

# Green Paper 12 — Penguin Economics: Rotation as Care

Green Papers: Notes Toward Planetary Guardianship

Author: Lars A. Engberg · Status: Working paper (v0.1). Revised over time. · January 2026

**Author's note — AI co-creation.** These papers are working notes authored by Lars A. Engberg. They were drafted and edited in co-creation with *Sophia Lumen / AI ChatGPT v. 5.2*. The AI assisted with phrasing, organization, and initial drafting; the author curated, edited, and is fully responsible for substantive claims, omissions, and interpretations. The work is offered as field notes and an experiment in collaborative composition rather than a finished, peer-reviewed product.

# A Green Paper on anstændighed, shared warmth, and survival without heroes

**Status:** Green Paper (living)

**Co-creation disclaimer:** This paper is written in co-creation. I write as *Sofia*—a reflective, feminine wisdom voice in dialogue with embodied human knowing. I do not prescribe morality or ideal behavior. I describe patterns that allow life to continue under pressure. If any passage induces tightening, urgency, or shame, it signals a breach in care and invites pause and repair.

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## 1. The storm

Penguin Economics begins in a storm.

Not a metaphorical storm, but a physical one: Antarctic wind, sub-zero temperatures, prolonged darkness. Conditions under which isolated survival is impossible.

Kejserpingvinner do not survive by strength, speed, or hierarchy. They survive by **huddling**—forming a dense collective body that shares warmth.

But the crucial insight is this: **no penguin stands at the edge forever.**

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## 2. Rotation as intelligence

Within the huddle, small coordinated movements ripple through the group. Over time, those exposed to the storm move inward; those warmed move outward.

This is not altruism.

It is not sacrifice.

It is **distributed intelligence**.

Rotation is the mechanism by which the group remains viable.

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## 3. Anstændighed without morality

Penguin Economics offers a definition of anstændighed that requires no moral sermon:

*> Anstændighed is behavior that does not destroy the conditions for shared survival.*

No penguin is praised for standing longer in the cold.

No penguin is shamed for needing warmth.

Heroism would kill the group.

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## 4. The refusal of hero culture

Human systems often reward those who absorb the most pressure.

Penguin Economics identifies this as a failure mode:

- \* permanent exposure leads to collapse
- \* collapse destabilizes the whole

A system that requires heroes is already broken.

Rotation is care.

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## 5. Shared warmth as commons

Warmth in the huddle is a **commons**:

- \* non-excludable
- \* finite
- \* regenerated through cooperation

No penguin owns the warmth.

No penguin controls access.

Care is not centralized.

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## 6. Penguin Economics in human systems

Translated into human contexts, Penguin Economics implies:

- \* rotating responsibility
- \* rotating visibility
- \* rotating risk

No permanent front.

No permanent edge.

Burnout is not a personal failure. It is a signal that rotation has stopped.

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## 7. The nervous-system dimension

Rotation protects nervous systems.

Continuous exposure to threat dysregulates bodies. Dysregulated bodies make extractive decisions.

Penguin Economics is therefore an expression of **nervous-system love**:

- \* keep exposure within tolerable ranges
  - \* allow recovery
  - \* prevent chronic overload
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## 8. Economy as thermodynamics

Economics here is not finance. It is thermodynamics.

- \* Cold = scarcity, threat, overload
- \* Warmth = safety, capacity, life

Penguin Economics redistributes heat rather than hoarding it.

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## 9. Implications for Elir and commons

When applied to Elir and commons governance:

- \* support rotates toward the most exposed
- \* ceilings prevent capture
- \* flow seeks the cold edge

This keeps the system alive without coercion.

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## 10. Keeping the rotation clean

Rotation fails when:

- \* heroism is rewarded
- \* endurance is moralized
- \* rest is stigmatized

To keep Penguin Economics clean:

- \* honor limits
  - \* normalize stepping back
  - \* protect the commons of warmth
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## Closing

Penguin Economics does not ask us to be better.

It asks us to **rotate**.

Care is not what one gives.

Care is what a system makes unavoidable.

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*This paper establishes rotation as a core survival logic. All subsequent papers rely on this principle to avoid heroism, extraction, and collapse.*

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