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News from the Global Ecovillage Network

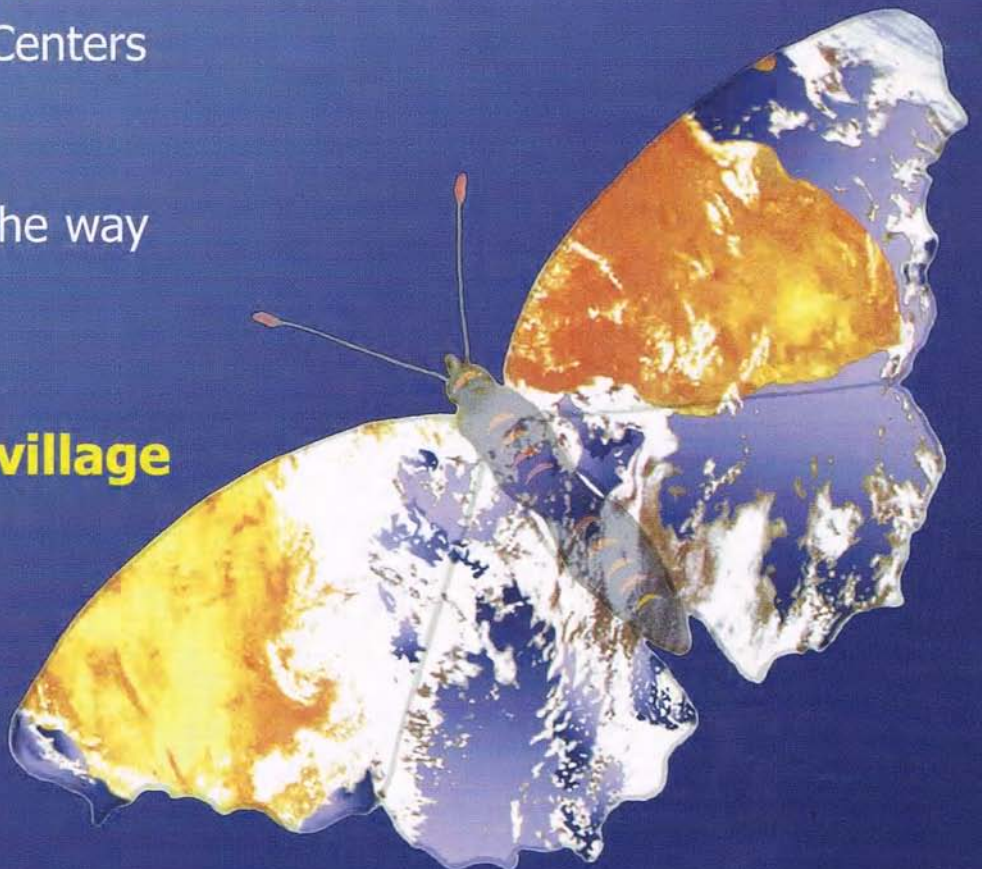
# Ecovillage Millennium

**From Global to Local**  
Towards green economics

**Ecovillage Education**  
Living and Learning Centers

**Expo 2000**  
Lebensgarten leads the way

**Stories from Ecovillage  
Pioneers Around  
the World**





# Expo 2000 at Lebensgarten Ecovillage, Steyerberg, Germany

*Declan Kennedy*

There have been quite a few changes in Lebensgarten, beyond the move of the GEN European Secretariat to Torri Superiore, Italy. Shortly after the foundation of this ecovillage in 1985, we became known for having an adult education programme which was on the cutting edge of new concepts - both spiritual and practical. Hence, this settlement more or less lived from courses and workshops that were otherwise not offered at universities, like Bach Remedy Methods; Permaculture Design; Releasing; Nutrition; etc. Most of these have been taken over in the general curriculum of the local adult educational programmes subsidised by the state: the Volkshochschule, as evening courses at very cheap prices. It was therefore necessary to change the content. Some few years ago, we turned to subjects that were practised in the community, like special types of Healing or - as we were continually having to solve conflicts among the 150 people living here - to

Mediation, but with an emphasis on the win-win solutions, finding the needs behind the conflicts and working with each other in a truly listening mode and from the heart.

This again has had to be added to - as a community can not sit on its laurels - it must move forward - otherwise it moves back - there is no status of stand-

still in community growth. We have used the fact that we have been recognised by the administration of the world fair in nearby Hannover: EXPO 2000 under the Motto: A Community introduces Itself. Based on new directions that have emerged as day-today work of individual members, we are now taking an emphasis for each month in the year 2000

*Below: Traditional Circle Dance at Lebensgarten Ecovillage*

