

# Draft of a Local Economy Action Plan for Northfield

## (Notes from the 2/4 meeting)

### **1. In a new economy 10 years from now, how are you and your community engaged and thriving? Describe what it looks like.**

Healthy economy = everyone works part-time to meet their needs; everyone likes their work and is appreciated.

Thriving = sustainability, and then some.

Fewer inter/national businesses; more local businesses that cater to the needs of the community.

Northfield retains its historical feel and sense of a growing arts community.

Small town = a human pace and civility.

We have an economy where we invest locally. Create a local venture capital firm. Create systems and infrastructure to invest locally.

We have incentives to shop locally (e.g. college students).

St. Olaf and Carleton students are involved in the community.

We have a local food web, a closed-cycle system.

We have a bakery with ingredients from a 50-mile radius.

Expand CSAs and the Co-op.

Have a lot more community education about food; role models; apprenticeships. More community schools and gardens.

We have a folk school that teaches reskilling (a "skill guild").

We practice more conservation; rethink our material needs.

Move forward in structuring new systems that integrate all elements.

We have an economy where people are not lost. Each contributes what they do best.

A local credit union, a place for local investments; circulation in the local economy.

More ways to create sustainable energy.

We have a paradigm shift: local people take back power and unplug from systems that don't work.

More public transportation alternatives.

More use of the Northfield Community Exchange. A local currency.

People have very little debt; we become indebted to each other.

Our community generates a surplus that we can exchange outside our community for cash.

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**2. How can we invigorate the current local economy and local businesses? List specific actions.**

Create a directory of local businesses with local products.

Think about “what can I give” instead of “what can I get”.

Create supports for new businesses; incubator.

Start using Chamber Bucks and gift cards from local businesses.

Encourage more Division St. businesses that meet basic needs; practical stores.

Develop products that you could sell in local stores. Learn from the Amish.

Make incentives that encourage local producers, sellers, and consumers. Make rules and laws that support these.

Create a local investment entity.

Create entry-level jobs and mentorships for high school graduates.

Set up a space to collect stuff for a Reuse store.

Publicize the Northfield Community Exchange.