

EVERY. TOWN.

in land we trust

The Every Town Project

The primary goal of this project is to place at least one parcel of land in every town in Vermont permanently in trust for stewardship and access for Black, Indigenous, and all People of Color (BIPOC).

We believe that land cannot be owned. We as humans do not have dominion over land, and we must transition away from dominant ownership models.

The right to exist on land has been stolen, originally from the Abenaki people here in what is now called Vermont, and from BIPOC communities everywhere. Every Town seeks to address this by creating an alternative approach to land access, finding Home, and mobilizing a network of safe, welcoming communities.



Resources

Contact:
everytownvt@gmail.com

NEFOC
www.nefoclandtrust.org

[Aspiring Land Stewards Survey](#)

[Aspiring Neighbors Survey](#)

[Aspiring Land Donor Survey](#)

Anti-racist Community Resources
(Coming soon!)

www.everytown.org
(Coming soon!)

Donate [here!](#)



How it Works - basic information

- Land is donated by individuals and organizations and held in trust by the Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (NEFOC) with cultural respect and community conservation easements.
- Every Town matches BIPOC Land Stewards with parcels of land and homes that meet their needs and interests.
- Land stewards and NEFOC create an equitable personalized contract formalizing their relationship and agreeing on terms of land use and rights.
- Land stewards can build homes, farm, and work with the land regeneratively within the bounds of the terms of use as permanent residents.
- This process takes time, is relationship-centered and will not be a match for everyone expressing interest in becoming a land steward through this project.

BIPOC Land Stewards - Who's Eligible?

- All people who have been disproportionately impacted by systemic oppression because of their race are eligible.
- As we launch this project, those who already live here or have relationships with land in so called Vermont are being considered before others wishing to migrate from elsewhere.
- A longer term goal of this project (though already in motion) is to create space and welcoming communities for BIPOC climate refugees.
- We are designing a democratic, horizontal structure for making decisions about selecting Land Stewards. (More info to come as it evolves.)

More details for aspiring Land Stewards -

- Land Stewards are responsible for upholding agreements with NEFOC and creating their own infrastructure.
- Land Stewards are encouraged to participate in Every Town networks and actively engage in their communities.
- Every Town is cultivating networks for resource-sharing, safe spaces, community crisis management, and technical skills assistance (e.g. land tending, farming, design & build, etc.) to support Land Stewards in an ongoing way. We're also members of existing networks, like the ReLeaf Collective, and are collaborating to join forces and avoid redundancy.
- It's possible for a Land Steward to end their contract if they wish. We are putting thought and care into what this process will look like, considering how this project is aimed to help "level the playing field" for BIPOC, as well as to build parallel systems for thriving outside of capitalist ownership models.





Every Town Neighbors

Something that is often missing from this type of work is community engagement. Every Town Neighbors is a network for allyship that supports BIPOC Land Stewards and centers BIPOC folx in every community. This is a voluntary network that actively engages in creating anti-racist communities, with cultivating safety as a guiding star. This network is committed to addressing white supremacy culture systemically, on the peer-to-peer level, and individually.

All Neighbors participate in a series of "onboarding" trainings and have a monthly network meeting to share strategies and peer-to-peer advice. Neighbors will have the opportunity to participate in Community Skillz trainings that are offered periodically and help us collectively build our base of capabilities to show up well and in our full, empowered selves to crisis situations.

Fill out the Neighbors Survey (p. 1 Resources) if you're interested in participating.

Ways to Donate

Land donations

If you have land that you would like to donate through the Every Town project, please fill out the Aspiring Land Stewards survey (p. 1 Resources) to share more details, and we will be in touch.

Financial contributions

We value a culture of compensation and do not expect people to work for free. Every Town has administrative fees, costs associated with land transfer, and offers resources that build community. Please consider contributing as a sustaining donor or one-time donor. Visit our GoFundMe and pass it through your networks!

Purpose

Every Town is not trying to give away land or make monetary exchanges for land - we do not have the power to do that and we, as humans, do not have dominion over land. Period.

What we are trying to do is create opportunities for people to feel permanently and securely at home on land with systems of safety, comradeship, and resources surrounding them. We seek to intentionally create space for those who have been most impacted by systemic racism and forced off land and away from homes for generations. Every Town is one mechanism (of many) to enable land access and cultivate systemic reparations.

By design, Every Town is exploring alternatives to land ownership, dominant power structures, and centralized decision-making.



Donate here!

