Nowtopia: How pirate programmers, outlaw bicyclists and vacant lot gardeners are inventing the future today

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Main content

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Chris Carlsson, Nowtopia: How pirate programmers, outlaw bicyclists and vacant lot gardeners are inventing the future today!


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Published by an anarchist press and printed on recycled, acid-free paper by unionised labour, Nowtopia is about walking our talk. It's a book that refuses to separate private from public, thought from action, ends from means, and it presents an argument in which small, local, individual and collective actions have wider public and political significance. Indeed, they might even change the world ... a bit.

Nowtopia is a good example of a growing phenomenon in the world of utopian experimentation and activism. This phenomenon involves a shift of focus from changing the future to changing the now, from grand and long-term planning to immediate action. It involves a desire to create a better (not perfect) world today, in the here and now, which is situated immediately outside (and sometimes inside) our own front doors. It is a utopianism of the now and a politics of the local. I call it a 'politics' because, for me, politics is about change, power and the social distribution of goods and resources,...