



Ecotopia is a typical food marketing short circuit where the producer is the point of sale

Ecotopia is based in Tilff, 7km away from Liège, between the Ourthe River and the Greenway. The site is a former 5-hectare nursery which is now let to Ecotopia, a non-profit association. The land was converted into an agricultural area and is now part of the Liège Food Belt.



ECOTOPIA aims at voluntary simplicity, rational use of energy, respect of self, others and nature, promotion of art, handicraft and permaculture.

Ecotopia also organizes nature awareness sessions for groups, internships for children, knowledge exchanges etc.

## History:

Ecotopia was founded in 2007 and has been very active in Tilff since 2013. They occupy some 25,000 m<sup>2</sup> cultivated land, with 2,900 m<sup>2</sup> greenhouses and 150 m<sup>2</sup> ponds. They employ about 40 staff.

Ecotopia owns 2,5 hectares of pesticide-free, fertilizer-free vegetable gardens, cultivated by "Vent de Terre" (Wind of the earth) (private persons) or in partnerships with actors of the sustainable development (a.o. research centres of the University of Liege, schools or council offices).

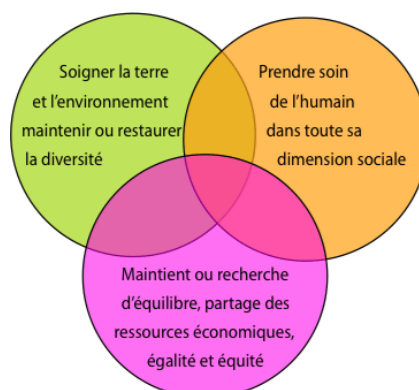
Agricultural work takes place on a site preserved from atmospheric pollution, without chemical fertilizers, without pesticides and with little or no use of fossil energy.

The association also wants to develop activities focusing on the following themes :

- gardening
- handicraft
- healthy and vegetarian cooking
- training sessions, workshops and courses
- Artistic happenings

Who participates in the project ?

- First and foremost nature lovers
- Gardening et ecology lovers who can exchange their know-how and technique with others
- Local producers and craftspeople who are given the opportunity to make or transform home produce with foods or materials grown and/or harvested on site.
- Local artists and craftspeople will be present to pass on their knowledge and know-how and to offer activities or training sessions in co-operation with the association. Through their creative work, they can encourage their respective sectors and the cultural activities via exhibitions, concerts etc.
- Senior citizens can bring in their experience, pass on their knowledge, tricks and tips, for the benefit of the younger generations or anybody wishing to preserve that oral heritage



Ecotopia aims at developing cultural, festive, educative or service activities, in a spirit of eco-responsible management on the site of the old nursery in Tilff.

It concentrates on solidarity, sharing and conviviality. It wants to transmit those values to the greater number and to ensure more public ecological awareness, a return to nature and the re-discovery of traditional knowledge. It advocates mutual aid and exchange of services.

Ecotopia pledges to create and carry out an action plan dedicated to the protection of nature, providing for better environmental performance, better communication and co-operation with local communities and public authorities and better nature awareness.

The Ecotopia association and its members pledge to uphold the principles of permaculture.

Ecotopia organizes its activities as part of:

- Dissemination of arts, handicraft and well-being
- Agro-ecology, organic market gardening and by-products, small breeding
- Traineeships for children and disabled persons
- Practical and theoretical training courses for adults
- Cultural events

Ecotopia wants to induce a dynamic of:

- Voluntary simplicity
- rational use of energy
- fair distribution of goods and resources
- respect of self, others and nature

It also tries to bend its consumption of water, energy and raw materials, to limit its harmful emissions, to promote the use of renewable energy and to minimize its environment impact.