**10 Ways to Reclaim Local Power in your Community**

**Excerpted from the “101 Ways to Reclaim Local Power, featured in The Revolution Where You Live by Sarah van Gelder (courtesy of Berrett-Koehler Publishers, January 2017)**

1) Learn about the original people whose land you live on. Acknowledge them.

2) Walk. Pause to talk with people you encounter.

3) Hold forums to set community priorities and then invite elected officials to respond to your agenda. Ask for commitments and report-backs.

4) Have visioning sessions, “Imagine (your neighborhood or city),” where you meet to discuss not what’s gone wrong, but what you want to create.

5) Find out the mechanics of voting and ballot access, and make sure both are fair.

6) Learn about police practices in your community: Are people of color or immigrants disproportionately stopped, arrested, prosecuted, and sentenced? Are police confiscating property, or is people’s inability to pay fines resulting in extended prison time? What is the mechanism for civilian oversight?

7) Find out who in your community is homeless; form a group to offer connection and support.

8) Reclaim unused land for farming and foraging.

9) Encourage retiring business owners to sell their businesses to their workers, and help the workers form cooperatives.

10) Hold celebrations featuring the diverse foods, music, dance, and art from the cultures and traditions that make up your community.