FREEDOM GRID

Freedom Grid Summary

https://freedomgrid.org – *The Freedom Grid is a local network of farmers, manufacturers, and service providers alongside a group of freedom advocates who support them.*

Building a Parallel Economy – What does this mean and why should we think about doing this? A parallel economy is one that runs alongside the traditional monetary system for trade, except that non-traditional forms of payment are used such as precious metals, cryptocurrency and other forms of non-debt-based forms of payment.

The reason for setting up parallel trade networks is because our current debt-based system is going to crash, or transition into a digital debt-based monetary system to delay the crash a little longer. Please refer to Money and the Beast for details about why one of these two options will occur.

This document is about a **Hybrid of Independent and Government Dependent Economies** - one foot in both worlds. We can exist in the current trade system while developing our own parallel system at the same time.

We can build a stronger community outside of the current dependent economic system, yet still interact with the existing economy to a lesser extent, with more privacy.

Completely switching to an **Independent Economy** is not workable on its own, but it can help grow a large hybrid economy. This keeps the standard economy more honest and competitive. It also helps us to maintain private transactions without digital overlords.

For the hybrid economy, there are also intermediaries that charge a fee to buy-sell, trade, etc., between the two economies. See the information below.

This document includes resources, references and ideas to start building your own networks, and how to link your local network with other like-minded networks. Please make sure to click on the blue colored links to view the websites that are listed below to find more details about each topic.

Here are 10 topics to consider for building out a parallel economy and related concerns:

1. Manufacturing
2. Food and Farming
3. Land and Housing
4. Energy
5. Service Providers
6. Education
7. Financial Freedom
8. Travel
9. Communication

1. Manufacturing

A survey from The Harris Poll and Retail Brew shows 72% of Americans try to find American-made products often — and 48% say they would be willing to pay up to 20% more to find them. Domestic products typically have higher quality than their international counterparts and are more appealing to the average consumer.

The Freedom Grid helps to expand local manufacturing and farming by gaining support of consumers. Manufacturing, Mining and Farming create real wealth. To help promote real wealth, we need to network and educate our local region. We utilize a mix of old school methods and advanced technologies to help accomplish these efforts.

One example is that local manufacturers can network with each other to build equipment like tractors using open source technologies. **Open Source Ecology** -

www.opensourceecology.org/ - a place to share technology

We're developing open source industrial machines that can be made for a fraction of commercial costs, and sharing our designs online for free. The goal of Open Source Ecology is to create an open source economy – an efficient economy which increases innovation by open collaboration.

Check out this video about the **open source construction** set to build important machines locally - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53T5eYxGf3I

We can also use **engineering and design methods** for local projects with limited resources - https://www.engineeringforchange.org/solutions-library/

Manufacturing Investments

Local manufacturing requires investments. Not only do consumers need to support local manufacturing, but investors need to believe in it as well. This requires a different mindset type of investor community, like the people at **New Founding**.

https://www.newfounding.com/venture

https://www.newfounding.com/dealroom

We are drawing together the entrepreneurs and investors who see a historic opportunity to build and reclaim the American economy for the American people.

We connect founders of such companies with mission-aligned investors.

We build and back companies defined by American ideals and a positive national vision.

We explicitly oppose DEI/ESG and the bureaucratization of American business culture.

We promote a culture of entrepreneurship and excellence, betting on great companies, products, and customers disfavored by corrosive ideologies.

Local Clothes Manufacturing Example

Our local community can copy programs like with the resurgence of clothing manufacturing in the Carolinas.

https://www.carolinatextiledistrict.com/industrial-sewing-program

The Industrial Sewing Program prepares trainees for a career in the sewn trades, an industry that has a rich tradition in the region and is experiencing a resurgence.

https://www.thematerialreturn.com/

*Material Return is your solution for **custom circularity**. We work with local manufacturers and national brands to transform textile waste into new products - **all within 75 miles**. Our model benefits the environment, local economies, our workers, and our values-aligned clients.*

https://solidstate.clothing/ - **In the 1970s, 75% of the clothing Americans purchased was made in the USA. Now, that number is only 2%.**

Carbon Economy

Quite simply, we need to make carbon products locally, like biochar as an example. (Carbon fiber can come later). Not only can biochar be made for farms, energy and heat are byproducts of the biochar manufacturing process. See the Energy section for equipment that can capture the heat and transform waste heat recovery into electricity.

We can set up a similar **biochar co-op** in our area - https://www.hpbiochar.com/biochar-coop-wyoming

https://www.biocharco-op.com/

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBPF0r2MXP0

High Plains Biochar is creating the first biochar co-op in which members can generate income from carbon credits by producing biochar.

