

Living Earth Local Activist Alliance Dinner Discussion November 10, 2006

"Empire" can be defined as a system and worldview of organizing human relationships (as well as human relationships to the other-than-human world) by hierarchies of control, dominance, and power. The model is reflected in interpersonal dynamics as well as geopolitical relationships. Domination of others for control of natural and human resources of any kind, in order to consolidate and expand power, has been the active engine of this model for millennia.

- What are some of the contemporary cultural stories that reinforce and legitimize that model?
- How are those stories reflected in the *practices* of empire interpersonally and politically?
- What are we engaged in that is part of the larger, unifying project of deconstructing empire and cultivating partnership and cooperative relationships?
- In what ways can this discussion and exploration affect my immediate work?

Regarding my primary work or key issue:

- What is the relationship of my particular issue-area to the larger issue of empire?
- What cultural stories perpetuate the problem I work on?
- What conditions would I like to see emerge related to my issue?
- What stories and language would reinforce or support that emergence?
- How does changing these stories play a part in my work?
- Are there ways in which my primary work/issue is related to the larger goal of deconstructing empire?
- Who else's work (individuals, community groups, local or beyond) is similar to or related to mine? In what ways am I or my project connected to them?
- Who or what else is part of this movement, but addressing significantly different aspects of the larger problem? Are there ways in which I/my project connect to them? Or could there be?

How does my work/project relate to the emergence of a post-empire, post-carbon, partnership world?

What sorts of resources do I need in order to brighten my action and expand its effectiveness, that partners in an Activist Alliance might help me access?

What resources do I have that I might offer to other partners?