TOgGLE labs

Principles of Living Systems

By Linda Booth Sweeney

Interdependence

A relationship in which each partner affects and often needs the other

System Integrity

What a system has when all the parts and processes essential to its ability to function are present.

Cooperation & Partnership

The continual process in which species exchange energy and resources.

Waste = Food

When waste from one system becomes food for another. All materials in nature are valuable, continuously circulating in closed loops of production, use, and recycling.

Living Cycles

A cycle is a circular process that repeats over and over, frequently returning to where it began. The water, lunar, sleep and other cycles sustain life, circulate resources, and provide opportunities for renewal.

Emergent Properties

Behavior that arises out of the nteractions within a specific set of rts: the health of an ecosystem or a team's performance, for example.

Feedback

Circular processes that create growth or decay by amplifying change (reiforcing feedback) or, foster stabilit by counteracting or lessening change (balancing feedback).

Biodiversity

The variety, complexity, and abundance of species that, if dequate, make ecosystems healthy and resilient.

Flux

The continual movement of energy, matter and information that moves through living systems. Flux enables the living or "open" system to remain alive, flexible and ever-changing.

Rightness of Size

The proportions of living systems-their bigness or smallness and their built-in limitations to growth-that influence a system's stability and sustainability.

The Commons

Shared resources - such as air, water, land, highways, fisheries, energy, and minerals - on which we depend and for which we are all responsible.

Image created by Systems Innovation Network

Each of these principles is matched with a folktale in Linda's book *Connected Wisdom: Living Stories About Living Systems.*

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