



# Resilient Community Challenge

REGENERATE, REPAIR, REIMAGINE

## Circular Solutions for Our Community

**EARTH DAY - SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024, 10am – 6 pm**

Fairfield Arts & Convention Center & Deep Green Machine Makers' Space, Fairfield, IA

### A little context, in case you didn't know . . .

Just because we're a little rural community in SE Iowa, that doesn't mean Fairfield isn't about something big! This is the town that said it could with more than 400 start-up businesses... The first in the nation Sustainable Living degree program (and a certificate in Regenerative Agriculture) ... An organic dairy serving the community locally produced milk, yogurt and cheeses for more than 30 years... Sustainable Living Coalition's straw bale EcoBarn, built by the hands of the community and serving as an education and community gathering space... And, a sustainability coordinator supported through a partnership between the City, Maharishi International University, SE Iowa Sierra Club and 54 businesses and individuals.

### Getting to the point . . .

With 6 community-based sub-committees working under the auspices of the Fairfield sustainability coordinator and the Resilient Action Committee (RAC), the architecture for a new 10-year resilience plan is under construction. *Resilient Community Challenge* is an event that celebrates the work already underway and takes our community deeper into the exploration of what it means to build a circular community. What do we mean by a circular community? Recognizing the resources we have in our own community – intellectual, skill- based, natural resources, produced resources, community connections and economic resources - and, sharing, repairing, reusing, remanufacturing, reimagining how we put these resources to new, different and innovative uses is what it's all about. At the same time, our community will experience the benefits of the reduction of waste, pollution, and carbon emissions throughout our local economy and by doing so, build a more sustainable and certain future for all. This is what a circular community looks like, and this is what Fairfield strives to be.

### And now the details of the event . . .

The event is designed with the intention of expanding the thinking, principles and direct experiential engagement behind what is possible in building a circular community. This is an opportunity to directly engage in moving towards a circular model that is incremental, creative, innovative, provides economic vitality/stability and makes good common sense. This event will offer space for invention, imagination, creative problem solving and exploration, all within the context of building circularity. We can take a fresh look at how we use the existing resources in our community by continuously reusing, repurposing, repairing and reimagining how they might be used.

Activities, information and opportunities in this event will be geared towards all age groups and demographics, with a special emphasis on targeting high school and college students. The last two years we have averaged 300 people at our Earth Day events, and we're looking forward to significantly topping those numbers in 2024.

### What the event looks like:

The event will take place across two venues within walking distance of one another, each offering different opportunities to dive into experiencing and building components of a circular model. Examples of event offerings include:

- **Key Note Speaker:** David Levine, President, American Sustainable Business Network (ASBN);
- **National Speakers:** on resilience and circular models from furniture to architecture to home products and fast fashion;
- **Local Heroes:** sharing their community models of resilience;
- **Makers' Space Student Hack-a-thon:** competitive high school and college teams solving local problems;
- **Demonstrations & Hands-on Learning Sessions:** on circular solutions models that you can do on your own;
- **Information & Advocacy Booths:** sharing local to statewide efforts to build circular models;
- **Repair Fair:** onsite repair and parts fabrication;
- **Exchange Fair:** for clothing and more;
- **EcoFashion Show:** local designs from repurposed materials;
- **Student Global Solutions:** presentations from the senior class of the Maharishi School;
- **Food and Entertainment:** spend an hour, or spend the day, there is plenty to do for all ages.

### Opportunities for being part of the event:

Please note that this is a zero-waste event and the messaging, content and management of the event will be designed to meet these standards. If you are interested in being part of this event, please let us know as there are a range of opportunities for participating.

### You should know who some of our sponsors are . . .

Se Iowa Sierra Club, Fairfield CoLab, Deep Green Machine, Centered Wealth, Sustainable Living Coalition, Ken & Sheila Ross, Maharishi International University, Everybody's Whole Foods, Hy-Vee, MIU Sustainable Living Program, Espy Family Foundation, Apex Energy, Bob Ferguson, Reed Law, The Sanctuary, Fairfield Public Library, Habitat ReStore, Green Building Supply.

Please let us know what your interests or questions might be. We hope you'll be part of this important event.

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