

The Geoist Network: Foundational Statement

Vision

Our vision is a fair and free society in which everyone shares equally in the value of the Earth, while retaining the right to their own person and the fruits of their labour. By aligning our institutions with this simple principle, we can end structural poverty, reduce inequality, expand human freedom, promote peace, ensure ecological sustainability, and allow human potential to flourish. We envision a world where economic opportunity is abundant, special privileges are eliminated, political systems are stable and fair, and voluntary cooperation is the basis for progress.

Mission

The Geoist Network is a global community of researchers, advocates, and activists committed to advancing Geoist ideas. Our mission is to connect and coordinate this community, strengthen collaboration, and provide a shared foundation for impactful work grounded in equal rights to nature, economic justice, and individual liberty.

Core Values

- **Equal Rights to Nature** — Every person has an equal moral claim to the Earth and the value derived from it.
- **Liberty** — Individuals should be free to shape their own lives, work, and communities.
- **Fairness and Justice** — Institutions should reward effort and cooperation, not privilege or extraction. No one should benefit from restricting others' opportunities.
- **Community and Self-Organization** — Social progress emerges from voluntary association, cooperative initiatives, and mutual support.
- **Environmental Responsibility** — Natural resources and ecological capacities belong to everyone and must be used wisely, sustainably, and fairly.
- **Human Dignity** — We oppose discrimination, intolerance, hostility, deception, and violence. We reject ideologies that undermine the equal rights of all human beings. We engage in receptive and constructive debate.
- **Pragmatic Idealism** — We pair an inspiring moral vision with rigorous reasoning, practical policy design, and responsible, gradual implementation.
- **Rational inquiry** — We ground our work in scientific analysis, empirical evidence, open exploration, and intellectual honesty. We challenge conventional thinking while offering alternative hypotheses that are open to scrutiny.

Geoism: Principles and Policy

Geoism is a social philosophy—rooted in the ideas of Henry George and the classical liberal tradition—that seeks to address social problems at their source rather than merely treating their symptoms. Its central thesis is simple and profound:

All people have a right to the value they produce and an equal right to the Earth and its natural opportunities.

Geoism explains that many enduring problems—structural poverty, extreme inequality, housing scarcity, environmental degradation, economic instability, and excessive reliance on government and corporate power—come from allowing the private capture of **economic rent**. Economic rent refers to unearned gains that arise from nature and from value created by the community as a whole. Rather than capturing economic rent for public benefit, governments often tax productive activity, discouraging work, enterprise, and cooperation. This combination creates privileges that concentrate wealth and power, preventing society from being genuinely free and fair. As a result, vast resources are devoted to addressing only the symptoms of this core problem and to compensate for its harmful consequences. These efforts often create new harms and lead to further restrictions on personal freedom.

Geoism proposes a just and rational shift in public finance: **people should pay for what they take, not for what they make**. This means:

- **Collecting economic rent** from land and natural resources. This includes collecting location value (which reflects the benefits supplied by society), charging fees for the use of finite natural resources and ecological capacities, and funding public goods through the value uplift those goods create.
- **Ensuring free access** to resources that are not scarce.
- **Sharing global resource rents** so that every human being receives their equal birthright to the Earth.
- **Full compensation** of **externalized** costs and risks to the affected communities.
- **Market Freedom** — Eliminating taxes that penalize labor, enterprise, trade, or voluntary exchange; controlling natural monopolies while promoting free enterprise, abolishing privileges and artificial restrictions on movement or commerce. Rejecting protectionism but guiding international trade by **economic integrity**.¹

Geoism is not a utopia—it is a foundation. It does not promise perfection, only a fair starting point from which human potential can flourish. We advocate these principles because they offer a direct, peaceful, and effective means to expand opportunity and social harmony.

Implementation must be gradual and responsible, recognizing the current capitalization of rents into asset values and the need to avoid unjust or destabilizing transitions.

¹ When we prohibit an activity among ourselves as inhumane, we should also prohibit international trade based on that activity. When we collect a fee for the global social cost of an activity, we should also levy a compensatory charge on internationally traded goods and services that are cheaper because such fees were not collected.

Strategic Approach

To achieve its mission, the Geoist Network pursues three mutually reinforcing strategies:

1. Movement Coordination & Community Building

We build and maintain the infrastructure—(online) events, working groups, communication channels, and collaborative projects—that enables Geoists worldwide to connect, support one another, and work together effectively. Our aim is to transform dispersed individual efforts into a coherent, organized, and thriving global movement. We value the importance of in-person interaction, which we foster through conferences and gatherings that strengthen relationships and deepen collaboration.

2. Public Engagement & Education

We communicate Geoist principles clearly and accessibly to scholars, policymakers, journalists, and the broader public. Our goal is to advance Geoism from obscurity to recognition, from recognition to credibility, and ultimately from credibility to mainstream acceptance. Through educational initiatives and outreach, we help integrate Geoist ideas into public discourse and policy debates.

3. Intellectual Development & Research

We cultivate spaces for rigorous discussion, scholarly collaboration, and the refinement of Geoist theory. This includes exploring different institutional models for securing equal rights to nature, developing policy proposals, and supporting empirical research and real-world experiments. Our goal is to strengthen the intellectual foundations of Geoism and offer a principled, credible alternative to currently dominant economic and political frameworks.

