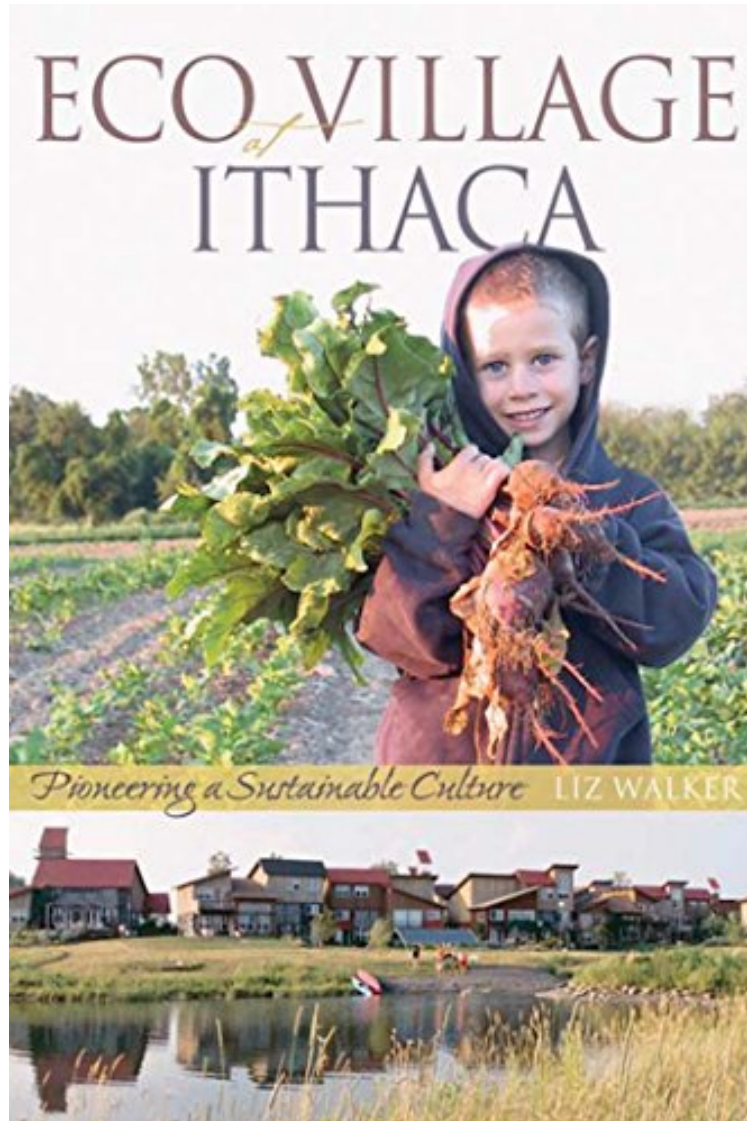


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EcoVillage at Ithaca: Pioneering a Sustainable Culture

Liz Walker

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Liz Walker : EcoVillage at Ithaca: Pioneering a Sustainable Culture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised EcoVillage at Ithaca: Pioneering a Sustainable Culture:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My visit to IthacaBy kristin etzoldRead it, then live it. Go visit the fantastic lifestyle. It's changed from its humble beginnings. Plus an amazing city.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Jane BakerTruly inspiring!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great introduction to intentional community life in the early 21st centuryBy James GrantEcoVillage/Ithaca (EVI) has had two "neighborhoods" of 30 families each for a number of years. The third and final neighborhood, consisting of 40 families, has been "under development" for the past 5 years. Last year, when the full complement of 40 was reached,

contracts were signed and construction began, with completion expected in 2014. My sister and I, natives of California and graduates of UC Berkeley, have had parallel paths in life based on counter-culture values. Living in Long Island, she has put a lot of energy into social justice issues, while I have been living in Louisiana doing faith-based community development work. Last year, she became one of the 40 families in EVI's third neighborhood. In the spring of 2013, I had the opportunity to spend a month in Ithaca, as my sister participated in community processes at EVI. This included a number of consensus-based decision-making processes related to their neighborhood formation, and a number of formal and informal meetings with other residents, old and new. Liz Walker, the author of this book, was, wherever I encountered her, a steady and stabilizing, but unobtrusive, presence. Intrigued by the quality of both the participants and their goals and processes, I welcomed the opportunity to read Liz's book. I found that her style and approach were just what I needed, as a newcomer to this type of community life. With grace and sensitivity, she lays out the history and the components of the community structure and process, and gives a clear sense of the quality and pace, the ups and downs, of the human interactions.

In a world filled with stories of environmental devastation and social dysfunction, EcoVillage at Ithaca is a refreshing and hopeful look at a modern-day village that is taking an integrated approach to addressing these problems. This book tells the story of life at EcoVillage at Ithaca, an internationally recognized example of sustainable development. It transports the reader into the midst of a vibrant community that includes co-housing neighborhoods, small-scale organic farming, land preservation, green building, energy alternatives and hands-on education. By integrating proven social and environmental alternatives into a living model, EcoVillage at Ithaca provides a rare glimpse into one possible—and positive—future for the planet. EcoVillage at Ithaca delves into the heart of the lived experience at this innovative community. It provides a warm, personal and reflective look at what it is like to create a sustainable culture. The book tells in-depth stories about an integrated way of life: Running a family farm, creating "invented celebrations," the poignancy of a home birth, as well as a conscious death. Community work parties, dramatic examples of personal transformation. At the same time, as one chapter states, "This is not Utopia," and the struggles and conflicts inherent in any community endeavor are not glossed over. Human scale, accessible and inspiring, the example of EcoVillage at Ithaca will help readers imagine fresh alternatives to "life as usual." It will appeal to all who are hungry to learn about successful working models of a more sustainable approach to living with each other and the earth. Liz Walker co-founded and has directed EcoVillage at Ithaca since its inception in 1991 and has lived there with her family since the first buildings were completed. She has worked on all aspects of the community's development and has written and lectured widely on the topic.

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