

## Title: Our Community View

**Aim:** To explore what a resilient community looks like

**Age:** 8+

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:** Flipchart, markers, old magazines and newspapers, scissors, glue, softballs, copies of the case study

ACTIVITY  
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### WHAT TO DO

Ask the group to think about the perfect community. What would it look like for them? What services are there? How much green space is there? What do the buildings look like? What do people do with their spare time?

On a large sheet of paper, draw an overview of their ideal community. Using old magazines and newspapers, create a collage mapping the location of everything they think they need. Remember to think about nature, people, buildings, education, health and work.

Once finished, compare this perfect picture to where they live now. Do they look the same? Identify the elements they think could be taken from the perfect community and put into action where they live.

Does everyone live in similar communities worldwide? If not, what might be different? Why might this be so? Do the group have any suggestions on how communities could change for the better? What would individuals have to do?

Share the case study with the group and follow up with a debrief.

**Case Study:** Cloughjordan Eco Village is in County Tipperary. It is a place where people, like you and me, choose to live in a way that deliberately looks after the planet and each other. Every house in the village is different. The homes and water are all heated from shared solar panels and a wood chip burner. Every home has an allotment for growing food and plants. The village has its own farm that supplies milk, cheese and vegetables. Every week there is a community meal. People go to somebody's home for dinner, catch up with their neighbours and discuss what's happening in their area.

 **DEBRIEF:** Do they notice any similarities between their perfect community and Cloughjordan? What is the same or different? What are the things that make a community strong and resilient? If they could do one thing to help their community become more resilient, what would it be? Are there any barriers to them getting involved in their community? Why?



*"Vision without action is a dream. Action without vision is a waste of time. Action with vision can change the world"*

Nelson Mandela



**NOTE TO LEADER:** To find out more about Cloughjordan Eco Village and the Transition Towns Movement, visit [www.thevillage.ie](http://www.thevillage.ie)



**WARM UP:** Group Juggle: Everybody stand in a circle. Leader throws a soft ball across to somebody. When that person catches it, they throw to a person who has not had it yet. Everyone should remember who they threw it to. Continue until everyone has had the ball. After round one, introduce more balls. See how fast they can throw these without any drops.