Frequently Asked Questions about BEconomics

Here you'll find the key questions about the BEconomics model – a new way of thinking about how our economy can work for people and planet alike. Each answer briefly summarizes one of the core ideas. For the full list of theses, see the 13 Big Points, and for in-depth background, explore the Deep Dive section.

What is BEconomics?

BEconomics is an owner-free, commons-based economic model that combines efficiency, democracy, and ecological sustainability. Other alternatives to capitalism have proven insufficient or politically unfeasible.

Why has the capitalist market economy run its course?

The current system repeatedly produces crises, deepens inequality, and fuels social tensions. Economically and socially, it is no longer sustainable.

Why haven't alternative economic models succeeded so far?

Democratic or cooperative enterprises have remained isolated experiments despite many initiatives.
A few success stories exist, but they never triggered a broader systemic change.

What kind of lifestyle do BEconomics promote?

The “BE” stands for a way of life that values being over having. It encourages climate-friendly, resource-conscious living and strengthens social connection – an antidote to growing isolation.

Why is a frugal and fulfilling life so difficult today?

Many people already try to live sustainably but encounter political and economic barriers – and sometimes hostility from authoritarian forces. As Theodor W. Adorno put it, “There is no right life in the wrong one.” A truly free and frugal life requires a different economic foundation

What does “system change” mean in BEconomics?

It’s not a political revolution, but a deep democratization of the economy. Enterprises should be guided by the common good rather than by private return on investment.

Who owns companies in BEconomics?

Enterprises become social property – BECompanies. They belong to everyone and no one at the same time, serving society instead of private enrichment.

Who governs these companies?

All relevant social groups – the so-called stakeholders – share responsibility: experts, consumers, NGOs, and

management. Private investors no longer play a role.

How can system change gain majority support?

When progressive forces achieve cultural hegemony – shaping public debate and clearly communicating what really matters to people, above all social security. That’s how political majorities are built.

What role do current global crises play?

Trade conflicts, inequality, and power struggles – the “polycrises” of our time – open windows of opportunity.
They force societies to rethink their structures: a chance rather than merely a threat.

Why do BEconomics aim for economic self-reliance?

Democratic economies should achieve a high degree of self-sufficiency to protect themselves from neo-colonial dependencies. Where full autonomy isn’t possible, cooperative alliances make sense.

What is the BECompany’s stance on sustainability and profit?

For BECompanies, sustainability is part of their DNA and takes precedence over short-term profit whenever the two conflict. Only then can consistent climate and resource protection become reality.

How do BECompanies handle income differences?

They narrow extreme income gaps while still rewarding skill and performance. Mega-bonuses and poverty wages are ruled out because they violate the principle of human dignity.

How can I get involved?

Join the discussion, share the content, or contribute your own ideas.
BEconomics thrives on dialogue and the courage to rethink the economy!
[Contact link]

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