More biochar info here - https://biochar.international/guides/biochar-reactor-to-meet-needs/

2. Food and Farming

Learn organic farming and help a local farmer at the same time with **WWOOF** -

WWOOF USA - https://wwoofusa.org/en/

Check out The **Mittleider Method** at **GrowFood** - https://growfood.com/

The Foundation's purposes include encouraging and fostering the development, understanding, and distribution of the most efficient scientific non-polluting and ecologically sensitive food production procedures, by sponsoring and supporting the research, development, and dissemination of the best possible gardening methods and techniques, and the most effective information delivery systems and teaching methods throughout the world, with primary emphasis on the developing countries.

Find out who the local farmers are and where markets are located at **Local Harvest** -

https://www.localharvest.org/locations/

There are almost two million farms in the USA. About 80% of those are small farms, and a large percentage are family owned. More and more of these farmers are now selling their products directly to the public. They do this via CSA programs, Farmers' Markets, Food Coops, u-picks, farm stands, and other direct marketing channels. Would you like to support your local farmer? Use our map to ***find your farmer****!*

Polyface Farms has a tremendous number of resources and is a prime example of what can be done locally - https://polyfacefarms.com/

Be sure to check out their video - https://vimeo.com/125404937

A list of resources on the Polyface site - https://polyfacefarms.com/resource-guide

Numerous farming educational resources here - https://polyfacefarms.com/education/

Additional knowledge can be found at the **Grow Network**'s academy.

https://thegrownetwork.com/ - https://academy.thegrownetwork.com/

The Grow Network (TGN) is an online community of 450,000 homesteaders that strive to live a modern, self-sufficient lifestyle. Our community is composed of the world's most productive people who practice self-sufficiency to promote sustainable living. TGN community members grow food in their backyard, craft herbal medicine in the kitchen, and deliberately choose to live healthier and more environmentally-conscious lives.

Aquaponics is really important to consider locally - https://aquaponics.com/

Aquaponics is a form of agriculture that combines raising fish in tanks (recirculating aquaculture) with soilless plant culture (hydroponics). In aquaponics, the nutrient-rich water from raising fish provides a natural fertilizer for the plants and the plants help to purify the water for the fish. Aquaponics can be used to sustainably raise fresh fish and vegetables for a family, to feed a village or to generate profit in a commercial farming venture, year 'round, in any climate.

https://aquaponics.com/aquaponic-systems/commercial-systems/

Software to Connect Farmers and Consumers

Eat From Farms is our pick for the best software to support local farmers. It is low cost, powerful and has a lot of options. One benefit for farmers is to have customers preorder, so they know the local interest instead of just showing up at a farmers market and hoping. We need to work closely with our local farmers to help plan for production needs.

https://www.eatfromfarms.com/

3. Land and Housing

Even if you do not own property for farming, you can get access to farmland at **Shared Earth.** You can also contribute land to farmers in exchange for food -

https://sharedearth.com/#how-it-works

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90wXcudmVrI

Consider to set up your property with a House Church or other religious organization. Please check out **Helping Hand Outreach** to help establish and protect your property.

https://helpinghandoutreach.org/how-to-start-a-church/

To see the history and complexities of property ownership in America, check out this article - https://fee.org/articles/private-property-and-government-under-the-constitution/

Low Cost Houses

You can learn from these videos about people learning to build **Aircrete** houses -

https://tinygiantlife.biz/2021/02/14/aircrete-school-hands-on-training-workshops/

Homesteading

Here are just a few examples of people who went outside the box.

https://freedomforestfarm.com/

https://homesteading.com/gain-financial-freedom-homesteading/

https://producingfreedom.com/

Land Co-Op - Homestead Community

https://osrcommunity.com/ - **Operation Self Reliance** is a very interesting group. Check out their resources that helped to establish land Co-Op's - https://academyosr.com/

The Riverbed Ranch site in Utah is quite large - https://www.riverbed-ranch.com/videos

Another land Co-Op in Arizona - https://www.coslorcove.com/category/off-grid-articles/

New Founding has partnered with Ridge Runner to set up local community networks in the Eastern Highland Rim of Appalachia. https://www.newfounding.com/real-estate

4. Energy

Making your own energy is important for freedom and independence from the power grid. Consider alternatives like gasification, pyrolysis, CHP, hybrid solar and other technologies that can provide everything you need.

