

WAVE

Principles V1.2.1

2013

Wave is a movement loosely organized around the idea that *a wave of technological and social change is engulfing humanity*, and that this wave should be harnessed for good where possible. The Wave motto is “Positive Social Change Through Technology”.

‘Wave’ is a term intended to represent only a simple common understanding and collaboration, and does not automatically preclude or endorse any philosophies or ideologies. Any point of view that is generally considered compatible with the Wave Principles is also considered to be compatible with the movement itself. Wave-affiliated organizations need only hold two things in common: A general commitment to mutual support, and public support of the Wave Principles.

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The Wave Principles are arranged in five categories: (1) Autonomy and Accord, (2) Rights and Responsibilities, (3) Community and Construction, (4) Values and Mission, (5) Transformation and Renewal.

1.0 Autonomy and Accord

1.1

Philosophies which assert the complete primacy of a single idea, method, force, principle, person, or faction are inherently unbalanced. They sacrifice entire systems or societies for their own, limited concerns. Accord or balance between forces and concerns is critical to the success of any system, and to the wellbeing of citizens in any society. Wave is beholden to no single party or philosophy, with constructive and compassionate ethical values that revolve around this Principle of Autonomy and Accord.

1.2

Science, art, philosophy, and technology - as tools we use to understand and shape the world - must be used in a balanced way. Similarly, we must balance innovation and trade with protection of the community and environment.

1.3

Science, art, philosophy, and their sub-disciplines are to be regarded as having equal value in our work. This does not mean that scientific and artistic products have been or can be judged by any single criterion, but that technology and scientific process do not exist in a vacuum, but rather in a cultural context. Art and culture influence

people, and the ways in which people will relate to technology and science. We afford these processes equal respect as a matter of principle.

1.4

Considered action is to be emphasized over purely theoretical concerns. Philosophy, conversation, and deep consideration have great value, but to be of utmost value they must eventually be grounded in concrete action of some type.

1.5

Although false and transitory beliefs can occasionally have utility, we must ensure that rational and critical appraisal is developed, allowing us to detect false beliefs and assumptions, deliberate or accidental.

1.6

The current global economic system is deeply dysfunctional. This dysfunction is not a result of specific crises, but is endemic, designed into the very basis of the system. This dysfunction causes widespread suffering, and therefore must be stopped. Removal of dysfunctional systems must coincide with implementation of functional alternatives. Public debt and debt trading within and on behalf of Wave organizations is strictly forbidden.

1.7

Where possible, Wave will encourage abandonment of non-replaceable fossil fuels at the first possible opportunity. Where it is possible to combine such initiatives with technological development (e.g. Space Based Solar Power driving a sustainable hydrocarbon energy economy), we should attempt to do so.

1.8

As activity becomes decentralized and locally oriented, waste and environmental damage is to be minimized where possible. This includes local recycling in physical environments rather than export to centralized waste management centres, and an emphasis on telecommuting (working via shared virtual environments and other electronic systems) rather than unnecessary physical travel.

2.0 Rights and Responsibilities

2.1

Personal liberty and equality of opportunity are of paramount importance within the Wave movement, and always apply insofar as such freedoms do not reduce the freedoms of others, whether deliberately or accidentally.

2.2

The movement is intended to be fully distributed, with Principles being enacted on a local basis. As such, there should be no central point of focus which makes the entire system vulnerable. Power is in the hands of the membership in Wave organizations, in partnership with local coordinators.

2.3

Effective governance is unintrusive where it can afford to be, and must have a clearly defined line of jurisdiction. Wave leaders must not unnecessarily burden organizational members, and only make their presence felt where guidance regarding Principle and action are required in order to achieve the goals of the organizations which constitute the movement.

2.4

Direct democratic activity should be embraced locally, with organizational members taking personal responsibility for enacting the Principles. Representative, rather than direct, democracy may only be employed where representatives have clearly limited powers. Such representatives may only exist to facilitate direct, local democracy, rather than replace it.

2.5

Transparency of governance and administration is vital to the health of the Wave movement and its Principles. For that reason, unjustified censorship is permissible under only the most extreme and temporary circumstances, and the appropriate justification for any censorship must be made available upon request by any interested party within the movement. Similarly, all leaders within the movement are to be held accountable for their decisions and actions. In the first instance, such accountability should take the form of transparent decision making where possible.

2.6

Where any aspect of governance or administration is considered unacceptable, all members and organisations are free to leave Wave of their own accord, with no influence or interference being permitted on the part of others. Leaders must note such action as a form of valid protest, and duly consider revision of their conduct.

2.7

All freedoms and advantages of the movement must be offered to as wide a circle of sentient and sapient entities as appropriate, where possible. Participation must always be optional, but we work to make that option available as widely as possible.

3.0 Community and Construction

3.1

We believe in working with and using those aspects of society which have value, in order to address those which do not. For example, we are not in any way ‘anti-human’, but we believe that we can, and should, improve the human condition and environment using technology. This desire to develop the positive and eliminate the negative should be understood as being in the spirit of positive, creative, and constructive effort.

3.2

The Principle of Construction must be applied in all discussion, debate, and planning. When any discussant makes critical comments while leaving their own proposals or views unstated, others – even non-members – will be supported in their right to call for immediate and explicit statement of such proposals or views. In other words, we

must work to make our speech constructive, and will not engage in or support non-constructive forms of debate.

3.3

Philosophy and ideology must serve action toward achieving our goals, rather than distracting from such action. Responsibility for taking *Direct Democratic Action* and the consequences of that action must be assumed by each individual, working to lead efforts themselves rather than waiting to be told what to do. This point can be summarized as: *Just Do It*. If any initiative is incompatible with Wave Principle or rules, coordinators must take action as appropriate.

