$50K each and a \$250K operating budget (\$500K) to deepen existing relationships and build new ones with municipal, state, federal, NGO, CBO, WSO, and aligned businesses. The Good Jobs program team (of similar composition to the corporate staff at \$500K) is organized to narrow in on the metrics needed to determine the most appropriate candidates and create the support mechanisms for the test pilots of year two.

### YR 2: Program Design \$2M

In the second year, the corporate staff (\$500K) will continue the administrative tasks related to managing the grant and the Good Jobs program team (\$500K) will begin working with 10 individuals who, representing the target market of incarcerated individuals, will be part of the program design of the final product ensuring maximum penetration and effectiveness. Staff will provide wrap-around support for each student to secure access to housing, transportation, and other necessities to ensure the highest

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.thebridgeecovillage.com/>

<sup>14</sup> Generic price range of infrastructure costs for one building whose presence has been reported to inspire enhancements to the surrounding community.

success rate possible. They will administer financial support via ‘Personal Investment Accounts’, which are not to be used for debt, child support, or court ordered restitution. Financial literacy training will help graduates develop the capacity to resolve such issues on their own, sustainably. Between, enrollment fees in custom life skills and career training (\$500K), and a public education campaign (\$500K) to explain why investing \$100K in a ‘convict’ is a sound business decision are critical investments that will provide a path forward to the community engagement an Eco District project of any scale requires.

### YR 3: Program Implementation \$7M

The third year of this program will see several changes to the budget. To begin, the corporate staff will no longer require program funding, having developed alternative streams in years one and two. While the staff will still maintain grant management duties, they will also focus on the investor development to secure the private equity capital needed to develop 52 regenerative economic incubator projects to anchor the economy as the mainstream alternative to building back to business as usual. The Good Jobs team (\$500K) can focus on turning the pilots into teachers (\$500K) and providing 52 projects one- year of 2 virtual paid staff and supplies (\$6M) who are trained, licensed, and insured to provide for a diverse student population with enhanced requirements to the education, structure, and support they need to succeed.

Encapsulating regenerative training centers inside business-driven economic incubator projects in each of the 52 states provides a renewable change engine for each community. According to their needs, wants, and imaginations they are empowered to partner with private equity companies to drive funding into profitable investments at all scales within the carrying capacity of any watershed. Investing in keeping people out of jail and in homes equally to what we end up paying to keep them in their previous conditions is transformative in its ability to foster a social reduction to the cost of living and increasing the quality of life for all.

Addressing first the needs of the most marginalized citizens allow us to hone the program for greatest impact. Nurturing community leaders give business investors’ confidence when facilitating large-scale real estate projects. Such models provide the US the ability to share with our global neighbors a cure to the pesky inconvenience of poverty that holds so many of our citizens back from reaching their full potential; resonating society’s collective ability to reach ours. Putting people to work healing the planet is an investment that gives our species the best chance of rising to the climate challenge and by stitching together the economy and the environment begin the healing we all need and the hope for a brighter tomorrow.

## Appendix A: CV for ARK Board of Directors



### **Robert Shields, Founder**

Robert is a life-long advocate for sustainable business, environmental advocacy, and civic engagement. Robert has an AA in Natural Resource Management with 10-years' experience in Portland, Oregon as an advocate, entrepreneur, and community organizer. His passion is service and helping other find their "light" and encouraging it to shine as the most effective means of advancing the conscious evolution of the human species. Robert serves on several community groups and is actively building a small homestead working towards living a permaculture lifestyle. ARK is proud to have his courage and vision leading our efforts to transition our community towards generational

prosperity.



### **Christy Lungaro, Treasurer**

Originally from Louisiana, Christy has known and overcome a lifetime of adversity to become the awesome peaceful warrior she is today. Supermom of two boys, she has been a long-time advocate of health, nutrition, permaculture, and holistic living. A recent business management graduate of UAF school of business she is a business owner of the local cleaning service, Mothers' Helper and actively supports her boys in scouts and sports

activities as she nurtures them to grow into strong men. ARK is blessed to have her insight and input on important business activities.



### **Kasha Lee Jackson, Secretary**

Kasha is a free spirit who sees the various aspects of life and sends out positive energy into the living universe and seeks to spread knowledge about self and connections with everyone she meets. Kasha is a superhero raising two strong, kind, and intelligent boys in a chaotic world. She makes the effort every day to be rise to her true authentic self and cares for the planet as much as she does about her own family. ARK is thankful to have her guiding light in our humble organization.





**Chris Hunter, Technology Development**  
Born in Alaska, Chris is a true pioneer, entrepreneur, and active member of building a better future for us all. From his humble home on Haystack, Chris, along with his wife and service dog is actively researching, through his company Aurora Energy Technologies, ways for us to move beyond the age of fossil fuels. Two-time winner of the Arctic Innovation Competition, ARK is fortunate to have Chris

heading up the research of inspiring technologies that can meet the needs of those living in the changing Arctic.



**Eric Friend, Hemp Industry Specialist**  
True to his name, Eric is a friend to man and critter alike. A life-long-Alaskan he has a variety of skills and talents with technology and computers. However, his focus and interest is in mainstreaming the hemp industry. Smoking is the only thing you can't do with hemp. Beyond that all things are possible and as the owner of Greener Side AK, organizer of the Alaska Hemp Museum, and staple member of the Alaska Hemp Fest organizing committee, Eric lives proudly for what he believes in. ARK is inspired by having Eric guiding our path.

