

CONTRIBUTOR BRIEF  
SUMMER 2026

# Heart of Ecovillages Volume 1: **Boundaries & Belonging**

# Contribution Types

*Each section of Heart has its own purpose, length, and voice.*

## **The Workshop**

*Build understanding*

In-depth case studies, technical deep-dives, innovation spotlights. We want the real story of how something worked — or didn't. Concrete detail: names, costs, timelines, what failed. Structure around the journey, not the conclusion.

2,000–3,500 WORDS · FIRST PERSON · RIGOROUS

## **The Fireplace**

*Gather around*

Personal essays, interviews, poetry, visual art, photography. Open with a specific moment — a scene, a sensation. Let the question emerge from the story. We are not looking for life lessons announced upfront. Visual submissions: 300dpi minimum.

800–2,500 WORDS · FIRST PERSON · LITERARY

## **The Garden**

*Grow your knowledge*

How-to guides, seasonal guides, step-by-step tutorials, tool reviews. It should feel like a wise neighbour showing the reader something — patient, clear, specific. Number your steps. Include common mistakes. Tell us why this knowledge is yours to share.

800–1,500 WORDS · SECOND PERSON · STEP-BY-STEP

## **The Commons**

*Meet the network*

Community updates, present needs, events, new communities forming. Tell us what happened, why it matters to the network, and how people can connect or help. Community name and location in the first sentence. One photo if available.

200–500 WORDS · THIRD PERSON OR "WE" · DIRECT

## What We're Looking For

Every community wears a tension: the pull toward closeness and the need for edges. We build shared kitchens and write membership agreements. The first issue of Heart explores what happens inside that tension. Not the theory of community, but the daily practice of drawing lines and crossing them, of building trust and watching it fray, of feeling deeply at home and deeply alone in the same week.

**Tell us your story.** We're looking for stories and knowledge *from the inside*. What your community has designed, what it has learned, and what it still hasn't figured out. You don't need to be a writer, editorial support can be flexible.

Suggested prompts:

- When do you feel distance from your community?
- When do you feel you belong to your community?
- Where do you set boundaries? Personally and as a community.
- Where do you draw the line of the community?
- How do you relate with neighbors?
- How do you decide who belongs or doesn't? Why do you need to decide?
- What does kinship look like for you and the community?
- What made you trust? How is trust built?
- What increased the mistrust?
- What systems have you designed to decide who's in, who visits, who's asked to leave? Formal and informal?
- What practices, rituals, or structures has your community built to create real kinship rather than assuming it would happen on its own?

# How to reach us

## Send us your pitch

A 2-3 sentence summary of your idea. Which section it belongs in. Your connection to the topic. We want experience, not credentials.

- Via our portal – [heart-submissions.vercel.app](https://heart-submissions.vercel.app)
- Or write to us directly – [editor@heartofecovillages.org](mailto:editor@heartofecovillages.org)
- Submit as – .doc, .docx, or Google Doc

## Deadline

Pitches due by **31 April 2026**. First drafts by 30 May 2026. We work on a rolling basis.

## After acceptance

Collaborative editing – one or two rounds of feedback. We strengthen the piece while preserving your voice.