3.4

Wave is a futurist movement, reflecting the impact of accelerating technological growth on society, economics, politics, and the human condition, through science, art, and other means. Access to the movement must be free and open, and participation and membership in all aspects of the Wave movement are strictly voluntary, as a matter of principle. We will, however, endeavour to offer full access and membership as widely as possible. This and other points of principle act as the ethical and ideological centre of Wave.

4.0 Values and Mission

4.1

We want a new, healthy society – a new future – which embraces the compassionate use of technology to solve problems, reject Authoritarianism and uncontrolled Crony Capitalism, and embody the principles of freedom, true democracy, and transparency of government.

4.2

Where there is unwanted suffering, we will seek to abolish it. Our highest goal is to work toward a society in which involuntary suffering has been abolished by the considered, compassionate application of technology. When working toward the abolition of involuntary suffering, we must remember that ‘negative’ emotions should be engineered only insofar as this does not compromise any critical motivational role in behaviour that cannot be replaced. Our aim is not to eliminate ‘negative’ emotions, but to optimize emotional function for minimal involuntary suffering. We seek to instill compassion in ourselves and our sentient creations, which may eventually succeed us in power. This is a matter of not only virtue and leading by example, but potentially of self-preservation.

4.3

In assessing the sentience of any entity, we will use capacity for suffering as a factor in our judgment. We will not cause suffering to any sentient entity for scientific or any other purpose where there is any alternative, particularly where the alternative encourages technological development, such as advanced non-invasive scanning technologies. We will also promote technological developments increasingly allowing us to spare involuntary suffering as much as possible.

4.4

For the purposes of managing relationships between the Wave movement and entities it encounters, we draw a distinction between sentience (conscious awareness) and sapience (higher intelligence). Sentience demands that we seek to reduce involuntary suffering, but nothing more. Sapience allows an entity to fully understand the rights and responsibilities associated with *personhood*, and to be capable of communicating meaningful assent to an offer of membership in any Wave organization.

4.5

All advantages and rights which apply to Wave members are automatically offered to all sapient entities within the Wave sphere of influence, including sapient entities which others may consider to be property or ‘non-persons’ of any sort. No matter what form they take, all sapient entities will be afforded the same rights as any other member of the Wave movement.

4.6

Ignorance causes suffering, and so we must work to spread accurate knowledge where it will help others at no significant risk to ourselves. We seek to promote Wave principles, mutual support programs, increased knowledge, expanded consciousness, good health, and prolonged life.

4.7

Insofar as it does not violate other principles, we seek to treat others with respect. We aim to treat them as they would wish to be treated, and will not treat them as they do not wish to be treated.

4.8

Coercion and aggression are forbidden, but we may act to prevent involuntary suffering, which includes comprehensive action in defence of the Wave movement. Defensive action must only be taken when necessary, and later justified in full to the members of the movement.

4.9

Our work must be based on local models, which can be efficiently scaled up to deal with larger issues. Thus, the local community is always of immediate importance, and efficient communication with others is critical. Where the work in question is primarily based in virtual space, “local” means small groups and functional communities, as opposed to high-level organizational groups. Where Wave activity has an influence in physical space, “local” refers both to small communities and the geographic areas associated with them.

5.0 Transformation and Renewal

5.1

The Wave symbol refers to total social, political, technological, environmental, and spiritual renewal. Such renewal must include new approaches to government, individual empowerment, accelerating technological advance, and approaches to the world’s problems founded in a new psychology.

5.2

A wave of technological change unprecedented in human history is coming, and it will irrevocably transform world we know. Technological development and its effects on culture are accelerating exponentially. Although we cannot predict exactly what will happen, we expect that Artificial and Augmented Intelligence (AI) may be developed to harness the potential to solve the world's problems, while Virtual Reality (VR) and nanotechnologies may similarly be developed to harness the potential to recreate the world and its inhabitants.

5.3

We recognize that advanced technologies often pose risks in addition to offering promise. Rather than being paralyzed by precaution, we must work to mitigate risks while maximizing positive outcomes. Maximization of the survivability and value of technology, using it to maximize positive social change, is the long-term goal of the Wave movement.

5.4

Technology and the advantages it confers must be preserved as a matter of priority. Unless a certain technology poses specific risks, then fundamental opposition to it on political, philosophical or religious grounds is contrary to the Wave ethos. Deep consideration and debate of technological risks and advantages is, however, to be encouraged.

5.5

Our mission is to transcend our limitations through the use of technology, and to help others toward such transcendence. Techno-Progressivism is central to our vision of the future of civilization. This is defined as an imperative to technologically increase intelligence, expand awareness, enhance our physical bodies, and defeat disease of all types, while working to ensure that just and principled social conditions characterize this transformation.

6.0 Amendment of the Wave Principles

The Wave Principles are the ethical centre of our movement, and thus can only be developed by a conservative process of consensus within that movement. Because we cannot allow accidental “mission drift” or deliberate hijack to divert us from our original intent, the Wave Principles can never be amended by popular vote alone. The Principles should be taken as the movement's common point of reference, and then democratic development of different organizational policies will determine how those Principles are applied in the world.

Each round of amendments to the principles must be indicated by incrementing the version number, and the first decimal place of that number may only be incremented by one, once per year on May 1st. Whole version numbers will therefore not change more frequently than once per decade. Version 1.0 of the Principles was announced on May 1st 2011, so V2.0 should be expected in 2021, on the tenth anniversary of the movement's founding.