

■ 6. Environment Cobb Hill Farm

Part 2, Unit 1, Step 4

Before watching

1 If necessary, check the meaning of “sustainability” in a dictionary and decide which is the best definition.

- a. Having enough money to support your family.
- b. Using natural resources in a way that does not damage or diminish them.
- c. Having enough free-time to do all the things you want to do.

2 Which of the following would you usually expect to be connected with the concept of “sustainability”?

- 1. solar energy
- 2. using large SUV cars
- 3. co-housing (people living together in communities)
- 4. sharing resources
- 5. organic farming
- 6. green building techniques
- 7. recycling of materials
- 8. centralized heating for a group of houses
- 9. protecting the environment in general
- 10. good insulation of houses

3 Work with a partner and think of all the possible ways to reduce the amount of energy you consume in your house.

switch off lights when not in use

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4 Video vocabulary. These words come up in the video. Match the English word with the Italian translation on the right.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. decades | <input type="checkbox"/> a. terreno |
| 2. research | <input type="checkbox"/> b. unità familiare |
| 3. households | <input type="checkbox"/> c. ricerca |
| 4. land | <input type="checkbox"/> d. coltivare cibo |

- | | |
|--|--|
| 5. diverse | <input type="checkbox"/> e. sfruttare la terra in modo leggero/pesante |
| 6. spiritual practices | <input type="checkbox"/> f. ritrovarsi con qualcuno |
| 7. demonstration | <input type="checkbox"/> g. unanimità di opinioni |
| 8. growing food | <input type="checkbox"/> h. manifestazione |
| 9. to volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> i. offrirsi come volontario |
| 10. consensus | <input type="checkbox"/> j. decenni |
| 11. to live lightly/heavily on the earth | <input type="checkbox"/> k. diverso |
| 12. catch up with someone | <input type="checkbox"/> l. pratiche religiose |

While watching

5 Watch the whole video and give your initial reaction to the project, the way people live here and whether you would like to live in a similar community.

Useful expressions:

- I like it because...
- I think it's a good idea because...
- I'd really like to...
- I'm not sure about...
- I wouldn't like to...
- There are aspects I like and aspects I don't like, for example...

6 Now watch again from 00:00 to 00:48 and answer the questions.

1. Where is the Cobb Hill farm located?

2. What were Donatella Meadow's two main jobs?

3. What was the name of her book?

4. What was the name of her co-housing and organic farming project?

5. How many households are there in the Cobb Hill Farm community?

7 Watch the interview from 00:49 to 01:39 and choose the correct option.

1. Dana Meadows had the idea in
 - a. 1976/1977.
 - b. 1986/1987.
 - c. 1996/1997.
 - d. 2006/2007.
2. At first she wanted to find
 - a. a farm
 - b. land
 - c. a factory
 - d. a farm shop in Vermont.
3. It took
 - a. 1 year
 - b. 2 years
 - c. 5 years
 - d. 7 years
 to develop the project.
4. Dana originally wanted to create
 - a. a place where people lived.
 - b. a research institute.
 - c. an organic farm.
 - d. all of these things.

8 Now watch from 01:39 to 02:28 and decide if the statements are True (T) or False (F), according to what the man says.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. People had to have specific political or religious opinions to enter the community. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. There are many different types of people living and working on the farm. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Most people on the farm are interested in growing food. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

9 Watch from 02:29 to 03:04. Tick the reasons the woman gives for people coming to the farm from all over the world.

- 1. To earn some extra money working on the farm.
- 2. To volunteer.
- 3. To ask questions about the project.
- 4. To get ideas for their own projects.

10 Watch from 03:05 to 03:34 and decide if the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. In the community they make decisions by consensus. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The people in the community make the same impact on the environment as other Americans. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The people in the community have more environmental impact than people in other parts of the world. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

11 Watch from 03:34 to the end and complete the information.

The woman says that the advantages of growing your own food are the (1) and the (2) She also enjoys (3) as a community rather than (4) through a meal. Preparing the wood for heating gives her the chance to (5) with a neighbour she hasn't seen for a few weeks. She enjoys making new (6) and (7) ways of doing things.

After watching

12 Imagine you spent one month last summer on the Cobb Hill farm. Write a short 100-word report of your experience. Write about:

- the farm and the methods they use
- the community you stayed in
- what you think about the place and project in general

13 Go to the Institute's homepage www.cobhill.org and find the following information.

1. Homepage section.
 - Where exactly in Vermont is it located?
.....
 - How many people live in the community?
.....
 - What ages are they?
.....

2. About History section.

- How many existing farms did they buy to set up the Cobb Hill Farm project?
.....
- When did they complete the purchase of the farms?
.....
- When did they finish construction work?
.....
- What have they done since then?
.....

Now work in pairs and use the other sections of the website to create some questions for another pair. Swap questions and search for the answers to their questions.

14 Work in groups of four. Imagine you decide to set up a similar farm locally. Decide where you could locate it, how many families it could hold, what you could grow and how you could promote sustainability inside your farm/ community.