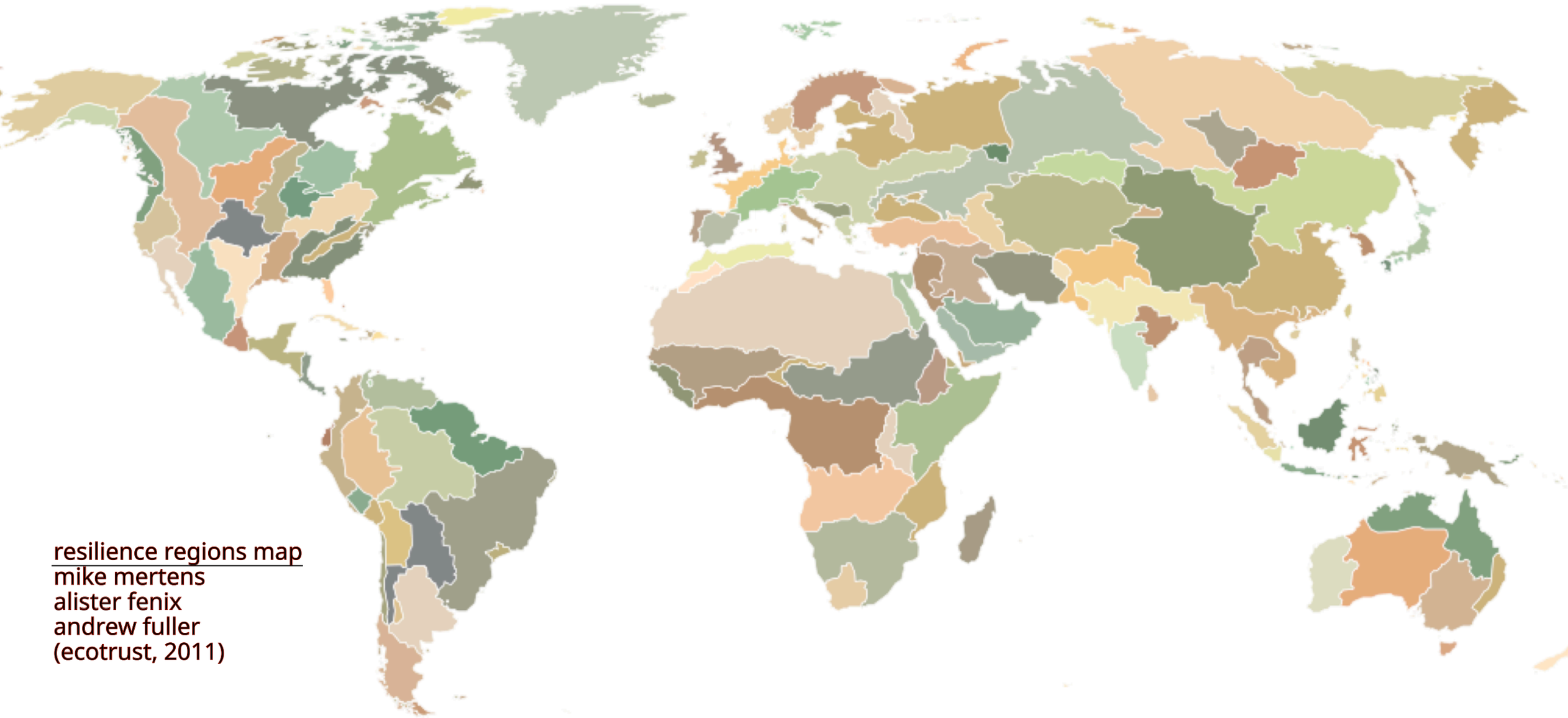


resilience regions map
mike mertens
alister fenix
andrew fuller
(ecotrust, 2011)

