

Shine Brighter Première

Snapfile 19 For nature's sake

Document 2, Extrait p.169 – Article de Benjamin Hamlington, *The Guardian*, January 2025.

I'm a climate scientist and my house in LA burned down. My work has never been more real

My house is one of many that burned down. I can see that everyone is dealing with it in very different ways and at very different paces¹. I don't have a special or unique perspective to share, mostly because the experience of the past 24 hours is not unique or special. These events – often much more devastating in terms of loss of life than this one – are happening everywhere and more often with every passing year. As a climate scientist looking at these events from a distance, there can be a reaction to nod and say: "Yes, this is what we expect to unfold and what our science shows." That's true, of course. This event, for me, has destroyed any boundary² between my work and the rest of my life, my family, my friends. It causes me to reflect on whether the words we frequently use to talk about climate change are consistent³ with what

¹ speeds

² limit

³ correspond to

I'd want to hear in this moment. I haven't really had time to sit down and pause until right now, and I just have one reflection to share. [...]

Even if thriving⁴ isn't possible (which I really don't think it is), protecting what is most important to us, supporting vulnerable communities across the globe, and ensuring a decent life for our kids can be possible and is worth working towards as best as we can. We can be both realistic and hopeful of finding a positive solution – one that doesn't accomplish everything, maybe, but one that does enough.

My kids have now had their pre-school flooded by a hurricane⁵ and their house burned down by a wildfire in elementary school. Hopefully they will not be so directly impacted, but the occurrence of these events will be the reality of their generation for quite a while. But maybe when they are my age, they'll at least see a solution has been put into place and there is greater belief that we will be able to protect what is important to us.

Benjamin Hamlington, *The Guardian*, January 2025.

⁴ live or grow well

⁵ very violent storm

Document 3 p. 170, Article de Todd Crawford, Vision Times, 2024.

Florida Community Built to be ‘Hurricane-proof’ Escapes Milton’s Wrath Almost Entirely Unscathed

A unique Florida community, situated approximately 15 miles northeast of Fort Myers, which calls itself “the Hometown of Tomorrow”, did not flood or even lose power following Hurricane Milton’s landfall on the Florida coast last week because it was specifically built to withstand¹ hurricanes.

Babcock Ranch, which opened in 2018 and is about the size of Manhattan, only suffered a few downed trees and damaged traffic lights during Hurricane Milton, and even provided shelter² for around 2,000 Floridians during the storm.

Every structure in the community, which is home to roughly 10,000 residents, was built to withstand winds of up to 150 miles per hour.

The community’s power grid consists of a 150-megawatt solar farm with sophisticated underground electricity transmission lines which did not even falter during the storm while more than 3 million fellow Floridians lost power.

To ensure structures don’t flood, the community is built 30 feet above sea level on preserved wetlands³ which naturally collect excess rainwater. (...)

Syd Kitson, former NFL⁴ player and one of the town’s co-founders told the New York Times, “When Governor DeSantis made the announcement that Babcock Ranch was

¹ resist

² a safe refuge

³ *zones humides*

⁴ National Football League

open, we saw a very big surge in evacuees. It saved a lot of lives in some really dangerous areas.”

The town’s ability to fend off⁵ hurricanes was first showcased in 2022 when Hurricane Ian, a Category 4 storm, struck the town resulting in only minimal damage, while surrounding communities suffered upwards of \$115 billion in losses.

Kitson said, “Mother Nature is going to rule every time. But what we try to do is mitigate⁶ as much of that risk as possible and make our community as resilient as we can.”

Todd Crawford, *Vision Times*, 2024.

⁵ defend against

⁶ *atténuer*

Évaluation de la compréhension de l'écrit – Guide pédagogique

Living Resiliently: In the Wake of Hurricane Helene

Sam Ruark is part of a community he calls a “living experiment of human culture and sustainability.” Ruark, who joined LISC¹ earlier this year to lead its Equitable Green Initiatives, lives with his partner and their two children in Earthaven Ecovillage, a settlement of some 120 people on 330 acres in the mountains near Asheville, NC.

Earthaven is off the grid, powered by its own solar and micro-hydro energy systems. Buildings harness the efficiency of green construction methods like passive solar design. Springs provide the community’s water and compost enriches the soils where residents grow a significant harvest of organic food. Many residents are committed to small-space living. They even compost human waste; Ruark’s home has one of the community’s few flush toilets.

Although each household supports itself financially, the ecovillage is structured as a member-run nonprofit. Residents share in decision making, contribute their skills and labor, and rely on one another for friendship, learning, and help with everyday needs like child and elder care.

It’s a highly intentional way of life, a concrete example, and for Ruark, a profound experience of how sustainable practices can preserve the natural world and nourish human wellbeing. Ruark brings these insights, along with his decades of professional experience, to his work at LISC helping other American communities claim the benefits of greener, more climate-resilient affordable housing.

lisc.org, 2024

¹ a charity: Local Initiatives Support Corporation