

Signs of Change
A national e-conference showcasing transition to sustainability
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Title: LOAVES - Development of a Local Currency

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Overview:

LOAVES is an Ashhurst based project designed to build on the proven benefits of local currencies elsewhere: enhanced sustainability, social justice and community building. Having multiple modes of trade (such as money, complementary currencies, time banks and barter) adds resilience to the economy and helps the community to weather economic shock. Local currencies also encourage local production, skills-development and relationship-building in ways that could be lifelines if there are disruptions in more geographically dispersed supply chains. They can also affect the culture of a locale, making people more conscious of their attitudes toward money, consumption and production, and teaching a community that it can be self-sustaining if required, thereby increasing confidence in times of change or ecological disruptions. RECAP, the group running LOAVES is working closely with Living Economies Educational Trust, a national organisation, to think ahead about how different local trade systems can provide mutual support and extra resilience should this be needed. Currency note design, security aspects, scalability and the trading model for LOAVES will be discussed.