

THE COMMONS

WHAT IS IT?

The Commons is our shared wealth, without which people cannot survive or thrive. Our shared wealth includes goods that we've inherited or created. The commons represent three different domains on Earth, and we need to manage each of them so that they will be there for future generations.

MATERIAL

- * The elements
- * Rocks, minerals
- * Fossil fuels
- * Land
- * Technological hardware
- * Buildings
- * Atmosphere
- * Ozone layer, stratosphere

SOLAR, NATURAL, GENETIC

- * Renewable energy--solar, wind, hydro power
- * Agriculture, crops, seeds
- * Ecosystem, rivers, lakes
- * Parks, gardens
- * DNA
- * Life forms, living creatures
- * Pollination

SOCIAL, CULTURAL, INTELLECTUAL

- * Indigenous culture, traditions
- * Volunteer and community support associations
- * Human rights
- * Health, education, language, religion
- * Roads, public places like libraries, museums
- * Music, dance, art
- * Money

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Over time, large portions of our shared heritage, our commons, have been taken over by individuals and corporations. This means that what was once shared is now either not accessible or only accessible to a few. That means they're less available to everyone now. This enclosure can also lead to the misuse of these resources and a lack of concern for their sustainability. One example is bottled water.

Today's economic thinking has put a dollar value on everything when we should be more concerned about how we can all care for our commons so they will be there now and for future generations. The commons are central to EDA's mission and values.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Join us and make your voice heard. Through our website, conferences, education seminars and events, we inform and educate resource users, producers, and legislators, about the importance of managing our common resources. We focus on food, water, and energy because these are the most basic resources that we all require to live healthy and normal lives.

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE, UNTIL IT'S GONE!



Across the world, water is being taken from our Commons of rivers, lakes, springs and aquifers by companies that bottle the water and sell it right back to us for huge profits.

Plastic bottles add billions of tons of waste to our land fill sites and our oceans when we already have regulated public water utilities that deliver fresh water to our homes.

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