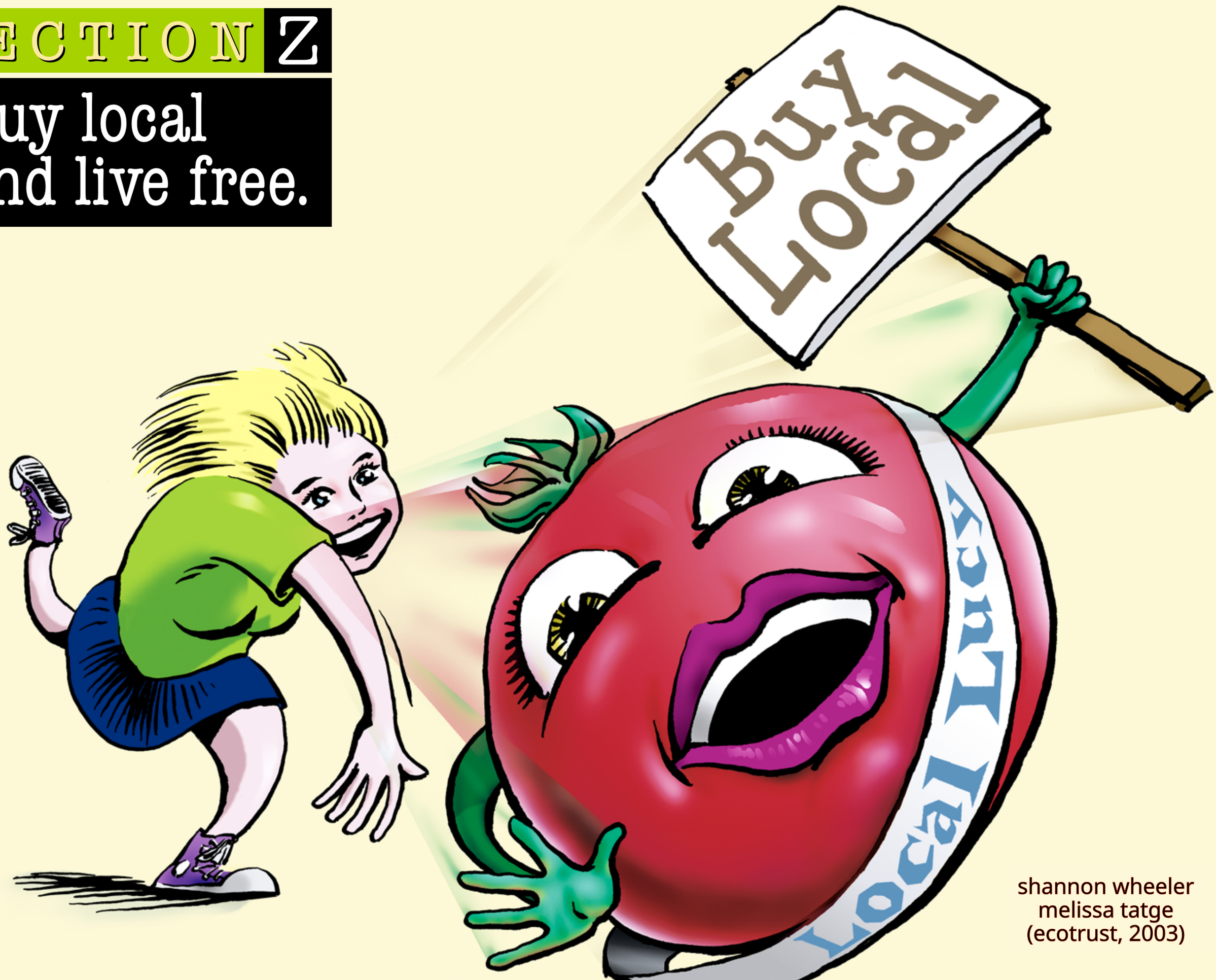
regional food systems: recollections as provocations