## Appendix B:



February 8, 2022

US Department of Commerce - Grant Selection Committee,

ROAR Media is proud to issue this resounding letter of support for the Good Jobs for a Green World Grant Application submitted by the Alliance for Reason and Knowledge. We wish to support these endeavors as most needed in the region and nationally as an educational media partner with A.R.K. we firsthand see the need for supporting education to rebuild our society in a post covid landscape and reimagine the future of tomorrow in an Eco-District landscape as the most promising and rewarding way forward for our communities to rebuild, replant and reconnect. Today's workplace needs are diverse and fast-changing, digital literacy and financial literacy are utmost in need in today's new society. This is where ROAR media can intersect in training, education, and real-world media education, production, and design skills that everyone needs for success especially for curbing recidivism and building bridges for tomorrow's society.

Sincerely,

**ROAR Media, Board of Directors**  
**501c(3) Non Profit Organization**

Malapert Investment Holdings, LLC  
PO Box 2706  
Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

Robert Shields  
Alliance for Reason and Knowledge  
145 Marten Dr.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

February 7, 2022

Mr. Shields;

Thank you for sharing your proposal: Good Jobs for a Green World. Permaculture is the science behind the regenerative economy and working with nature as a profitable business partner is needed for the coming decades. Sustainable homes that generate revenue is the model for the future.

The individuals who graduate through this program will have skills and experience that can help move real estate to whole new level. My company could hire or mentor 2 to 6 (2 to 3 projects) graduates with backgrounds in home construction. Moreover, my company has begun a proposal to utilize an abandoned water park in the desert to showcase the transitional elements of a regenerative economy while proving them in action to run the facility where possible. This type of project creates many opportunities for prospective graduates. The proposed location is an economically depressed area and the project would inherently have a workforce development focus.

I hope this letter of support helps and if there is anything we can do please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely



Debi-Lee Wilkinson

Owner and Manager Malapert Investment Holdings  
28200 Hwy 189 Suite F240-1  
Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352



EMPOWER  
at the  
**BRIDGE**  
FOUNDATION

Office of Empower at The Bridge Foundation  
7208 Red Top Rd.  
Hummelstown, PA 17036  
(253) 653-1715

**Officers**

Garry Gilliam, President/Chairman  
DeZwaan Dubois, Vice President  
Robert DeJarnette, Treasurer  
Jordan Hill, Director



Robert Shields  
Alliance for Reason and Knowledge  
145 Marten Dr.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Mr. Shields;

February 10, 2022

Thank you for sharing with us the Good Jobs for a Green World proposal. Putting people back to work healing the planet is an aspirational goal because it's achievable within the decade. Permaculture is the science behind the regenerative economy and working with Nature as a profitable business partner is certainly preferable to the model we use now.

The individuals who graduate through this program will not only have skills and experience that can help our organization flourish and we would gladly consider hiring 3 to 5 graduates. Furthermore, we know of several other organizations in our network and believe we could help potentially place an additional 5 in steady good jobs in the regenerative economy.

Thank you for putting this together and we wholeheartedly support the mainstream adoption of the regenerative economy as the next best version of America rising as leaders of the fossil free world.

I hope this letter of interest helps with the submission process and if there is anything we can do please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely Yours,

Garry Gilliam

President/Chairman - Empower at The Bridge Foundation

The "Empower at The Bridge Foundation" is a 501 c(3) Tax Exempt Entity

EIN: 83-0986747

[www.empoweratthebridge.org](http://www.empoweratthebridge.org)



Benhti Economic Development Corporation  
PO Box 58101  
Minto, Alaska 99758

Robert Shields  
Alliance for Reason and Knowledge  
145 Marten Dr.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

February 7, 2022

Mr. Shields;

Thank you for sharing your proposal: Good Jobs for a Green World. Putting people back to work, and healing the planet are aspirational goals. Permaculture is the science behind the regenerative economy and working with nature as a profitable business partner is certainly preferable to the model some communities are currently using now.

The individuals who graduate through this program will have skills and experience that can help our tribe flourish and we would gladly consider hiring a few graduates. Furthermore, we can reach out to our neighboring tribes and believe we could help potentially place an additional 3-4 jobs.

Thank you for putting this together and we wholeheartedly support the regenerative economy.

I hope this letter of support helps with the submission process and if there is anything we can do please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely

Brenda Hewitt

Director of Licensing and Entrepreneurship  
Benhti Economic Development Corporation  
A wholly-owned subsidiary of the federally recognized tribe of Minto.

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Kepler Shipyards, Ltd  
5900 Balcones Dr. Ste 100.  
Austin, TX 78731 USA

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Robert Shields  
Alliance for Reason and Knowledge  
145 Marten Dr.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

February 8, 2022

Mr. Shields;

Thank you for sharing your proposal: Good Jobs for a Green World. Permaculture is the science behind the regenerative economy and working with nature as a profitable business partner is needed for the coming decades. Supporting humans in space and on other planets must utilize these principles.

The individuals who graduate through this program will have skills and experience to actuate these valued and needed approaches to engineering and aerospace construction. Kepler Shipyards is already a workforce development minded company. It provided several internship opportunities. The company expects to expand rapidly over the next few years and could potentially hire dozens or more graduates. Company leaders are agreed to place at least 3 graduates with the necessary backgrounds.

Moreover, Kepler Shipyards has sponsored a time to compete in the XPRIZE Carbon Removal Contest. The contest managers have asked the competing teams to address socio-economic and workforce concerns in their proposal. This type of project creates many opportunities for prospective graduates. The proposed location is an economically depressed area as a result of Covid 19 travel restrictions. So the project inherently has a workforce development focus.

I hope this letter of support helps and if there is anything we can do please feel free to reach out.  
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Graham", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Paul Graham  
CEO Astronaut Kepler Shipyards, LLC  
Paul@KeplerShipyards.com