

What Needs To Change

1. Rights for Nature

Under the current structure of law, Nature has no rights. She is treated as property. Natural systems sustain life, but they have no protection.

For decades, the practices of industrial food systems have contaminated millions of acres of ecosystems with chemicals, destroyed forests and native grasslands.

That same industry uses 70 % of the world's fresh water to irrigate commodity crops. Aquifers are disappearing. The Ogallala located in the Great Plains of the United States-one of the world's largest aquifers will be gone in 30 years if irrigation continues at the current rate. Other aquifers face a similar fate.

TAKE HEART: The movement to provide rights for Nature is winning.
celdf.org/2017/05/press-release-colombia-constitutional-court-finds-atrato-river-possesses-rights/

2. Rights for Communities

Under current legal structure, our inalienable right to life and well being can be preempted by state and federal laws granting corporations permission to use and abuse the land and water we rely on. So if a company identifies a location for a mining operation or an industrial hog farm, it simply has to complete a permitting process to gain access to that location. Local communities are not protected from this kind of 'development'.

This presents both a challenge and an opportunity.

Communities have been fighting back by organizing and creating local ordinances designed to override the state and federal laws. These efforts have helped communities to identify what they value and establish legal protections for those values.

3. Rights for Small-Scale Food Providers

In a global food economy shaped by the Industrial Food Chain, small-scale producers are marginalized. These are the reforms needed to empower the 2 billion small-scale producers who feed 70% of the world's people:

- Restore right to freely save, plant, exchange, sell and breed seeds and livestock
- Agrarian reform-right to land, water, forests, fishing, foraging, hunting
- Remove regulations to block local markets and diversity
- Direct public \$ for research

- Establish fair wages, working conditions
- Fair trade determined by peasant-led policies

4. Economic Rights

All members of a community have the **inalienable right to live, participate and thrive** in economies designed to sustain the health and well-being of the community and recognizing the common needs of the population including affordable and accessible sources of these necessities: food and water, housing and land, transportation, education, childcare, eldercare, comprehensive healthcare, economic opportunity and just compensation for all forms of employment.

Even in the best of times, our society and our government have failed to honor these inalienable rights. **Climate change provides an opportunity to set a new course that aligns our values and aspirations with our public investments.**

5. Economy of Food Cultivation

Between 44% and 57% of all greenhouse emissions come from the publicly subsidized industrial food chain. Contributing to those numbers are practices of deforestation, large scale cultivation with toxic chemicals, transportation, processing and packaging, waste and retail and freezing. Economic dependence on this system tethers communities to an economy that cannot be sustained. Communities need an economic solution to this economic problem. Locally-adapted regenerative economies are designed to depend on practices that nurture the health and well-being of people and the ecosystems that sustain them.

grain.org/article/entries/4357-food-and-climate-change-the-forgotten-link

6. Necessary Reforms and Restoration of Rights

In the current economy shaped by the Industrial Food Chain, small scale producers are marginalized. These are the changes needed to empower these communities:

- Restore right to freely save, plant, exchange, sell and breed seeds and livestock
- Agrarian reform-right to land, water, forests, fishing, foraging, hunting
- Remove regulations to block local markets and diversity
- Direct public \$ for research (to small scale producers)
- Establish fair wages, working conditions
- Fair trade determined by peasant-led policies

See: [Neighborhood Food Hub](#), [Neighborhood Food Hub Network](#), and [Food Design Economy](#) on the **Resources** page.