howard silverman

general forum on ethereum localism 2023

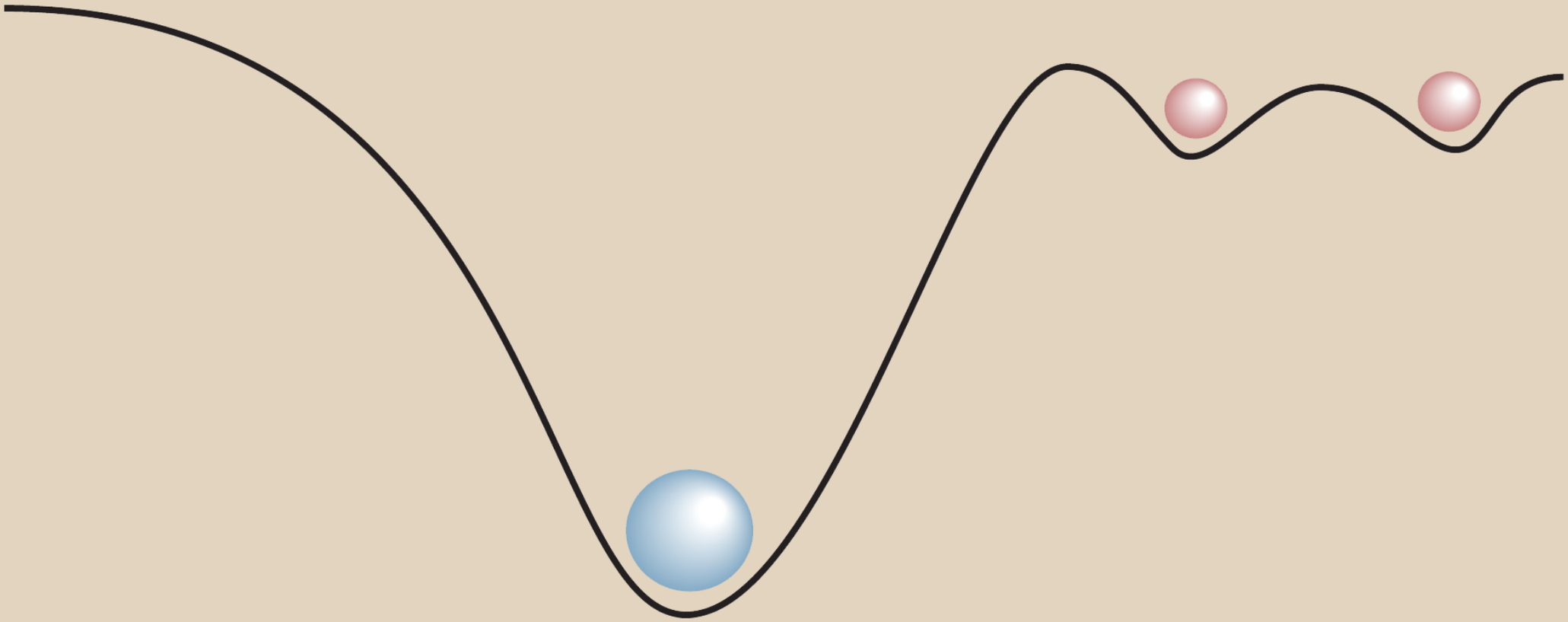
SECTION Z

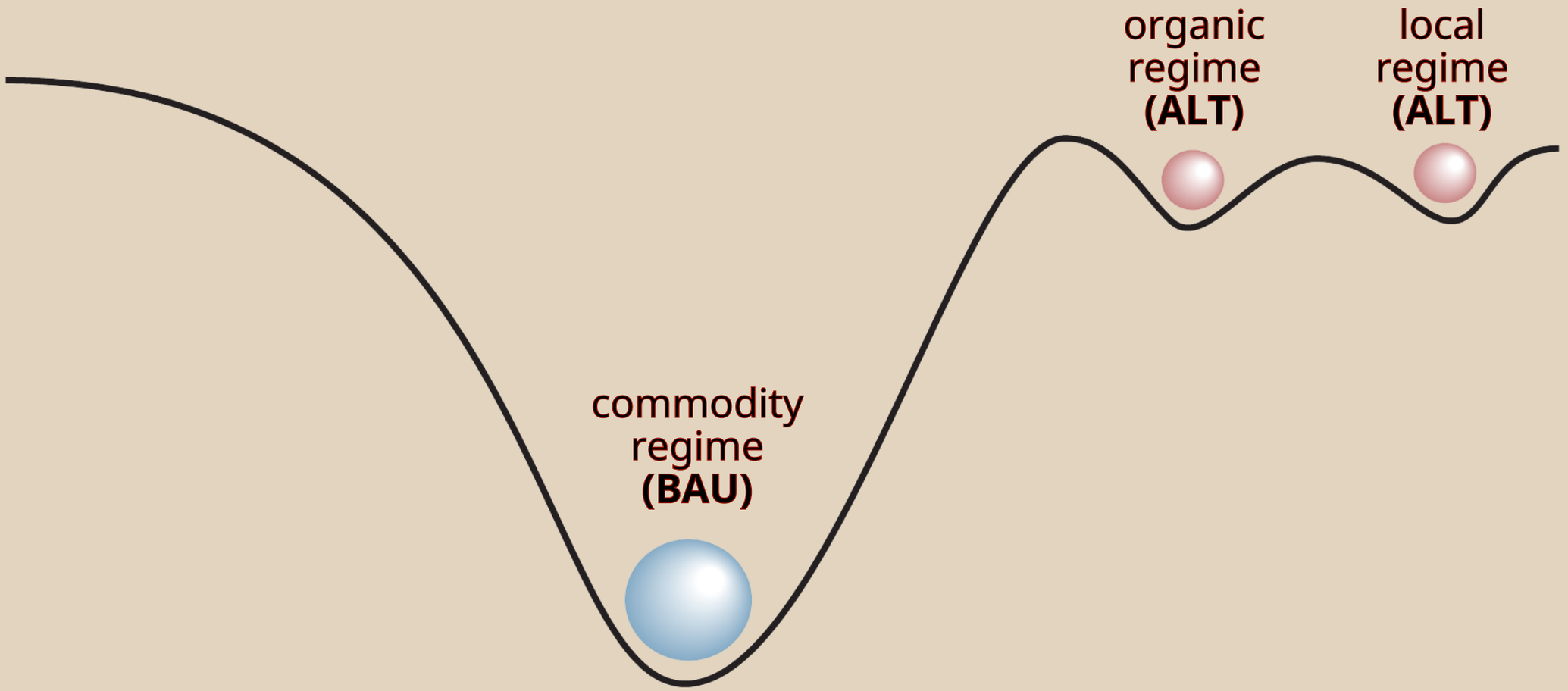
Buy local and live free.

