

The background of the image is a vast, scenic landscape of rolling green mountains and dense forests. The sky is a clear, light blue, suggesting a bright, sunny day. The overall tone is natural and serene.

# The Food- Water-Energy Nexus

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# Host Institution



[earthviabilitycenter.org](http://earthviabilitycenter.org)

## The Earth Viability Center & Place4Us

EVC builds infrastructure for a "new story for humanity."

Place4Us hosts Virtual Community Centers (VCCs).

VCCs are coordinated workspaces for distributed practice.

"Better internet" — built for shared imagination, not engagement.

A VCC works across geographies on the same problem.

I'll contribute to a VCC focused on the food–water–energy nexus.





Three coupled sectors. No integrated governance.

# The Food–Water– Energy Nexus



## Food

Requires water for irrigation.  
Requires energy for tillage, processing, transport.  
Disruption propagates to price within weeks.

## Water

Requires electricity to treat, pump, distribute.  
Aquifers depleting faster than recharge.  
Failure cascades into food and energy.

## Energy

Requires water for cooling.  
Competes with agriculture for land.  
The AI buildout is itself a food–water–energy event.



# The Systems We Are Considering →

## Three nodes

Production · Distribution · Household

No single agency owns the integrated household experience.

## Three connective layers

Governance · Environment · Culture

Plus a digital layer: VCCs and coordination platforms.





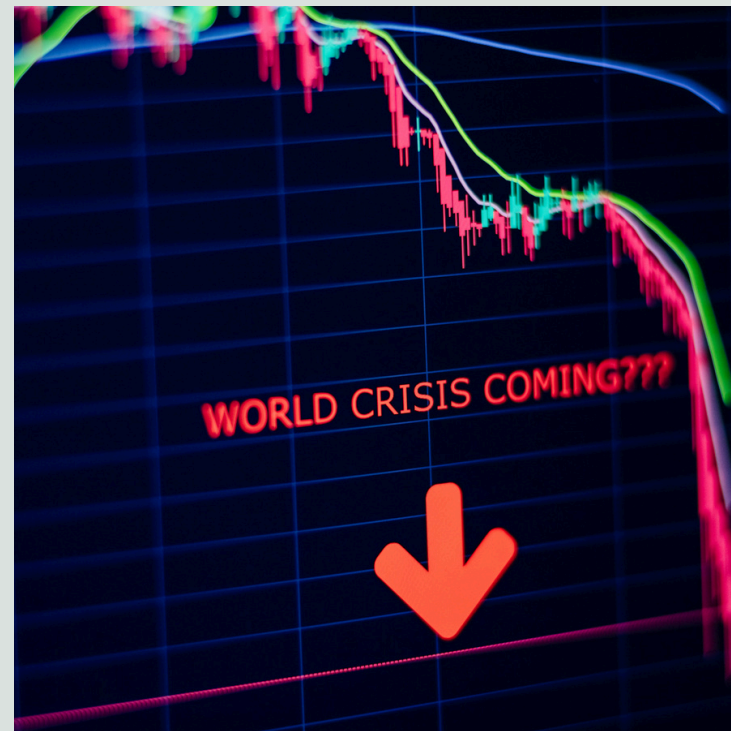
**Climate change**



**Compound disasters**



**Soil & water degradation**



**Concentration risk**

# Hazards





Internal properties of the system, independent of any hazard

# Fragilities



## Sectoral fragmentation

Separate agencies.  
Separate metrics, budgets, timelines.  
Coordination is informal where it exists at all.

## Tight coupling

Stress in one sector cascades into the others.  
Heat wave → grid → water pumping → ag cooling → food prices.

## Imagination deficit

The most affected can describe failures, not alternatives.  
That gap is the fragility VCCs were built to address.

# Where I'm Open



Early directions the work could take

## Find a focused intersection

A test site at the intersection of food, water, and energy. Local, regional, or cross-scale.

## Build or join a VCC

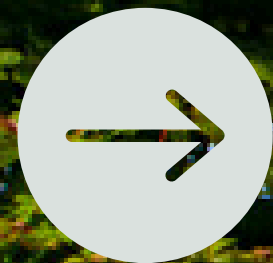
A VCC organized around that intersection.

## Document bright spots

Places already holding it together. In formats others can adapt.

## Connect practice to coordination

Connective infrastructure between practice and coordination.



# What the Internship Will Involve



## 300 hours across the summer

- Field engagement in places EVC connects me to.
- Conversations across food, water, and energy.
- Translation: case-study fragments, mapping, working notes.
- Weekly reports and mentor conversations.

## Tightening

Top-down regulation, no participation.

Compliance without legitimacy.

## Fraying

Failures outpace governance.

Trust erodes faster than it rebuilds.

## Weaving

Networked community practice.

Governance follows, not dictates.

# Possible Futures

Following Dr. Plag's  
four-archetype  
framework

Three of these futures require active organizing. The fourth is what happens otherwise.



# Options & Interventions

Where the work could go



Document a place that's already holding food, water, and energy together. Share what's working in a format other communities can use.

Help build a Virtual Community Center that lets practitioners across regions actually find each other.

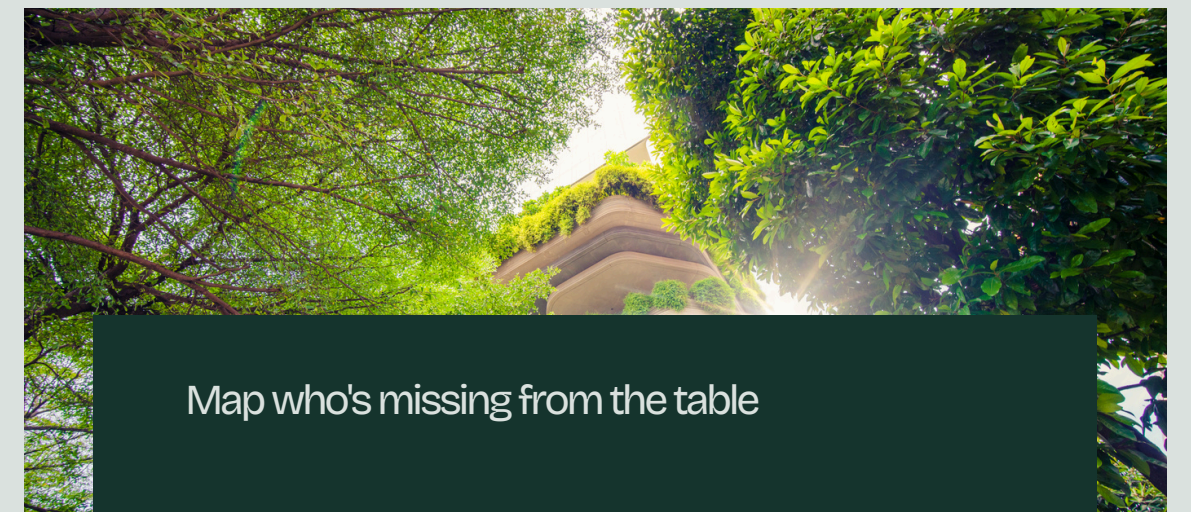
Map where infrastructure decisions get made and who isn't at the table.



Document what's working



Build connective infrastructure



Map who's missing from the table

# Thank You

## Where to reach me



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