



The mission of Operation Self-Reliance™ (OSR) is to help families and individuals transition from a city lifestyle of dependencies to a country culture of self-reliance, with like-minded neighbors, each on their own 2+ acre sustainable self-reliant homestead—the core building block of an OSR agricultural land cooperative.

The foundation and core principle of an OSR community is the sustainable self-reliant 2-acre homestead. A community's true strength is measured by the well-being of all its members. By creating a network of 200+ self-reliant homesteads, each bringing their own creative diversity to their homestead, you create a community with a wide breadth and deep depth of knowledge, skills and wisdom.

The core building blocks of an OSR Intentional Community are the Sustainable Self-Reliant Homesteads (2 acre minimum). The 6 facets of the building blocks are:

1. **Earth** – a two-acre homestead
2. **Water** – fresh water from a well
3. **Power** – off grid photo voltaic solar system
4. **Food** – gardening and animal husbandry
5. **Shelter** – a passive solar home and a barn
6. **Sanitation** – government approved septic system



To clarify these six facets:

1. **Earth** – Two Acre (87,120 sqft) homestead capable of sustainable agriculture production through design and planning. By using integrated systems that support each other, such as combining crop production with livestock and aquaculture, a complete bio-diverse eco system can flourish.
2. **Water** – A secure, drought-resistant well that is pure, reliable, not easily contaminated, and water available in sufficient quantity, 12-25 gallons per minute (gpm). Water storage and distribution are needed for sustainability.
3. **Food** – Gardening and animal husbandry, plus nutrients from botanicals and herbs, to ensure a healthy, strong body and proper organ function for adult(s). In addition, to a garden/orchard, a 600 minimum square foot greenhouse (recommended 800 sqft) is needed to deal with the variable weather conditions and to extend the growing seasons. This increases agricultural productivity exponentially, qualifying us as agricultural producers.
4. **Shelter** – 600 sqft minimum (recommended 800 sqft) passive solar homes are designed to take advantage of natural sunlight for heating, cooling, and lighting, reducing the need for artificial energy sources. These are the key elements of a passive solar home:
  - a) *Orientation* – Longest wall facing south.
  - b) *Windows* – South-facing, high-performance low-e coatings, double/triple panes. Double windows are a plus.
  - c) *Daylighting* – Strategic windows, skylights, light tubes.

- d) *Reflective Materials* – Light-colored or reflective roofs and walls to reduce heat.
- e) *Thermal Mass* – Materials like concrete, brick, or tile.
- f) *Insulation* – Insulative values of R-40 or more in the walls and floor, and R-80 or more in the ceiling, or the equivalent thermal mass.
- g) *Air Sealing* – Tight construction to prevent drafts.
- h) *Roof Overhangs/Shading*: Properly sized overhangs, shutters, awnings to shade from the summer sun.
- i) *Ventilation* – Air circulating methods such as natural systems, thermal chimneys, and open floor plans, etc.
- j) *Landscaping* – Natural shade, windbreaks, insulation, deciduous trees.

These elements of a passive solar home work together to create a comfortable living environment that leverages natural energy, reduces energy consumption, and minimizes environmental impact. In addition, a barn/shed is needed to provide protection for animals, tools, supplies and storage of feed and harvest.

5. **Power** – an off-grid photo voltaic solar system or other sustainable self-sufficient power systems.

6. **Sanitation** – a health department approved residential septic system that processes household wastewater via a septic tank and drain field or approved alternative. Regular maintenance ensures efficient operation and prevents groundwater contamination.

The mortar that connects these core building blocks is our OSR Intentional Community Self-Management™ system. This system is designed to help OSR community residents manage their social and business matters. It includes a co-op Board of Directors and a separate Community Council of representatives. These managing bodies are comprised of members who are qualified for leadership through knowledge, experience and performance.



By integrating the six core facets, along with the OSR Intentional Community Self-Management system, a robust and sustainable community model is created. Each 2-acre homestead becomes a vital component in a network that thrives on self-reliance, sustainability, and mutual support. The OSR Initiative ensures that residents have the resources and organization needed to manage their affairs effectively, fostering a community where everyone can contribute and benefit. Together, these elements form a resilient, self-sustaining environment that not only supports individual well-being, but also enhances the collective strength and harmony of the community. Through this innovative approach, OSR paves the way for a future where communities can flourish independently, yet in unison, embodying true self-reliance and sustainable living.

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