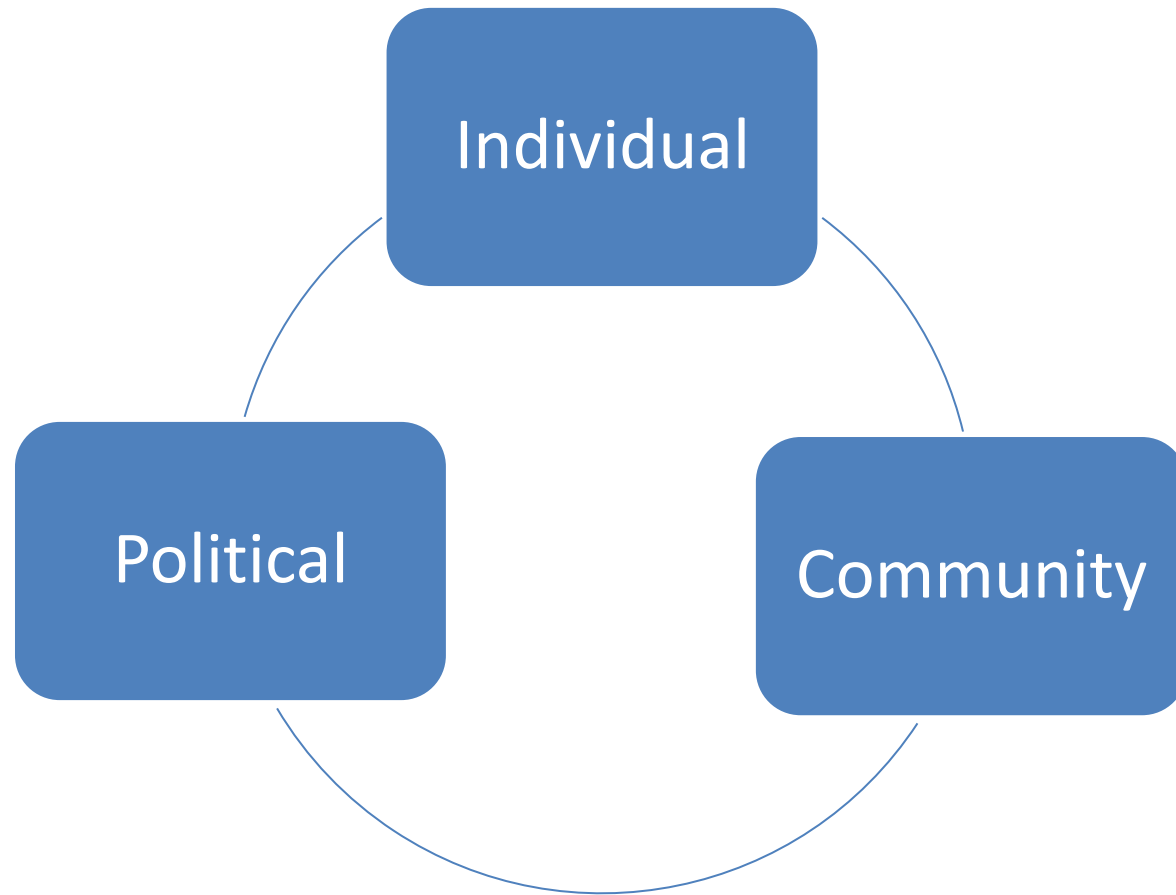


Local Resilience

Transition
Action Plan

Responses to crisis



Agenda

- Welcome and introduction
- Introductory DVD “In Transition”
- Review the twin pressures of Peak Oil and Climate Change
- Groups to discuss the above issues and their potential affect on our current and future way of life
- Feedback from Groups:
 - What are the affects on us?
 - As individuals
 - As a community
- Where do we go from here?
 - Ideas for transitioning to:
 - A lower energy future
 - A more resilient community
- Potential initiatives
- Sources of information and support
 - The Transition Network
 - The Ecohere project

DVD - In Transition

In Transition 1.0 -

produced by the Transition Network

Peak Everything:

*Waking Up to the
Century of Declines.*

A few quotes from
RICHARD HEINBURG new book

Peak Oil

Peak Oil is the time when the maximum rate of oil extraction is achieved. From then on supplies will dwindle.