Founding Members

The Geoist Network was convened and established by the following individuals, whose vision and dedication brought this organization into being:

- Nicolaus Tideman
- Larry Abele
- Martin Jacobson
- Niels Charlier
- Barend Gehner
- Dean Abele
- Tobias Osterhaus
- Gareth Whelan

These founding members ratified this foundational statement and laid the groundwork for a global community committed to advancing Geoist ideas and promoting equal rights to nature, economic justice, and individual liberty.

Constitution of The Geoist Network

Article 1 — Name and Purpose

- 1.1. The organization shall be known as **The Geoist Network**.
- 1.2. The purpose of The Geoist Network is to advance the vision, mission, and principles stated in the **Foundational Statement**.

Article 2 — Membership

2.1. Regular Members

- a. Any person who supports the purposes of The Geoist Network may become a Regular Member.
- b. Regular Members may participate in events, discussions, and projects but do not hold voting rights.

2.2. Voting Members

- a. Voting Members are appointed by invitation only.
- b. New Voting Members must be approved by at least two-thirds of all existing voting members.
- c. New Voting Members must declare that they **have read and endorse** the Foundational Statement.

2.3. Inactive Voting Members

A Voting Member is considered inactive if they:

- Miss three consecutive regular monthly meetings without prior notice, and
- Do not respond to reasonable attempts at communication over a period of at least six weeks.

When a Voting Member is considered inactive, their voting rights are suspended until they re-engage. Re-engagement occurs automatically when the member:

- Attends a meeting, or
- Communicates their wish to resume participation.

Inactive status is not removal from membership. It only affects voting rights during periods when participation cannot be verified. If an inactive member remains inactive for six consecutive months, Voting Members may vote to remove them from Voting Membership, with approval by at least two-thirds of all Voting Members.

Article 3 — Decision-Making

3.1. **Constitutional and Foundational Amendments**

Any amendment to the Constitution or Foundational Statement of The Geoist Network requires approval by at least two-thirds of all Voting Members.

3.2. **All other decisions**—including operational or practical matters—require a majority of Voting Members present, defined as more than half of those present at the meeting. For decisions with more than two options, the Ranked Pairs (Tideman) preferential system may be used via digital communication.

3.3. **Responsible Practice and External Impacts**

The Geoist Network advocates true-cost pricing, recognizing that many social, environmental, and ethical harms are not reflected in current market prices. In the meantime, the Geoist Network commits — particularly in its own events and real-world activities — to remain aware of these impacts and to reduce them as far as is reasonable and practical. The Geoist Network encourages others to adopt the same responsible approach.

Article 4 — Meetings

4.1. All meetings shall be conducted online, using platforms agreed upon by the Voting Members.

4.2. Meetings of Voting Members of The Geoist Network shall normally be held on the last Saturday of each month, unless the Voting Members decide otherwise.

4.3. A quorum for any meeting shall consist of a simple majority of Voting Members.

Article 5 — Secretary

5.1. The Geoist Network shall have one Secretary, responsible for the practical organization of meetings.

5.2. **Duties of the Secretary** include:

a. Keeping track of membership and internal communication;

b. Setting the meeting time by mutual agreement to maximize participation;

c. Preparing the meeting agenda, ensuring Voting Members may add items to the agenda, listing subjects and assigning allotted time and moderators;

d. Recording minutes or delegating this task to a willing volunteer;

e. Delegating tasks regarding public communication and the organization of events to willing volunteers.

5.3. **Election or Replacement When the Secretary Steps Down:**

a. If the Secretary steps down, any Voting Member may volunteer to assume the role.

b. If more than one person volunteers, Voting Members shall hold a voting. Each voting member ranks the candidates in order of preference, the top-ranked candidate produced by the Ranked Pairs (Tideman) method becomes the new secretary.

5.4. Challenging the Current Secretary:

a. Any Voting Member may initiate a challenge to the current Secretary.

b. A challenge is considered accepted if at least two-thirds of all Voting Members agree that the position should be reopened. If fewer than two-thirds of Voting Members support the challenge, the Secretary remains in office and no vote among candidates takes place.

c. Once a challenge is accepted, the Secretary position becomes vacant/ Any Voting Member, including the former Secretary, may stand as a candidate. If more than one candidate stands, the selection process proceeds as in Article 5.3..

Article 6 — Finances

6.1. At present, The Geoist Network maintains no financial accounts, assets, or membership fees.

6.2. Financial provisions may be created in the future with approval by at least two-thirds of all Voting Members.

Article 7 — Transparency

7.1. The Geoist Network operates under a commitment to full transparency.

7.2. All administrative documents—including agendas, minutes, proposals, internal reports, and financial records (if applicable)—shall be accessible to all voting members.

7.3. No internal decision-making process or governance-related material may be withheld from voting members, except where prohibited by law or when necessary to protect an individual member's privacy.

7.4. Regular members shall receive an annual report summarizing the Geoist Network's activities, plans, strategic developments, and finances (if applicable).

Article 8 — Amendments and Expansion

8.1. This Constitution is intended as a minimal founding document and may be expanded as needed.

8.2. Any expansion or amendment must follow the procedure in Article 3.1.