

The
EMPOWERMENT
MANUAL



A GUIDE for COLLABORATIVE GROUPS
STARHAWK

The Empowerment Manual: A Guide for Collaborative Groups

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A Transition Town group involved in preparations for peak oil and climate change; an intentional community, founded with the highest ideals; a nonprofit dedicated to social change—millions of such voluntary groups exist around the world. These collaborative organizations have the unique potential to harness their members' ideals, passions, skills, and knowledge—if they can succeed in getting along together.

The Empowerment Manual is a comprehensive manual for groups seeking to organize with shared power and bottom-up leadership to foster vision, trust, accountability, and responsibility. This desperately needed toolkit provides keys to:

Understanding group dynamics Facilitating communication and collective decision-making Dealing effectively with difficult people.

Drawing on four decades of experience, Starhawk shows how collaborative groups can generate the cooperation, efficacy, and commitment critical to success. Her extensive exploration of group process is woven together with the story of RootBound—a fictional ecovillage mired in conflict—and rounded out with a series of real-life case studies. The included exercises and facilitator toolbox show how to establish the necessary structures, ground rules, and healthy norms. *The Empowerment Manual* is required reading for anyone who wants to help their group avoid disagreement and disillusionment and become a wellspring of creativity and innovation.

Starhawk is the author of eleven previous books including the award-winning *Webs of Power*. A highly influential voice for global justice and the environment, she is deeply committed to bringing the creative power of spirituality to political activism.

The Empowerment Manual: A Guide for Collaborative Groups Details

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From Reader Review The Empowerment Manual: A Guide for Collaborative Groups for online ebook

Joy Weese Moll says

The Empowerment Manual draws from Starhawk's decades of involvement in progressive groups, spiritual communities, and cooperative living arrangements. She's also read widely on the topic of how people organize themselves for a purpose. The Empowerment Manual combines the theory with the lived experience to create a practical and powerful guide for getting work done in collaborative groups.

More thoughts on my blog including how this is helping with an activist group that I'm in and some of my favorite quotes: The Empowerment Manual

Pj says

I found the section on the 'five-fold path to productive meetings' that she gave away as a free preview (for supporting her upcoming movie production) to be quite useful and productive for a broad audience.

Carol Ochs says

An EXCELLENT book to help cut through the BS of working with others who all share a similar passion toward an end goal, but too many cooks start to spoil the broth. Helps organize everyone on the same page that GOES somewhere productive! I highly recommend for all participants in any "group" endeavor!!!

Paula Kirman says

A must-read for anyone involved in activism, non-profits, intentional community, or any other kinds of organized groups.

Erin says

This book uses a fictional (but based on real experiences) co-housing group to explore the many challenges that arise when humans come together to achieve shared goals & advocate for causes. The scenarios might be a little bit exaggerated for humorous effect, but they're certainly relatable.

The author manages the delicate balance of really GETTING humans and how we work, while maintaining optimism, and while Starhawk is well known-ish as a pagan writer, this isn't really faith-specific, most of what's here would have relevance to people of a variety of faiths, or none.

drublood Duro says

A very thorough guide to working with collaborative groups of all time. The information contained within this book is invaluable for any group that does not have a clearly established "boss" or "leader" as well as providing good information for working with other people in general! Well worth it. I want to add this one to my permanent library.

Undine Clara says

I read this as part of a women's book group, with people who actively organized in collaborative groups. We would often do the excersises outlined in the book, and shared with each other about how the content related to our experiences. I think this was a really great way to approach this book, because I would have gotten bored half way through if I were reading it on my own (probably). Someone once described Starhawk to me as someone who was deep into 'new age' thinking, realized a lot of it was bullshit, took the golden nuggets from it, and came out the other side.

Over all, I like the book, and it lays out Starhawk's years of experience working with collaborative groups of all sorts and highlights some best practices.
