



**Gwendolyn Hallsmith**, is the founder and Executive Director of Global Community Initiatives, a non-profit organization established in 2002 to work with communities to implement the Earth Charter, the first international document in human history to recognize the connections between respect and care for the whole community of life, ecological integrity, social and economic justice, democracy, non-violence, and peace. She is the author of several books and workbooks: *The Key to Sustainable Cities: Meeting Human Needs, Transforming Community Systems; Taking Action for Sustainability: The EarthCAT Guide to Community Development; LASER: Local Action for Sustainable Economic Renewal; Creating Wealth: Growing Local Economies with Local Currencies; Community Currency; and Vermont Dollars, Vermont Sense.*

Gwendolyn has over 35 years of experience working with municipal, regional, and state government in the United States and internationally. She has served as the Planning and Community Development Director for the City of Montpelier, the Town Manager of Randolph, Vermont, the Regional Planning Director in Franklin County, MA, a Senior Planner for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy Resources, and the Deputy Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

Her international experience has included work with the United Nations Environment Program, the United Nations Development Program, the Institute for Sustainable Communities, the International City/County Management Association, and Earth Charter International. She has a Master's degree in Public Policy from Brown University and studied theology at the Andover Newton Theological School, exploring the links between our wisdom traditions, spirituality, and work at the community level. While in divinity school, she served as the pastor of the Federated Church in Williamstown, VT.

Gwendolyn's lifelong commitment to environmental, social, and economic justice has led her to question many of our current core economic systems and assumptions, which led her to organize *Vermonters for a New Economy* in 2011, an advocacy group established to change key economic systems in Vermont. She works to bring our human systems into alignment with shared spiritual insights about how we are one human family who need to live within Earth's carrying capacity. She lives in an ecovillage she developed in Cabot, Vermont called the Headwaters Garden and Learning Center with her husband Michael Taub and several other families. She and Michael perform topical songs about economic issues in a duo called The New Economistas.