Community Accountancy
PUTTING ACCOUNTANCY TO WORK FOR ALL OF SOCIETY

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PREFACE

PURPOSE
This paper introduces COMMUNITY ACCOUNTANCY and describes how it may be used to benefit society in the same way that the power of corporate accountancy has been used for profit business and capital markets. It describes some of the characteristics of Community Accountancy and how it works in practice. This paper attempts to answer two questions: (1) Why community accounting? and, (2) What is community accountancy and how does it work?

This paper aims to be understandable to non-accountants ... but it does ask for some modest level of analytical thought. The prerequisite is little more than the arithmetic needed to understand a bank statement and an interest in looking at the surroundings with open eyes and a questioning mindset.

SECTION 1 ... THE CRISIS OF SYSTEMIC FAILURE
The global economic system functions rather poorly for most of society. In fact it is best described today as a crisis of systemic failure. While many things have contributed to this, one important factor is the inadequacy of the system of metrics which reports on corporate profit performance and macro-economic aggregates and indexes and only serves corporate stakeholder interests while there is little or nothing that relates to value flows for society.

SECTION 2 ... PRINCIPLES
2-1 ACCOUNTING' KEY CONCEPTS
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Community Accountancy is a derivative of Corporate Accountancy. It uses many of the concepts of corporate accountancy modified to make community the central focus and expanded to include the consumption of value and value creation in the community. Community Accountancy brings the power of useful data for community stakeholders just as there is for corporate stakeholders.

SECTION 3 ... ANALYSIS
3-1 COST ACCOUNTING
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The aim of analysis in the context of Community Accountancy is to make use of neutral data to draw conclusions that improve understanding, help decision makers take better decisions and to hold people and organizations to account for ineffective performance.

SECTION 4 ... PRACTICE – GETTING STARTED
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The practice of Community Accountancy has many similarities with corporate accountancy. The manner of organization reflects the structure of society. The modus operandi combines simplicity and relevance with the sensible use of 21st Century technology.
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The practice of Community Accountancy has many similarities with corporate accountancy. The manner