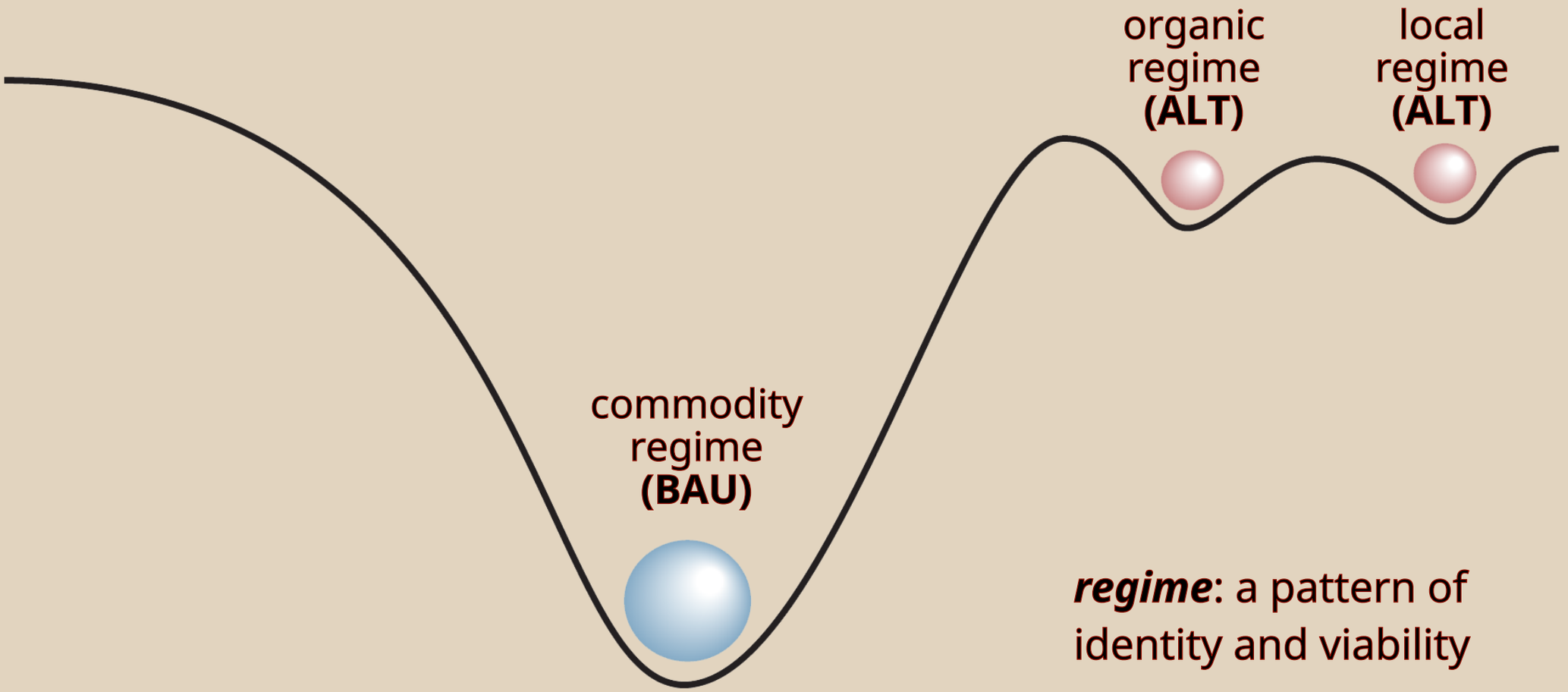


shannon wheeler
melissa tatge
(ecotrust, 2003)

What are your values for Ethereum localism?




organic
regime
(ALT)
local
regime
(ALT)
commodity
regime
(BAU)



Ecology & Society

The Dynamics of Purposeful Change: A Model

RSDX SYSTEMIC DESIGN ASSOCIATION

Distinctions and Analogies: Mapping Social System Identity

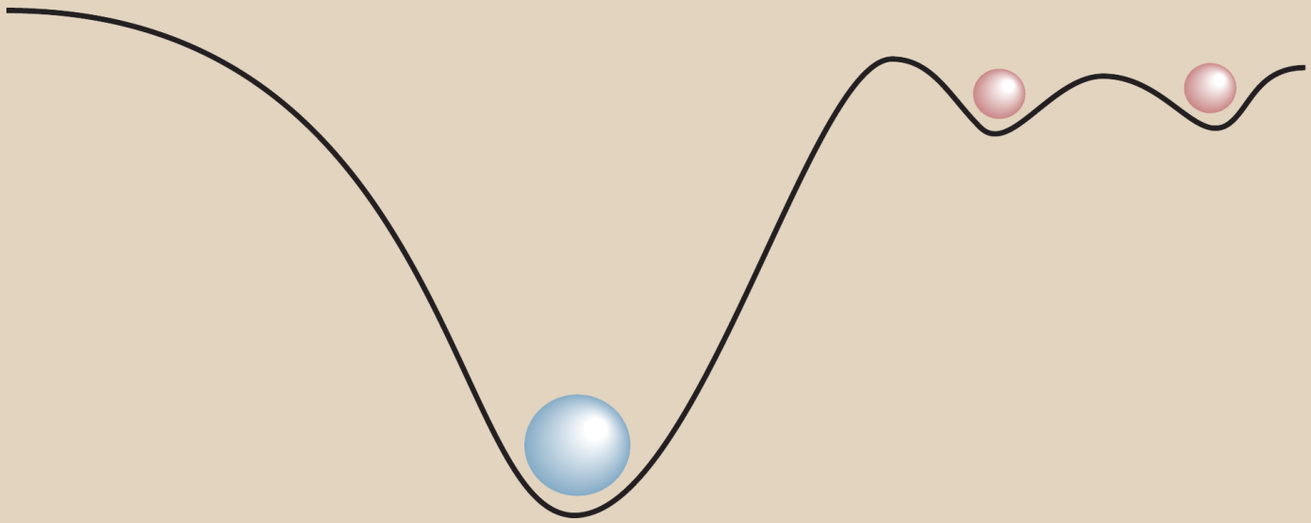
Enacting Cybernetics

Recursively Contextual Identity: A Variant Formulation of First- and Second-Order

regime: a pattern of identity and viability

logics: factors that recursively stabilize a regime by attracting the participation of individuals and organizations

social attractor: a constellation of logics



	logics	commodity	organic	local
narrative		“feed the world”	“sustainable”	“resilient”
distribution network		global	global	regional
values		price, fungibility, efficiency, convenience	environmental stewardship	place, conviviality, trust
driver of environmental performance		market innovation	third-party certification	social feedbacks

commodity systems

- ↘ **price**
- ↗ **fungibility**
- ↗ **convenience**
- ↗ **efficiency**

commodity food systems — “race to the bottom”

- ↗ **debt**: among producers (farmers, ranchers, fishers)
- ↗ **concentrations**: land ownership, supply chain goods/services

- ↘ **soil:** erosion, degradation
- ↘ **water:** depletion, pollution, eutrophication
- ↘ **diversity:** monocultures