https://outdoorwoodfurnaceboiler.com/index.htm - **wood boilers**

https://outdoorwoodfurnaceboiler.com/Wood-Fired-Cooling.htm - **cooling add-on**

https://www.yazakienergy.com/waterfired.htm - **air conditioning from biomass**

https://rocketheater.com/ - this **efficient wood stove** can run on wood or pellets

Examples of heating and cooling here - https://midwestpermaculture.com/thermal-mass-rocket-stoves-on-our-minds/

Gasifier Bible - you can read up on wood gasifiers here - https://www.amazon.com/Wood-Gasifier-Builders-Bible-Homestead/dp/B086PRJNHG

District Energy

Build micro district energy solutions for larger facilities or groups of buildings. There are many product and service providers in this space on the **District Energy** site.

https://www.districtenergy.org/resources/productsservices

https://www.districtenergy.org/resources/resources

Combined Heat and Power Systems (CHP)

https://www.axiom-energy.com/microchp - **Micro CHP** is a good solution for larger buildings or groups of buildings

https://www.controlledair.com/yanmar-chp-micro-cogen/ - smaller CHP systems can also be used in homes

Waste Heat Recovery Systems

https://gulfcoastgreenenergy.com/waste-heat-to-power-technology/power-generator/

https://gulfcoastgreenenergy.com/heat-to-power-industrial-applications/

Solar Thermal / PV Hybrid - Make electricity and heat via hybrid solar thermal - PV panels

https://abora-solar.com/en/hybrid-solar-panel/

Distributor for hybrid panels in Canada- https://hydrosolar.ca/collections/hybrid-pvt-photovoltaic-and-thermal-solar-panels/products/ahtech-72sk-hybrid-photovoltaic-and-thermal-pvt-solar-panel

More products here - https://hydrosolar.ca/

Liquid Fuel

You can learn to make liquid fuels if you need to combust liquids in your gas generator and can't get supply. Here is a fun example video of making liquid fuel -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxvMVjI9T-A

Steam Engine Power Plant

https://www.villageindustrialpower.com/energy-generation - make heat and electricity with this steam engine power plant running off biomass.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHEDaoP1GQE

Portable Power Stations

There are newer inverter and battery technologies that allow for numerous emergency power and off-grid power applications. With a Portable Power Station (PPS), you can charge its batteries with your car, solar panels, a generator, or an electric outlet in your house. Your batteries can then run your gas furnace or appliances like your fridge with no need to pay for a whole house backup generator.

https://www.anker.com/anker-solix/

https://us.ecoflow.com/

https://oupes.com/products/oupes-mega-5-portable-power-station

https://www.bluettipower.com/products/ac200max-power-station

5. Services

Freedom Grid service providers can locate online in our private member database to connect with customers. If you are a service provider, please fill out our local WNY database form to become a member – click here for the form.

However, there are some national groups to consider that can also work with us locally.

Legal Resources - https://adflegal.org/about-us

Health Advocacy - https://www.graithcare.com/

Not-For-Profit – Establish a religious organization for freedom protection by using **Helping Hand Outreach** - https://helpinghandoutreach.org/

https://helpinghandoutreach.org/federal-law/

Also, please see **Public Square** for its large database. It does not include locally vetted private members like us, but there are a lot of freedom-loving businesses listed.

https://app.publicsq.com/ or https://publicsq.com/

6. Education

Dolores Cahill is part of the **World Freedom Alliance** and the **Education Charter**. Be sure to check out these sites –

https://worldfreedomalliance.org/dolores-cahill/

Today's society is yesterday's classroom; today's classroom is tomorrow's society

https://educationcharter.org/world-freedom-alliance-charter/

Home School Network

Why not start your own home school network? We have our own local groups in the database, but you can check out these resources to get started:

https://hslda.org/get-started - search their database for existing groups

https://www.homeschool-life.com/how-it-works

https://www.thehomeschoolmom.com/local-support/#

https://www.abeka.com/Homeschool/Products/AbekaAcademy/

https://www.crosswalk.com/family/homeschool/the-best-resources-for-christian-homeschool-curriculum.html

7. Financial Freedom

Money – Currency – Precious Metals – Finances – Trade and Barter Networks

The Hidden Secrets of Money

First, learn the gory details about the monetary and currency systems we now have. There are a ton of books and videos about these topics. **Mike Maloney** does a great job with visuals in his Hidden Secrets of Money video series –

https://goldsilver.com/hidden-secrets/

You can also get a lot of information from Tom Woods.

https://libertyclassroom.com/dollar/

https://tomwoods.com/DOLLAR/

Once you get a grasp on the fragility of the monetary system, you might feel more compelled to own precious metals. The Freedom Grid recommends the **United Precious Metals Association** Co-Op as your go to source for vaulting or purchasing. You can tie in a debit card to your reserves if you want quick liquidity.

