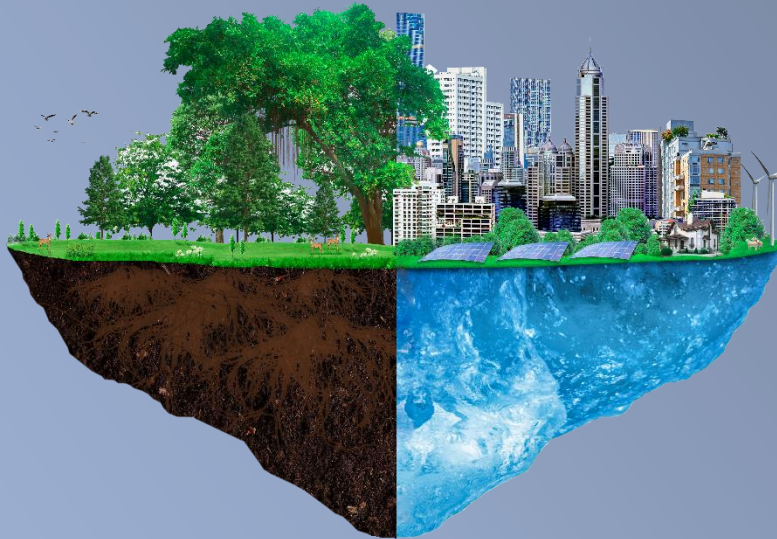


# ECOSYSTEMS

— as models for restoring our —

# ECONOMIES



*“Ecosystems as Models to Restoring our Economies appeals to a broad range of people across ages, values, and political beliefs, and will change the way we live our lives. I’ll be sending this book to many people in my life moving forward, and believe it should be required reading for high schools, colleges, and any other educational program.”*

~ Morgan Day, Urban Planning and Sustainability Writer

**Official Website, and Purchase Options:** [www.GrowingIn.org](http://www.GrowingIn.org)

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## **Book Summary**

*Ecosystems as Models for Restoring our Economies*, by J.H. Giordanengo

Humanity could not begin resolving our most serious health concerns until we understood the true nature of disease. We lack an equivalent understanding of the nature of our economy, putting not only ourselves in jeopardy, but the ecosystems upon which we rely. Atop three decades of work and research in ecology, economics, and business, Giordanengo describes the true nature of our economy, shedding a new light on the universal rules of ecosystems and economies. From our collective knowledge of ecological restoration, this book informs not only how a sustainable economy is structured, but how we may restore our economies to a highly functional and sustainable state. If you believe ecosystems cannot possibly hold the clues to economic restoration, may this book inspire you to think again.

## **A Few Questions to be Explored:**

*Is our knowledge of ecosystems relevant to the understanding of our economies?*

*If ecosystems are relevant, what are the foundational components, theories, and principals that are most influential to a building a sustainable economy?*

*How big of an economy is too big? And how small is too small?*

*Are there thresholds of capital accumulation that threaten an economy's productivity, social stability, resilience, and other socio-economic values?*

*How do energy and resource transfers impact economic diversity?*

*What is the relationship between economic diversity and a nation's resilience, employment, and security?*

*Based on our shared knowledge of ecological restoration, what are the pathways to restoring our economies?*

*Are there limits to growth?*

## **Upcoming Speaking Events**

October 26: Wolverine Press, (5:00pm, open to public)

November 4: Lewis & Clark College (10am, seminar)

More Dates Available: [www.GrowingIn.org](http://www.GrowingIn.org)

## Early Book Reviews

“Giordanengo provides a comprehensive synthesis of ecological foundations and economic structure, sorely lacking in our quest to develop sustainable economies in the face of growing economic and environmental turmoil. From the roots of ecological restoration, this book delivers a clear path to restoring the American economy, in a way that speaks in a universal language to policy makers, business owners, academics and the next generation. The identification of three drivers of highly resilient and productive economies and ecosystems—diversity, energy, and trade—is perhaps the most important insight to resolving growing tensions between society, nature, and the global market economy. This book provides hopes for species, ecosystems and the planet.”

~ Kingsley Dixon, Vice chair of the global board of directors, Society for Ecological Restoration.

“Ecosystems as Models to Restoring our Economies appeals to a broad range of people across ages, values, and political beliefs, and will change the way we live our lives. I'll be sending this book to many people in my life moving forward, and believe it should be required reading for high schools, colleges, and any other educational program.”

~ Morgan Day, Urban Planning and Sustainability Writer

“If you care about the environment; you will not want to miss reading this book.”

~ Don Hajar, life-long conservationist, and owner of Pawnee Buttes Seed Company

“Entrepreneurs play a critical role in the ecosystem, and in the endurance and restoration of a thriving economy. Ecosystems as Models to Restoring our Economies, Giordanengo’s masterpiece book, distills nature’s most important principles with basic economic theory in a logical and seamless narrative. Your first takeaway might be - why haven’t we looked at the earth’s ecosystems before - for the answers to a sustainable economy? As a reader - you will be drawn to new clues and conclusions.”

~ Patty Alper, Teach to Work, Author, The Alper Portfolio Group Ltd, President

“As an ecologist and ecosystem restorationist John Giordanengo, like myself, has spent decades pondering the plight of humanity while simultaneously working with natural plant communities that have been able to survive every disturbance imaginable. There are predictable strategies used by nature, in order to survive in a world of unpredictable disturbances. Giordanengo points out that it is the built-in strategy of natural systems to increase energy capture, increase diversity, and to maximize the recycling of nutrients within the system beginning at the local level. The in-depth work of this book reveals our economy has become “upside down” compared to ecosystems. The human economy has grown “out” to the limits of our biosphere. It is time, as Giordanengo asserts, to mimic nature and to grow IN.”

~ Mark Shepard, Author of Restoration Agriculture

“Finding the ‘win-win-win’ solution that optimizes economics, environmental sustainability, and human well-being is an essential and urgent task facing all of us. Giordanengo approaches this problem with his unique background of scientist, NGO leader, and business owner. He makes credible arguments and presents credible scenarios to solve the crisis, offering empirical solutions that resonate and build up from the local to global scales. John writes with a level of clarity not common to his colleagues and has created a treatise well worth reading.”

~ Tim Seastedt, Professor Emeritus, University of Colorado, Boulder.

### Bio

John H. Giordanengo

Author, *Ecosystems as Models for Restoring our Economies*

For the past few decades, John has built a career on ecological restoration throughout the Western US, but his dedication to the conservation of ecosystems goes farther back. Since 1988, he has been searching for clues to a universal challenge—preserving earth’s ecosystems while meeting humanity’s economic needs. Inspired by growing protests against globalization, and then the 2007 Great Recession, John began the research and writing of *Ecosystems as Models for Restoring our Economies*. This work, integrating thirty years of research and practice in ecology, business, and economics, revealed that the same foundational components governing the health and resilience of ecosystems also govern our economies. After sharing his understanding of restoration with 100s of audiences across the Americas, John turns his attention to ecosystems as a guide to economic restoration. Not only do ecosystems and economies share the same structure, but these two complex global systems are now intertwined, such that the fate of one now depends on the health of the other.