Ken Meter
https://www.crcworks.org/

1. The 8,436 farms in Southeast Minnesota sold **$866 million** of farm products in 1997.

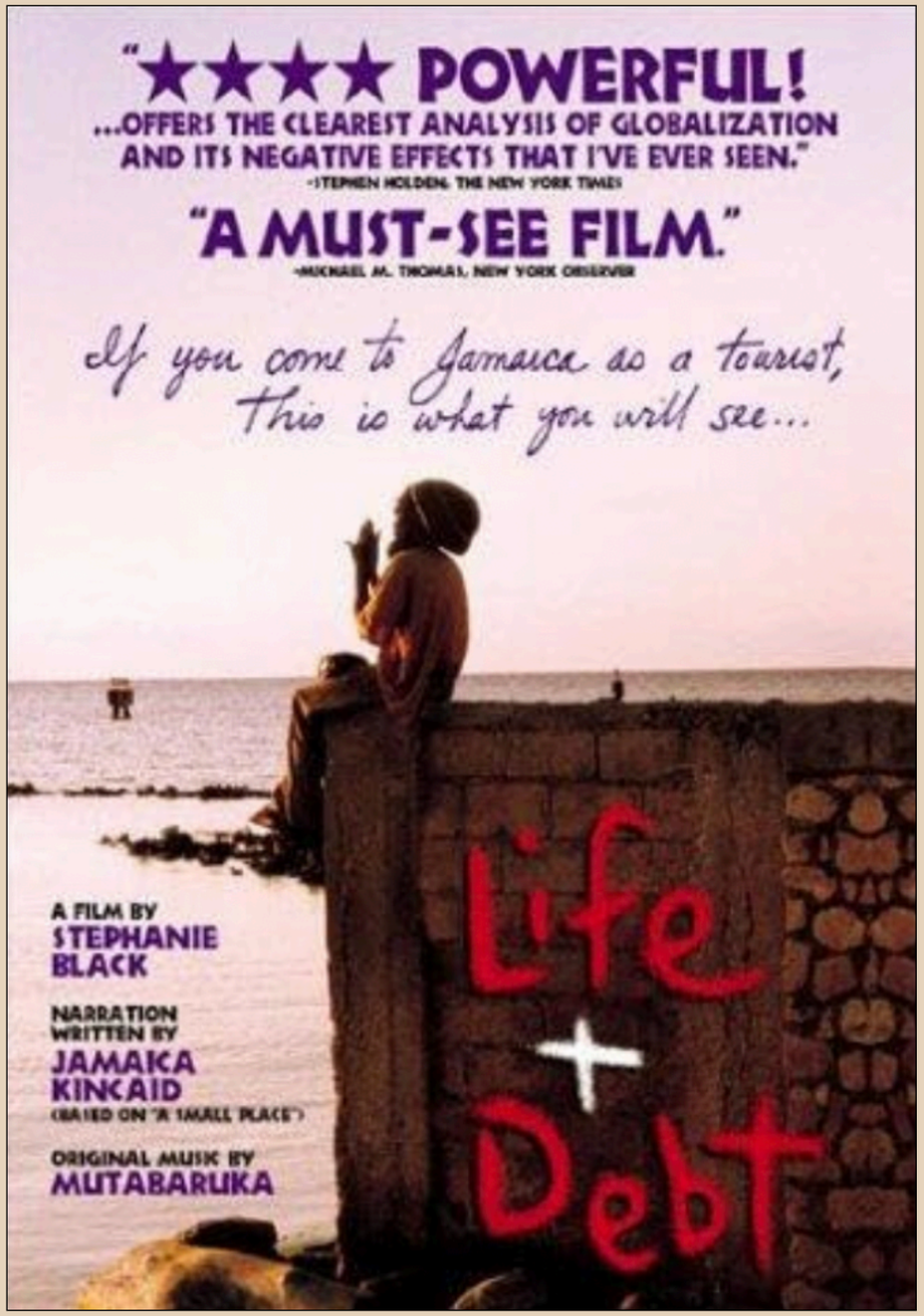
2. However, the region's farmers spent **$947 million** raising this food. This is **$80 million** more than they earned by selling their products!

Finding Food In Farm Country

Southeast Minnesota FACT SHEET

3. Even more troubling, Southeast Minnesota farm families spend about **$400 million per year** purchasing inputs and credit from distant suppliers. Very little of this money builds wealth for local families.

4. Meanwhile, the 303,256 residents of Southeast Minnesota spend **$506 million** buying food, almost all from producers outside of the state.



2001

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_and_Debt

"End of day result will mean that we have no national food security."