Precious Metals

https://upma.org/

The United Precious Metals Association (UPMA) was established in response to the passage of the Utah Specie Legal Tender Act in early 2011.

Members benefit from 0% buy/sell spreads and low vaulting costs.

Members can easily access their wealth by means of linked debit cards, Wire transfers, physical checks, or by taking physical possession of their holdings. Membership dues and average account fees run only a few dollars a month, making UPMA a very affordable option for saving and transacting with sound money.

***UPMA is a Cooperative operating on a non-profit basis**.*

https://upma.org/resources/ - please search the site and read up on the group.

You can use this referral link below and sign up to UPMA as a member. This way, our Freedom Grid group will get a small commission for signing up new members. We want to keep the Freedom Grid free to our members, so every little bit helps. Please click the link below and register an account so that future purchases get credited.

https://member.upma.org?referral=017118862457234161

Other than getting precious metals from UPMA or guys like Mike Maloney, you can also transfer some of your retirement funds into diversification products like gold IRA's from **Money Metals Exchange**.

https://www.moneymetals.com/programs/iras - Move your money into a **Gold IRA**

https://www.soundmoneydefense.org/about-us - Stefan Gleason of Money Metals Exchange is all about the defense of sound money.

https://genesisgoldgroup.com/ - Another IRA supplier

Also, you can check out the **Sprott Physical Gold Trust** -

https://sprott.com/investment-strategies/physical-bullion-trusts/gold/

https://sprott.com/education/ - a lot of resources here

Trading and Bartering

What is a Trade Exchange? – Click Here to find out more.

IRS info about bartering here - https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/four-things-you-should-know-if-you-barter

Here is the form IRS. See 1099-B form.

Find out how to **Freecycle** - https://www.freecycle.org/

More resources from **Shareable** - https://www.shareable.net/how-to-share/

Trade and Barter Exchanges

https://natebarter.com/ - you can set up your barter exchange with the help of **NATE**

Many barter groups are already established - https://natebarter.com/directory/

Check out bartering for businesses here at NATE member BizX -

https://www.bizx.com/

BizX transactions are treated just like cash ones. You'll receive a monthly BizX statement showing all your purchases and sales for each month. Give and get invoices and receipts just like any cash transaction.

Business Bartering

https://localtradepartners.nextrade360.com/members - examples here

https://localtradepartners.com/how-it-works/ - explains the process

https://www.bartersaves.com/CashFlow.aspx - bartering helps your cash flow

Private Bank – check out Ellen Brown's website so you can set up a local bank.

https://ellenbrown.com/

You can see how North Dakota is set up to do banking – https://ellenbrown.com/2025/01/15/beating-wall-street-at-its-own-game-the-bank-of-north-dakota-model/

Crypto Currency Freedom

Love it or hate it, crypto is here to stay. Here are some tips to guide us through the maze of this new, strange world we find ourselves in. Monero is our recommended crypto. Do not trust Stablecoins tied to the USD, Federal Reserve Digital Currency, CBDC's, etc.

First, from our perspective, the main reason to use crypto is to support a Parallel Economy by building a community, not living as a prepper on an island.

Precious metals and bartering do not solve all the transactions that will be required moving forward. The purpose of using crypto is to offer more trade options between the two economies. There is no need to invest in crypto or dive completely into its murky waters. It can simply be used to accomplish our trading goals on a transactional basis.

There are a few key concepts to consider -

ATM's - there is a list of crypto ATM's below that you can find on maps to purchase or sell crypto safely.

Wallet - you will need a digital wallet to store your crypto on a desktop, memory device or mobile phone.

Peer to Peer Exchanges - instead of using traditional means to purchase or sell crypto, you can deal directly with another individual without 3rd party controls.

Debit Card - you can use your private crypto account in your digital wallet to back debit cards that can be used at most stores.

Precious Metal Backed Crypto - store your metals in secure vaults and transact by using your digital wallet or debit card. This is what the Freedom Grid is building now.

With all the items mentioned above, you will be able to transact within the Parallel Economy and the traditional economy (except with more privacy and less restrictions on your rights).

