

## Market Vs. Commons comparison

This chart is taken and modified from [\*The Wealth of the Commons\*](#)

	The Market Paradigm	The Commons Paradigm
<b>Resources</b>	Scarcity is given or created through barriers and exclusions.	For rivalrous resources, there is enough for all through sharing. For non-rivalrous resources, there is abundance.
<b>Resourcing Strategies</b>	Efficient resource allocation.	Strengthening social relations for fair shares and sustainable use of resources.
<b>Idea of the individual</b>	Individuals maximize benefits for themselves.	Humans are primarily cooperative social beings.
<b>Human relationships to nature and other humans</b>	Separation (Either/or) Individualism vs. collectivism Human society vs. Nature	Interrelationality Individuals and the collective are nested within each other and mutually reinforcing.
<b>Focus</b>	Market exchange and growth (GDP) achieved through individual initiative, innovation and efficiency.	Use-value, common wealth, sustainable livelihoods and complementarity of enterprise.
<b>Change agents</b>	Powerful political lobbies, interest groups and institutionalized politics focused on government.	Diverse communities working as distributed networks, with solutions coming from the margins.
<b>Core question</b>	What can be sold and bought?	What do I / we need to live?

<b>Decision making</b>	Hierarchical, top-down, command & control.	Horizontal, decentralized, bottom-up. Self-organization, monitoring and adjustment of resource use.
<b>Power relation tendency</b>	Centralization & monopoly.	Decentralization & collaboration.
<b>Property relations</b>	Exclusive private property. "I can do what I want with what is mine."	Collectively used possession. "I am co-responsible for what I co-use."
<b>Access to rival resources (land, water, forest)</b>	Limited access; rules defined by owner.	Limited access; rules defined by users.
<b>Access to non-rival resources (ideas, code)</b>	Limited access; scarcity is artificially created through law and technology.	Unlimited access; open access is the default norm.
<b>Use rights</b>	Granted by owner (or not). Focus on: individual rights.	Co-decided by co-producing users. Focus on: fairness, access for all.
<b>Social practice</b>	Prevail at the expense of others; competition dominates.	Commoning; cooperation dominates.