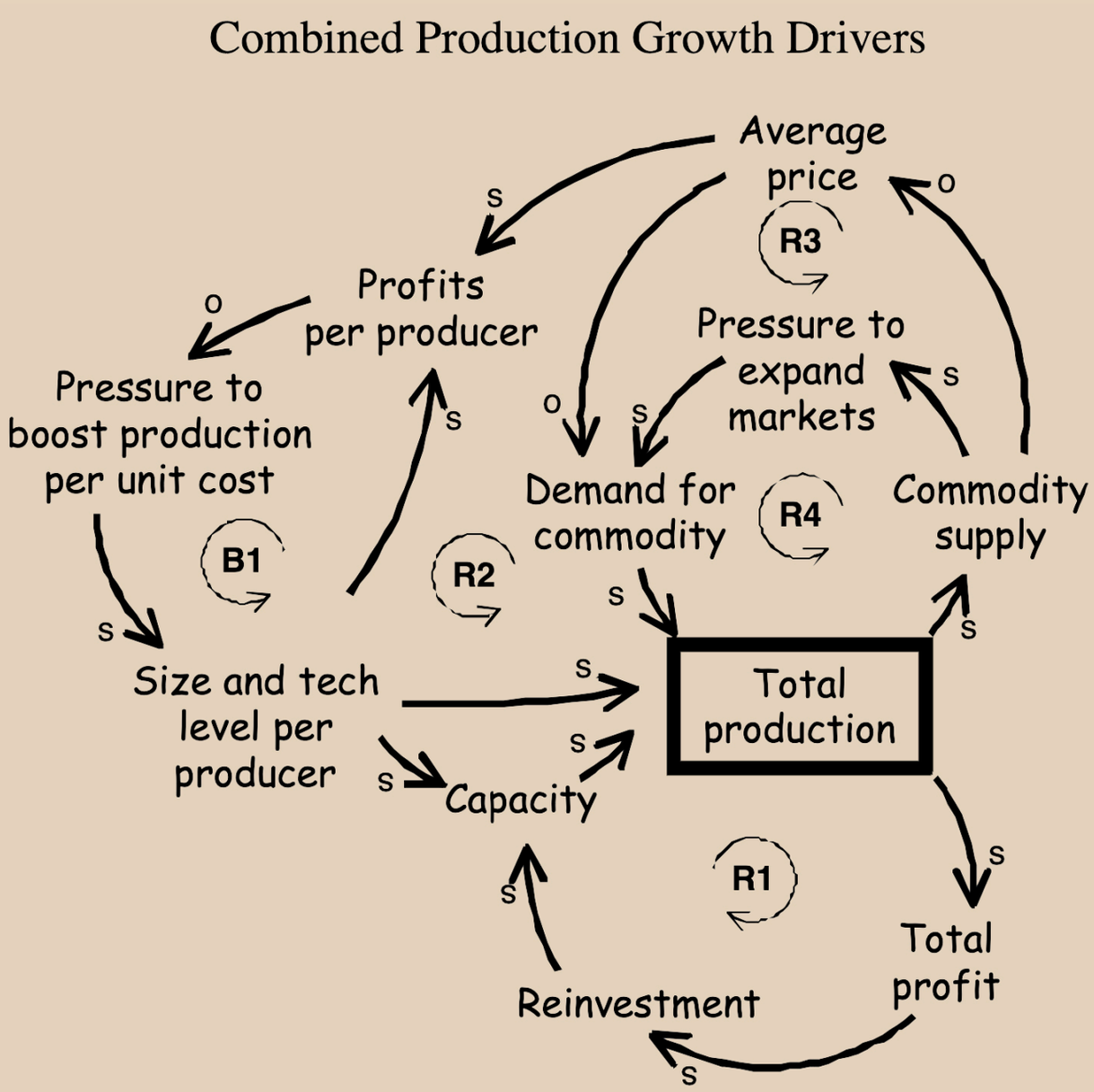
"When milk powder finds its real cost, where there are no subsidies in the first world -- in Europe or North America -- it will be more expensive than the milk we currently produce.

"What do we do in the meanwhile? We go out of business."

-- Dairy Farmer (~35:00)

Commodity Systems Challenges

A Sustainability Institute Report, April 2003



strategies for avoiding commodity traps through producer premiums

civil society: certifications
(e.g., fair trade, organic)

state: subsidies
(e.g., USDA Conservation Reserve)

producers: collective agreements
(e.g., Int'l Coffee Agreement)

>> How about local?

2

SALMON VOICES NATION

ISSUE #2
DECEMBER 2005

ISSUE #2 Adding Value DECEMBER 2005

Adding Value

KARL KUPERS is co-founder of Shepherd's Grain, a cooperative of wheat farmers with lands in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

“We are a small group of progressive family farmers—thirteen farmers, all owners of the company. Each farmer is using a direct-seed system and is certified by Food Alliance, a certification program for environmentally and socially responsible agricultural practices.

We spent three years testing the different wheat varieties to see which would produce the highest quality bread flour. The red wheat used for flour has not generally been raised in the Northwest—the majority of the wheat is a soft white wheat, which is exported to Asia for noodles. →

Photo: Debra Sykes Lawson

The Shepherd's Grain family of farms brings nearly 70,000 acres under a direct-seed system of agriculture. Pictured: Karl Kupers, with partners Mike, Jerry and Matt Stubbs.

Karl Kupers (2005)

“Wheat is generally priced through the commodity exchanges in Chicago, Kansas City and Minneapolis. But I said, ‘We're not going to use the commodity prices.’ I looked at the miller and said, ‘How do you price your product?’ And he said, ‘Well, I figure my cost of production and add a reasonable rate of return.’ I looked over at the baker, and he said the same thing. So I said, that’s just what we're going to do.”

