

“You never change things by fighting the existing reality.
To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.”
– Buckminster Fuller

How Would you Reform the Finance Sector in the USA?

As the lead off speaker for today’s symposium, I wanted to share with you all that we approached that question some time ago and elected to follow Bucky Fuller’s advice about changing a paradigm, as quoted above. That is, instead of trying to fix the current finance sector, we elected to redefine it. We started with the basic concept of money itself and how the whole current financial paradigm starts with money – what it is, where it comes from and who controls it.

Our core premise is that the way to break free from that old model is to create our own money (we prefer the term complementary currencies) and build up a whole new financial eco system around that starting point. That led to the ideas contained in this three-part article: *Money – It’s Not What Most of Us Think* <https://scf.green/research/money/>

Once one goes down that path, it opens up all manner of alternatives. We capture some of the possible changes that would produce in this one-page document *What If?* <https://scf.green/doc/ImagineSCF.pdf> which we would implement collectively in a program we call the Sustainable Communities Framework (SCF).

Most of you are likely familiar with the widespread use, both currently and throughout history, of complementary currencies. As such, you would likely know that most such experiments have produced only marginal benefits to the regions that adopted them. So, what you might ask, makes our plan any different and in particular capable of producing a whole new and successful alternative to both national currency-based systems and other alternative currency systems?

Our answer came from exploring more closely what factors caused only certain complementary currencies to be highly successful rather than the norm. Our discovery – the issuer SPENT THE MONEY INTO EXISTENCE rather than exchange it for another currency. Everyone has heard of the Miracle of Wörgl and most assume it worked so well because of demurrage. We disagree. The Mayor of Wörgl kept *pumping new money* into the local economy every time he hired and paid a contractor to do work for the town.

Bernard Lietaer and Stephen Belgin wrote about a highly successful period in the central middle ages. Again, the towns and cities continuously used their local currency to directly pay for labor on the cathedrals, all the while pumping more and more money in the local economy. We captured those and several other examples in this article: *Complementary Currencies In Use* <https://scf.green/doc/ComplementaryCurrenciesInUse.pdf>

We have a good number of other articles that explore various dimensions. If you would like more, feel free to email me at msauvante@commonwealthgroup.net.

