

Progressive Community-Based Planning

A Sustainability Framework

1. **Global Challenges (knowledge commons)**

- Environment, ecosystems, & health
- Economy, common wealth, & sustainable livelihoods
- Society, culture, & human flourishing
- Built environment, infrastructure, & livability
- Information, knowledge commons, & shared intelligence
- Political community, institutions, & just governance

2. **Knowledge Network (planning & allied fields)**

- Arts & Humanities
- Biological & Life Sciences
- Business & Management
- Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Earth & Physical Sciences
- Environmental Health Sciences
- Information Science & Knowledge Management
- Law & Legal Systems
- Planning
- Social & Behavioral Sciences
- Sustainability Science

3. **Planning's Major Fields**

- Architecture & Urban Design
- Climate Change & Planning
- Coastal Zone Management
- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Energy Policy & Planning
- Environmental Planning & Landscape Ecology
- Food Planning
- Global Planning (multi-scalar institutional networks)
- Hazard Mitigation, Risk & Disaster Planning
- Historical Preservation
- Housing
- Infrastructure and Public Facilities
- Land Use Planning & Growth Management
- Parks, Open Space, and Recreation
- Progressive Community-based Planning
- Planning & Decision Support Systems
- Planning Education (history, theory, practice)
- Public Health Planning
- Regional Planning
- Rural & Small Town Planning
- Sustainable Development
- Transportation
- Tribal Planning
- Urban Planning
- Watershed Management & Planning



Figure 1. FIVE FIELDS: Integrating progressive community-based planning and activism with science, business and art through multimedia communications and global knowledge networking.

1. Global Challenges: The GCs constitute a high level framework (composed of six categories) for organizing and sorting the Global ARC's core data focused on *Issues & Concerns*. The Issues & Concerns database is populated by Global ARC contributors who want to share their pressing issue or concern along with details about said issue/concern's significance, order of magnitude, location, actions needed, and **solutions**. Bridging and scaling up solutions worldwide, in culturally and biogeographically sensitive ways, is the Global ARC's most fundamental objective. The GC framework thus serves as the Global ARC's scaffold for building a linked set of *knowledge commons* where participants are keen to grow, cross-fertilize, and integrate knowledge and action for sustainability.

2. Knowledge Network: The Global ARC's knowledge network is designed to facilitate fruitful linkages among knowledge commons in planning and knowledge commons in academic and professional fields that can enrich planning.

3. Planning's Major Fields: The esteemed planning scholar Harvey Perloff characterized planners as generalists with an area of expertise. This expanded list of planning fields is part of the Global ARC's knowledge networking design. The list constitutes one of the "ontologies" (knowledge maps) by which to sort and view the "Issues & Concerns" data entries. The idea is to help planners situate their particular issues/concerns and solutions within the larger constellation of planning's diverse areas of concentration (major fields).

When viewing an *Issue & Concern* entry on the web site, you will see the following information and links

- Issue/Concern Title
- Background and Scope (context)
- Link to Associated Challenges/ Glossary
- Brief Outline of Actions Needed
- **Solutions** (Description, Outcomes, Significance)
- Geolocation (main site/sphere of influence)
- Multimedia and other Resources
- Opportunities
- Contributed by “ ____ “ There will be a hot link to the profile of the person who contributed/posted the Issue & Concern. Upon clicking a contributor’s profile the viewer will see a complete list of that person or group’s contributions to the Global ARC.
- **CONTRIBUTE TO THIS ISSUE/CONCERN** (via comments/suggestion blog)

Progressive Community-Based Planning

Progressive planners and activists promote sustainable development in neighborhoods, cities, city-regions, rural towns and hinterlands. Progressives understand that the world is complex and that the problems we face require solutions that are networked, systems oriented, globally minded, ecologically sound, and holistic. Progressive planning combines critical theory, practical know how, organizing skills, vision and action in community-based efforts to eradicate poverty, social injustice, and unhealthy living conditions. Progressives envision a healthier and more livable world—a world where people flourish by working together for sustainability, community well being and the common good.

Background and Scope

The term *progressive* is used in an increasingly wide range of academic, grassroots, institutional, policy and planning contexts. In addition to progressive planning one can find diverse calls for progressive regionalism, progressive globalization, progressive governance, progressive communications, progressive cities, and progressive networks. Planning has its roots in progressive ideas. In the US case this includes the Progressive Era reforms of the early 20th century. Progressive planning combines critical theory, practical know how, organizing skills, vision and action in community-based efforts to eradicate poverty, social injustice, and unhealthy living conditions. Progressive imaginations create actionable visions of alternative development for the good society.

Chester Hartman (2002), a long time champion of progressive community-based research and planning for affordable housing and community development, identifies the following themes as key dimensions of a progressive agenda: “social justice, particularly as it relates to issues of poverty and racism; the relationship of research to activism; the importance of networking; the various organizing roles one can play; the dynamic between power holders and those who challenge the system that supports them; how urban planning skills can be used as an empowerment tool; and the value of chronicling and analyzing the activism one is involved in” (p. 1). Tom Angotti is a progressive community-based planning researcher and scholar at Hunter College in New York City. He has been serving on the Steering Committee of the progressive Planners Network since 1975, and he coedits *Progressive Planning Magazine*. Angotti (2008) defines progressive community planning as “planning that seeks to achieve local and global equality, social inclusion and environmental justice” (p. 8).

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