THE Farmer-Chef CONNECTION

Making market connections between local buyers and growers

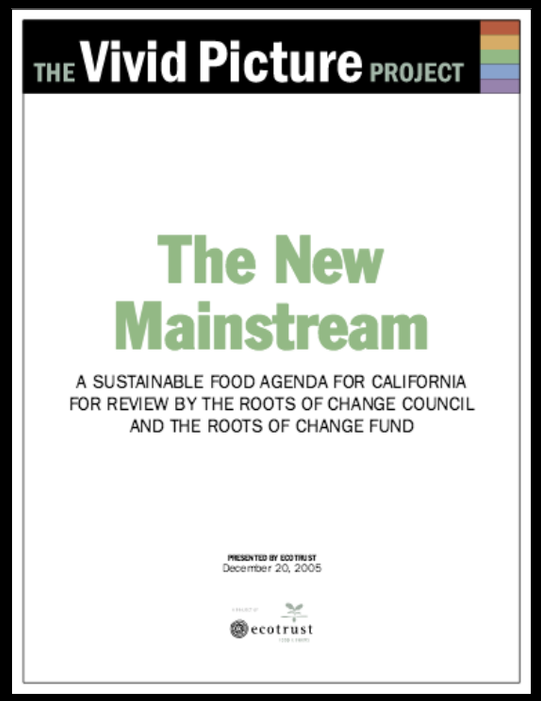
- **Spokane, WA**
  December 5, 2005
- **Seattle, WA**
  February 6, 2006
- **Portland, OR**
  March 6, 2006

ecotrust

WSDA Small Farm & Direct Marketing Program

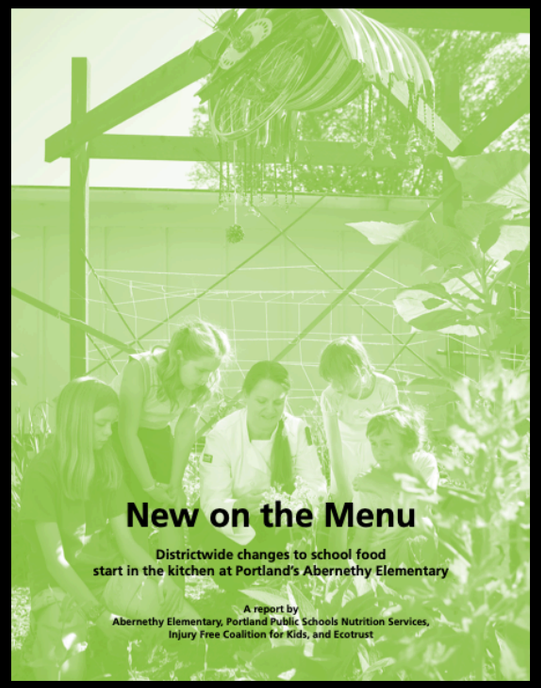
SPONSORED BY: American Culinary Federation • Cascade Harvest Coalition • Chefs Collaborative • Ecotrust • FORKS (Seattle Chapter of Chefs Collaborative) • King County • Portland Chapter of the Chefs Collaborative • Washington State Farmers Market Association • WSDA Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program • WSU Cooperative Extension-King County • WSU Cooperative Extension-Spokane County • WSU Small Farms Team

THE FARMER-CHEF CONNECTION WAS CREATED IN 2001 AS A JOINT PROJECT OF ECOTRUST AND THE PORTLAND CHAPTER OF THE CHEFS COLLABORATIVE

