

CONSIDERING RESILIENCE PHILOSOPHICALLY



Resilience is an important topic. But what exactly *is* resilience and why does it matter? Below are a series of questions aimed at helping you think critically & creatively about resilience – in general, as it relates to our community, and more broadly.

General Questions

- **What does it mean to be resilient? What are some characteristics?**
 - Ecologically
 - Psychologically
 - Sociologically
 - Economically
 - Politically
 - Philosophically
 - Other?
- **Can a common characteristic or set of characteristics be identified across contexts?**
- **Does quality-of-life have any relationship to resilience?**
 - What sorts of things fall within the quality-of-life spectrum?
- **Is there a difference between a resilient person and a resilient community?**
 - What does it mean to be a resilient person?
 - *What attributes would that person have?*
 - *What systems would that person have in place?*
 - What does it mean to be a resilient community?
 - *What attributes would that community have?*
 - *What systems would that person have in place?*
- **Just because a community is made up resilient individuals, does it follow that the community will itself be a resilient community?**
 - If so, why? If not, why not?

Community Questions

- **Is Helena a resilient community? If so, how?**
 - What attributes do its individuals possess? Businesses possess? Schools possess? Government possess? Other?
 - If natural resources are important to resilience, what natural resources obtain in Helena & surrounding areas?
 - If access is critical to resilience, do we have reliable access to & protection measures in place for resources (natural and otherwise)?
 - What general systems do we have in place (in case of emergency and otherwise)?
 - *Do we have succession plans in operation?*
 - Other?
- **If it is lacking in resilience, how so?**
 - How can it do better?
 - What is needed?
 - How might this be achieved?

Broad-Spectrum Questions

- **Assuming that things like fairness & justice are important *and* that we can do better in terms of resilience, how do we ensure that they are considered when laying out plans to become more resilient?**
 - How are resilience programs paid for or accommodated?
 - Should “non-resilience related” programs need be dropped in order to accommodate? If so, which ones? What are the justifications? Who decides?
 - Are needs/extenuating circumstances of individuals considered? How so?
 - What about needs of surrounding/interrelated communities that might rely on our community?
 - How are resources allocated? Who is allocating them?
 - Other?

- **Assuming that things like fairness & justice are important *in general*, when planning resilience programs, should these notions apply only to people? Or no? What about fairness & justice for (other aspects of) the environment? Non-human animals? Air, water, land, other?**
 - If our ethics should be extended to include all of the above, what sorts of programs could be adopted to encourage this shift?
 - How & why might programs like these be related to resilience? Are they?
 - Can a community be resilient without extending their ethics to include these?

~ There are many more questions about resilience that could be raised. These are just a handful. We hope they help to spark internal dialogue & external dialogue, as well as generate new ideas & action plans. ~

Please make sure to visit the Merlin website & facebook page where we will be posting an overview of the community feedback by all those who participated in our Earth Day 2016 conversations about resilience & links to local resources!

Merlin CCC
A Philosophy-Centered 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization
119 Reeder's Alley, Helena MT 59601
PO Box 2034, Helena MT 59624
Tel: 406-204-0064
www.merlinccc.org
<https://www.facebook.com/merlinccc/>