



This diagram, and the ones that follow, are intended to serve as an introduction to the whole systems design employed in visioning the Green Collar Futures program. Whole Systems Design stems from a belief that the component pieces of any system may best be understood in terms of their interconnection and thus, their relation to the whole.

In this first macro diagram, Green Collar Futures is nested as a repetitive link & service provider in the regional green economy that serves Paterson, NJ. As in all vital ecosystems, webs of interconnection & graceful redundancy are hallmarks of a healthy & growing green economy. This web of functional interdependence promotes strength and resiliency, as the support of all components is effectively shared by all others. So if one, two, or more elements fail, there remain pieces that hold the integrity of the system in place until the necessary repairs may be made. In the above diagram, GCF is connected to all other parts of the system -- which effectively, in ecological terms, makes it a keystone species -- one that uniquely touches all others, and provides linkages & support throughout. Without Green Collar Futures in place as a strategic service provider, the system is left weaker and far less rich.

From this whole systems, nature-inspired perspective, the following diagrams show 1) how GCF relates to other system members of the local economy 2) the contributions of GCF value chain partners 3) the pillars that support GCF's unique Curriculum Guild 4) the nature-based & hard skills outputs stemming from the curriculum 5) the eco-social & related soft skills on the other side, and finally 6) a detailed inventory of the GCF program yields across many scales.