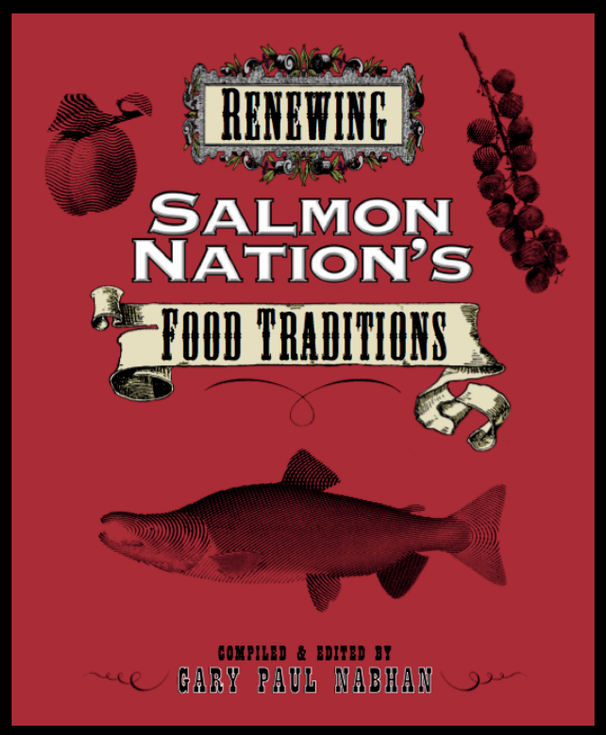


vision-policies-indicators

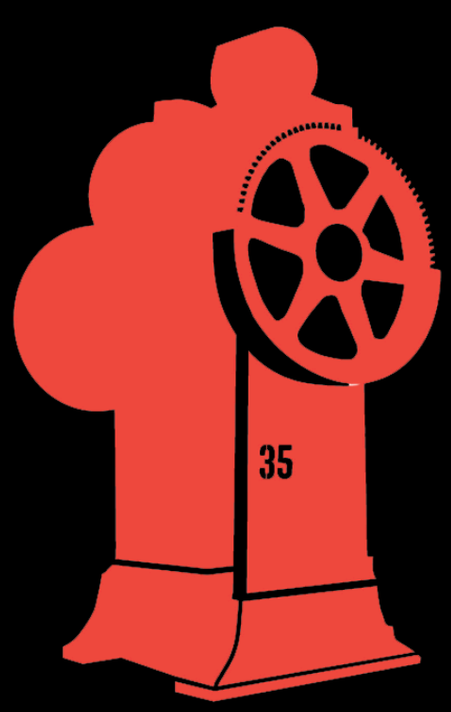
organizer training



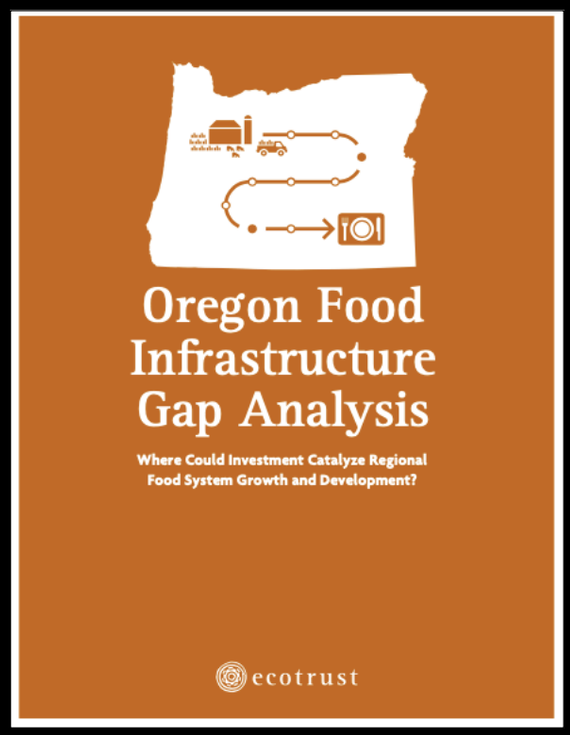
farm to school



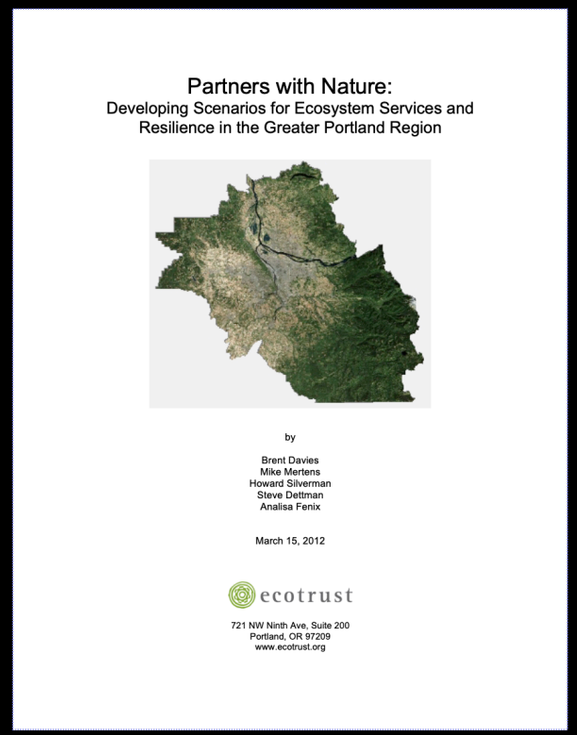
indigenous/
traditional foods



foodhubs



ag-of-the-middle
gap analysis



foodshed scenario
mapping

¿ PROVOCATION ?

How might currency design enable greater producer participation in local-regional food systems?

bonus drinking game: weird the matrix

Types of Goods

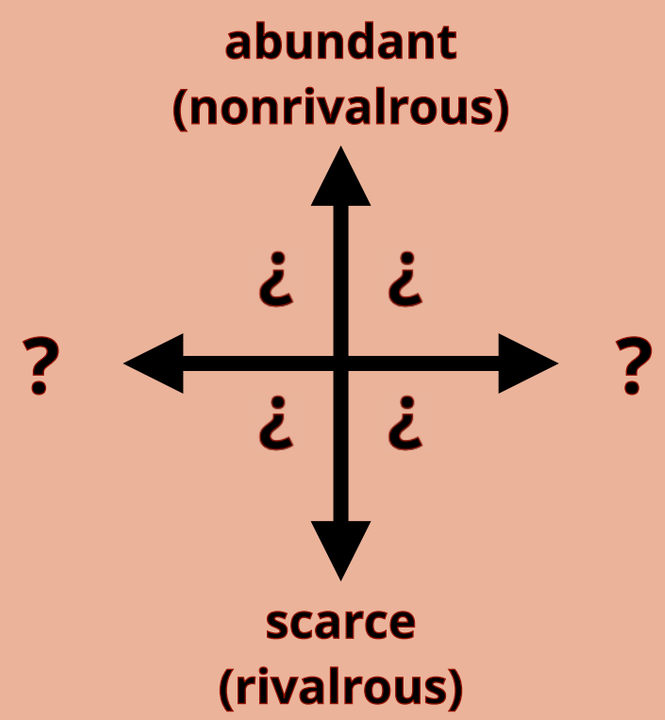
EXCLUSION: Difficulty	SUBTRACTABILITY: *Low*	SUBTRACTABILITY: *High*
Difficulty	**Public Goods** Sunset Common Knowledge	**Common-Pool Resources** Irrigation Systems Libraries
Easy	**Toll or Club Goods** Day-Care Centers Country Clubs	**Private Goods** Doughnuts Personal Computers

Source: Hess, C. and E. Ostrom, 2003,
"Ideas, Artifacts, and Facilities: Information as a Common-Pool Resource."

¿ PROVOCATION ?

Draw a 2x2 matrix.

Label one axis: abundant and scarce (nonrivalrous and rivalrous).

Use the lingo of currency design to label the other axis.

What are the four quadrants?