

About VNHN

Community Exchange Valencia North (VNHN) is a Local Employment and Trading System, or LETSystem, which helps local people trade goods and services with one another, for an agreed value, but without using cash.

People have all sorts of needs that someone else can help with – dog walking, baking, house sitting, preparing flyers, car washing, lawn mowing, trade work, house sitting, gardening, shopping ... the list is endless. Or you can sell or exchange unwanted items you have. The local currency is not intended to replace the national currency – it just helps to keep wealth in the local community and contributes to the development of community resilience.

Read inside for more information on how it works.

Contact Details

If you'd like to know more about VNHN, or if you would like to join, go to:
<http://www.tinyurl.com/eoi-exchange>
or send mail to:
vnhn@community-exchange.org

Who can Join?

- Individuals
- Families
- Businesses
- Community Groups
- Non-government Organisations

Anyone who wants to keep the wealth of the Highlands in the Highlands.



Community Exchange

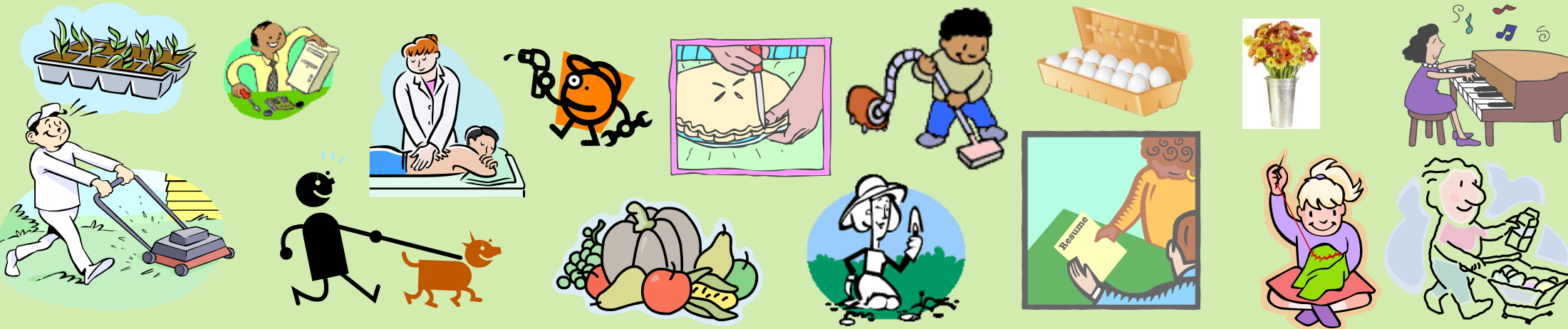
LETS

*A trading system
using a local currency*

A Local Employment Trading System is a network that helps local people trade goods and services with one another.

Community Exchange Valencia North is our local LETSystem

promoting local employment by using the community's true wealth—the skills and energy of its people.



How Does it Work?

The goods and services that members exchange are valued in a currency that each network decides on for itself. VNHN has called its currency unit 'ECO'. VNHN does not require actual money. Instead, a central online record system is used to keep account of the trading activity of members. So money only exists as numbers moving from account to account.

All accounts begin at zero. When a trade occurs, the seller's account balance goes up by the agreed amount, and the buyer's account balance goes down by the same amount.

In this kind of system, members are not limited to simply 'swapping' services between two members. Jill does something for Jack, who might do something for Dick, who does something for Mary.... you can trade items and/or services between many people.

And all services are valued in a more egalitarian way than in the regular economy. Except where there is a significant difference between the quality of services, the general aim is to value the time and effort of all members more or less equally. Individual members are free to arrive at their own agreed rate of exchange for a particular item or service, based on this guideline.

VNHN is guided by the principles that sustain other benevolent community organisations and movements, eg the LETSsystem, the Transition Movement, community co-operatives, and the Permaculture Movement.

When Would I Use It?

What if you have a sudden illness—nothing too serious, but you just can't get your usual tasks done. There will be other VNHN members who can help. And then, when you're back on deck again, you can earn some ECOS for your account.

Maybe you're planning a special dinner party and would really like some help with the cooking or other preparations.

Ever wanted to start a vegie garden but didn't know how, or you ended up with a bunch of straggly plants? Someone from VNHN might be able to help.

Maybe you're housebound with little ones and need a break, or a date, or time to study, but you don't have a baby sitter?

Maybe you could offer your services as a member of VNHN, save money, and become better connected to your community.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What does it cost to join?

It's free

An administration fee in ECOS (1%) is deducted on each transaction.

Q. Are there limits applied to my trading?

No, and no repayment or spending schedule is applied to members.

Q. Must I trade?

Only if you wish to maintain lifetime membership; then you must trade at least every 2 yrs.

Q. How are goods and services valued?

In line with the LETS philosophy of everyone's time and energy being equal, VNHN recommends a base rate of about 10 ECOS an hour.

Q. Can people profit from our trading?

VNHN is a cost-of-service, not-for-profit system run and operated by the members. No one outside the system can profit or benefit from VNHN.