

**From:** Liz Tevaarwerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 18, 2024 9:00 AM  
**To:** SSInfo  
**Subject:** population discussion

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Dear Islands Trust,

I would very much like to see community discussions about growth, population, housing and environmental protection. In addition to the two recent articles on the Exchange, I've met several people with very strong opinions both for and against population controls, both on our island and worldwide. I see it become a wedge issue for people. Running the Planetary Overshoot Group, I've done quite a bit of reading on the issue of population, and see valid points and flawed thinking on both sides of the issue.

When it comes to our very local situation, I would like to know more about the numbers and approaches that studies show are feasible. I feel in a conundrum myself about the issue, as I care deeply about our ecosystems, wildlife and quality of living for residents, while caring equally about rights to housing, income inequality and social justice. The narrative is often one of mutual exclusivity of these objectives. Although meeting 100% of the needs of both may not be possible, I'd love for our community to have a better understanding of where the overlap is and where the hard lines are, with neither issue framed as more important or more urgent—to me they are equal and deeply linked.

With worsening climate change in the years to come, the population issue will likely only get worse as southern regions become less habitable/farmable and climate migration brings more and more people to our doorstep. For humanitarian reasons I want to welcome as many of those people as we can. For ecological reasons, I want us to understand the changes we need to make in the the ways we live (build housing, use water, energy, grow food) in order to be able to meet those humanitarian needs without destroying the environment that makes human life possible, including the necessity for health and biodiversity of plants, animals and environmental systems.

Would you be willing to organize such discussions? I see so many people care deeply about these issues but have chosen one side or the other to defend. I would love if we could have community discussions where we understand our shared values and can together defend a vision that protects both the environment and people, not based on greenwashed notions of growth nor Malthusian ideas of population control, but on solutions that our best science shows are feasible.

I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Liz Tevaarwerk  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]