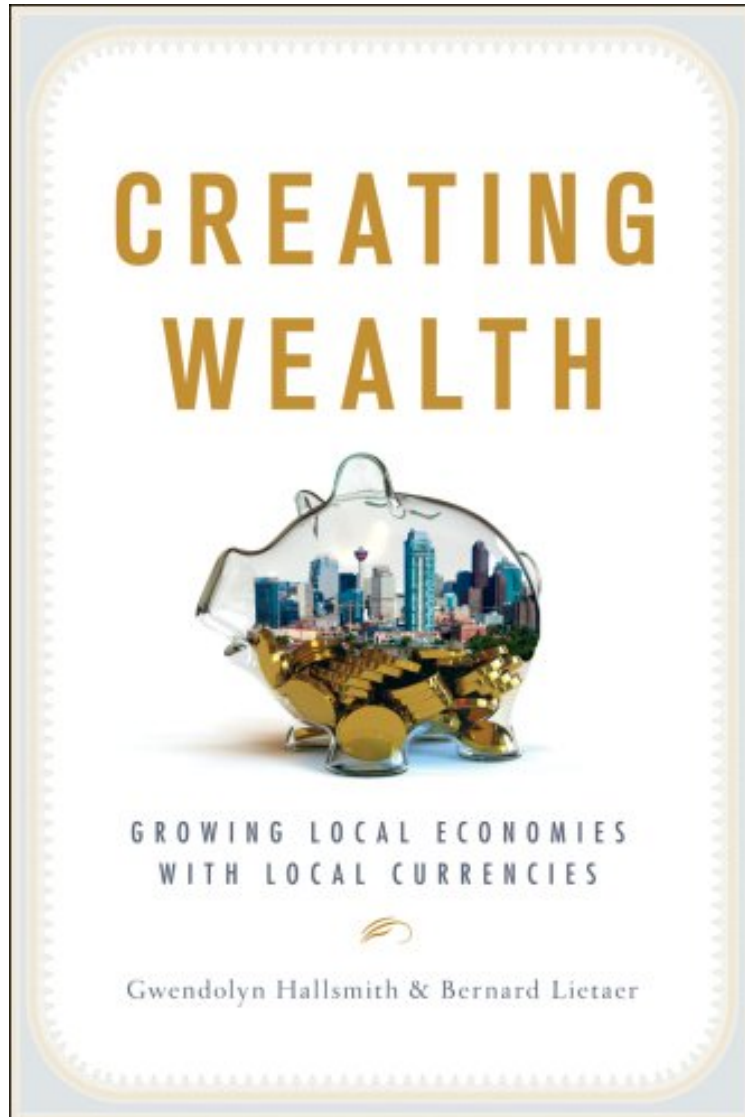


# Creating Wealth: Growing Local Economies with Local Currencies

*Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Bernard Lietaer*  
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**Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Bernard Lietaer : Creating Wealth: Growing Local Economies with Local Currencies** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creating Wealth: Growing Local Economies with Local Currencies:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Must read for these shaky economic times. By Robert Chase I was very impressed with this book. It is a great tutorial for us who are looking to implement alternative currencies in these shaky times. The conclusion is especially riveting and well written. Whether you are TEA Party or Progressive this a must read for the grass roots activist. 15 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Great book By Fredi Tall just hope that many will read it and many will have the guts to do something about it and not wait for the "messiah" to

change the world ...2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Pretty goodBy Wojtek\_URecently, I've read many books about New Economy with all its trends and ideas. This one is not as good as the others, but nevertheless, it's worth reading.Both authors present the history of money and the ways money influenced our economy, in a negative way, of course. Then, the book presents ideas of complementary currencies from all around the world, which is the most inspiring thing in the entire book. Later on, the book provides tips for creating alternative and complementary currencies for cities and villages, along with case studies. And that's it.It's definitely an inspiring reading, but it's not really meant for civilians :). It's more focused on providing tips and advices for people in charge - those who run villages and cities. And you can feel this "focus" throughout entire book. Nevertheless, it's an inspiring reading for those who, one way or another, wish to become more active with using complementary currencies to create more wealth around themselves - activists, business owners and NGO workers should be happy with the content of this work.

Local currencies have been introduced in thousands of communities around the world in response to the economic crisis because they offer an alternative to money as a way of meeting important human needs. Community leaders can mobilize assets using complementary currencies to address social and economic issues including health care, education, elder care, environmental problems, housing, and food security.

Communities everywhere are challenged by issues such as health, elder and child care, housing, education, food security and the environment. On the surface, these problems appear to be rooted in economic crisis-forexample budget cuts have triggered reduced public services, soaring food prices have created food security concerns, and the subprime mortgage disaster has spawned record increases in foreclosures and homelessness.However if communities could match their unmet needs with their underutilized resources, many would find that while their economies may bestruggling when measured in traditional terms, they possess enough genuine wealth to allow all their inhabitants to enjoy a vastly improved quality of life. Creating Wealth demonstrates how a healthy society can beattained through developing new systems of exchange. Using creative initiatives such as time banks, systems of barter and exchange and local currencies, cities and towns can empower themselves and build vibrant, healthy, sustainable local economies.In addition to presenting many compelling case studies of successful alternative currencies in action, Creating Wealth also explores the different types of capital that communities have to draw on, including natural, built, social, human, institutional, cultural, technological, and financial. This book will appeal to community activists, city planners and other public officials, and anyone interested in developing strong local economies.About the AuthorGwendolyn Hallsmith is the Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Montpelier and the founder and director of Global Community Initiatives. She is an international specialist on sustainable community development with 2 decades of experience working with government at all levels. Gwendolyn is also the author of several well-known books including The Key to Sustainable Cities.Bernard Lietaer is the worldrsquo;s leading authority on complementary currencies. He was instrumental in the development of the single European currency and is the co-founder of ACCESS Foundation, an educational non-profit organization whose goal is the re-alignment of sustainability and global financial interests. The author of The Future of Money and Of Human Wealth, Bernard has been a monetary consultant on four continents for clients ranging from multinational corporations to developing countries.