### **Community Governance Agreement**

**This Community Governance Agreement** ("Agreement") is made effective as of [Effective Date] by and among the residents and members of [Eco-Village Name] (hereinafter referred to as the "Community"). This Agreement outlines the structure, decision-making processes, conflict resolution methods, and expectations for community involvement within the eco-village.

#### **1. Purpose**

* The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a framework for governing the Community in a manner that promotes sustainability, inclusiveness, and mutual respect among all members.

#### **2. Community Membership and Voting Rights**

* **Membership**: All residents who have signed a lease, ownership agreement, or other binding contract with the eco-village are considered "Members" of the Community.
* **Voting Rights**: Each Member is entitled to one vote in community-wide decisions, except where specific committees or groups have been granted exclusive decision-making authority under this Agreement.
* **Proxy Voting**: Members may designate another member to vote on their behalf if they are unable to attend a decision-making meeting. Proxy authorization must be submitted in writing before the meeting.

#### **3. Decision-Making Process**

* **Consensus-Based Decision-Making**: The Community strives to make decisions by consensus. Members engage in open discussion and collaborative problem-solving to reach an agreement that considers all viewpoints.
* **Voting Process**: When consensus cannot be reached, a majority vote (over 50%) will be used to decide on community matters. For significant decisions (e.g., changes to the governance structure, financial obligations), a supermajority vote of 75% is required.
* **Types of Decisions**:
	+ **General Decisions**: Day-to-day operational matters can be decided by a simple majority vote.
	+ **Major Decisions**: Decisions affecting the community’s core structure, bylaws, or financial obligations require a supermajority.
* **Quorum Requirement**: For any vote to be valid, at least [Specify Percentage, e.g., 60%] of Members must be present at the meeting or represented by proxy.

#### **4. Community Roles and Responsibilities**

* **Community Council**: A Community Council shall be established to represent the interests of the Members and oversee community matters.
	+ **Council Members**: The Council shall consist of [Number] members, elected by the community for a term of [Term Length, e.g., 1 year].
	+ **Council Responsibilities**: The Council is responsible for organizing community meetings, managing finances, and facilitating communication between Members.
* **Committees**: Various committees may be formed as needed to handle specific tasks (e.g., Maintenance, Event Planning, Education). Committee members are volunteers or are appointed by the Community Council.
* **Individual Responsibilities**: Each Member is expected to contribute to community upkeep, participate in meetings, and fulfill obligations related to community guidelines.

#### **5. Community Involvement and Participation**

* **Meetings**: Regular community meetings shall be held [Frequency, e.g., monthly] to discuss ongoing matters, make decisions, and address member concerns. Meeting schedules shall be posted at least [Notice Period, e.g., 7 days] in advance.
* **Volunteer Hours**: Each Member is encouraged to contribute a minimum of [Hours, e.g., 5 hours] per month in volunteer activities that benefit the Community (e.g., gardening, cleaning common areas).
* **Educational Sessions**: Workshops or training sessions on sustainable practices, conflict resolution, and other community-building topics will be offered regularly. Members are encouraged to attend to strengthen community skills.

#### **6. Guidelines for Community Conduct**

* **Respect and Inclusivity**: All Members agree to treat each other with respect and to uphold the values of diversity and inclusiveness.
* **Sustainable Practices**: Members commit to supporting eco-friendly practices, such as recycling, composting, and conserving water and energy, in alignment with the Community’s sustainability goals.
* **Conflict Resolution**: Disputes should be addressed through the conflict resolution process outlined below before escalating to external parties.

#### **7. Conflict Resolution Process**

* **Step 1: Direct Dialogue**: Members involved in a dispute are encouraged to engage in direct, respectful dialogue to attempt to resolve the issue.
* **Step 2: Mediation**: If direct dialogue is unsuccessful, a neutral third party (e.g., a designated Community Mediator) shall mediate. Both parties must agree to the mediator’s role and participate in good faith.
* **Step 3: Council Review**: If mediation does not resolve the dispute, the issue may be brought before the Community Council for review and resolution. The Council's decision is final.
* **Documentation**: All steps and decisions related to conflict resolution will be documented for transparency and accountability.

#### **8. Amendments to the Agreement**

* Amendments to this Agreement require a supermajority vote of 75% of Members. Any proposed amendment must be submitted in writing at least [Notice Period, e.g., 14 days] before the vote and discussed in a community meeting.

#### **9. Duration and Termination**

* This Agreement shall remain in effect as long as the Community exists unless terminated or replaced by mutual consent of all Members.

#### **10. Miscellaneous Provisions**

* **Governing Law**: This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of [State].
* **Severability**: If any provision of this Agreement is deemed invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.
* **Entire Agreement**: This document represents the entire agreement regarding governance within the Community, superseding all prior understandings, whether oral or written.

#### **11. Signatures**

By signing below, each Member agrees to uphold and adhere to the terms of this Community Governance Agreement.

**Member Name and Signature**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Repeat for each Member)