Confidential Exchange

https://exolix.com/about

https://exolix.com/how-to-use

List of sites in this article – https://elementalcrypto.com/tips-and-tricks/buying-bitcoin-anonymously/

ATM's

https://freedomgateway.com/

https://www.bitcoin.com/bitcoin-atm/

https://www.rockitcoin.com/locations/

https://cash2bitcoin.com/

https://www.digitalmint.io/bitcoin-atm-locations/

https://bitcoindepot.com/

Digital Wallet

Cake Wallet is a good wallet to have along with a Monero wallet so you can be more flexible to exchange with others.

https://cakewallet.com/

https://www.getmonero.org/

Peer to Peer Exchange (P2P)

https://localcoinswap.com/

Debit and Gift Cards

Use cash or crypto to purchase prepaid debit cards or gift cards.

https://app.spritz.finance/card

https://www.coinsbee.com/en/

https://www.coinpayments.net/store-directory

coinpayments.net accepts XMR (0.5%fee). That can be used at Shopping.io to buy from Amazon and walmart so that opens up some possibilities.

Exchange to Trade Monero

https://tradeogre.com/how-to-buy/XMR

https://unstoppableswap.net/ - Swap Bitcoin and Monero

Freedom Payment Systems

You can handle card payments through these quality payment service providers -

https://reverepayments.com/company/our-mission/

https://www.alignpay.com/about.html

https://www.secondamendmentprocessing.com/

Alternative Currency

There are many examples from history and current practices around the world that we can learn from.

Ithaca Hours was one awesome example of what can be done locally in a community. Check out Paul Glover's site posting success stories from Ithaca Hours - https://www.paulglover.org/hoursuccess.html

There have actually been many local currencies -

https://money.cnn.com/2012/01/17/pf/local_currency/

Examples - https://money.cnn.com/galleries/2012/pf/1201/gallery.community-currencies/index.html

There is a sad background story that can be learned from **Worgle**. Worgle in Austria worked amazingly, then the central bank shut it down of course.

https://theplanforthefuture.org/2018/06/19/the-miracle-of-worgl/

Two hundred Austrian townships were interested in the idea. At this point the central bank decided to assert its monopoly rights by banning scrip money.

The Von Mises Institute has a lot of articles based on the famous freedom loving economist, **Ludwig Von Mises**. https://mises.org/power-market

Here is one example article - https://mises.org/library/did-framers-favor-hard-money

Examples of alternative money creation is found in this free book –

https://beyondmoney.files.wordpress.com/2022/05/greco-understanding_creating_alternatives_legal_tender.pdf

Many books are referenced on the **Beyond Money** site about financial systems - https://beyondmoney.net/library/

8. Travel

https://www.freedomtravelalliance.com/ - Travel freely through the **Freedom Travel Alliance**.

https://www.homeexchange.com/ - Find a nice place to stay when you travel from the **Home Exchange** and save money by letting members stay at your place in return.

9. Communication On and Off the Grid

We could find no better freedom loving social media platform than **Bastyon**. The major benefit of Bastyon is that it can be used offline and can sync using alternative methods. You can also get a private SIM card or a private OS in the links below to use Bastyon.

https://bastyon.com/applications - download the app, can be used offline

https://bastyon.com/index

Get a SIM card for your phone for data-only communications at low costs outside of the normal networks.

https://abovephone.com/sim/?above=62

Stay connected, not tracked. ***Data-Only Anonymous SIM Cards -*** *No personal info required. Preloaded with 5GB of data. Pay-as-you-go with credit card or crypto.*

You can also get phones here - https://abovephone.com/?above=62#shop

https://digitalprivacy.shop/ - more phones here

Information about degoogling your phone can be found on the **eFoundation** -

e Foundation - deGoogled unGoogled smartphone operating systems and online services - your data is your data

Here is a good Operating System if you want to do it yourself - Graphene OS -

https://grapheneos.org/

https://grapheneos.org/build

Phones with Graphene OS are available here if you do not want to DIY.

https://privatephoneshop.com/

A lot of resources are available on the ZeroTrace site –

https://zerotrace.org/docs/

Long Range Radios – https://rapidradios.com/

https://rapidradios.com/pages/faq

Conclusion

This document includes a tremendous number of resources to consider for building a local economy. Some links have comprehensive lists of resources, so please check out those pages for more information. This document is a high level overview with some examples to consider building a parallel economy to get you started.

When adversity strikes, we often focus on meeting our short term needs so we do not have time to plan for the future. Instead, we should set up financial systems and networks that we can tap into before difficult times surprise us. Connections with like-minded people and companies need to be built up locally before adversity strikes. Start building now.

Instead of individual prepping, the Freedom Grid promotes community prepping so we can support each other through good times or bad. Building strong local manufacturing, farm communities, and trade networks not only helps to build up our region economically but will also help to prepare for tough times ahead.

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