People generally assume Peak Oil is a single isolated problem with a simple solution such as:

- more renewable energy
- or more coal, gas, nuclear etc

But this does not address the fundamental problem:

- how we have become so dependent on the cheap, concentrated energy of oil and other fossil fuels,
- and the interlinked elements of population pressure, resource depletion, and environmental damage, on a scale unprecedented in history.

A host of converging peaks

Oil is not the only important resource quickly depleting.

Regional production peaks for natural gas have already occurred.

A recent study concludes global coal production will peak and begin to decline in ten to twenty years.

Because fossil fuels supply about 85% of the world's total energy, peaks in these fuels will mean that the world's energy supply will begin to shrink within a few years, regardless of any efforts to develop other energy sources.

Decline in other Resources

But its not just the decline of oil, natural gas and coal.

Over this century we will see an end to growth and a decline in other resources/parameters:

- Arable land in agricultural production
- Grain production
- Fresh water availability
- Wild fish harvests
- Uranium production
- Yearly extraction of some metals and minerals (including copper, platinum, silver, gold, and zinc)
- Climate stability
- Population

From temporary abundance to contraction

For the past 200 years, cheap, abundant energy from fossil fuels has driven:

- technological invention,
- increases in resource extraction and consumption
- increases in food production
- and population growth.

We are enmeshed in a classic self-reinforcing feedback loop:

Fossil fuel extraction

more available energy

- increased extraction of other resources, and production of food and other goods
 - population growth
 - higher energy demand
 - more fossil fuel extraction (and so on)

The simple fact is growth in population and consumption cannot continue unabated on a finite planet.

Finite Resources

$$H + P = R$$

Equation proposed by Michael Wadleigh in his
Oscar winning Film
Homo Sapiens Report

Contraction and simplification

As the availability of energy resources peaks, this will also affect social welfare parameters:

- Per-capita consumption levels
- Economic growth
- Easy, cheap, quick mobility
- Technological change and invention
- Political stability

Once we accept that energy, fresh water, and food will become less freely available over next few decades, it's hard to escape the conclusion that:

- while the 20th century saw the greatest and most rapid expansion of the scale, scope, and complexity of human societies in history
- the 21st will see contraction and simplification.

Navigating peak everything to secure societies

The 21st century will see decline in many major resources including fossil fuels and an end to the growth which sustains current societies.

We can avert the worst-case scenario of global economic and ecological meltdown, and the tragic consequences:

- by strengthening our sense of community
- cooperation and solidarity
- and proactively reducing our reliance on oil, gas, and coal ahead of depletion and scarcity.

Solving the task of energy transition is a future worth working for as it will contribute to solving many problems created by industrial society.

Will societies contract and simplify intelligently or in an uncontrolled, chaotic fashion with resource wars, death and destruction?

As summarised by
RICHARD HEINBURG

Group Exercise

Bearing in mind what you have been hearing, and your personal circumstances,

1. Take about a few minutes to think quietly on your own:-
 - “How might my way of life, and that of my neighbours, be affected over the next 10 years?”
(You may like to make a few notes for your own benefit on the paper provided).
2. In your group, share your concerns and start to think and discuss how you might find ways to overcome any problems,
 - a. as individuals
 - b. as a community.
3. Chose one of your group to feed back some of your ideas to us all.

Group feedback

- What are the affects on us?
 - As individuals
 - As a community
- What can we do?
 - As individuals
 - As a community

What can we do?

- Where do we go from here?
 - Ideas for transitioning to:
 - A lower energy future
 - A more resilient community

Potential initiatives

- Land for Food and Energy supply
- Alternative Energy Systems

Land for food and energy supply

Initiative

- To create the following:-
 - Community allotments
 - Land share for growing food
 - Community Composting Scheme
 - Community Woodland as a fuel source

Actions

- Set up Action Groups and :-
 - Talk to land owners to identify possible land availability.
 - Talk to Ecohere
 - Talk to the Transition Network
 - Talk to local Environmental Groups
 - Talk to local Schools and give them an opportunity for involvement

Alternative Energy Systems

Initiative

- Encourage the use of the following Alternative Energy Systems:-
 - Solar Panels
 - Photovoltaic's
 - Wind Turbines
 - Ground/Air Source Heat Pumps
 - Combined heat and power using biomass fuel
 - Community Heating
 - Geothermal
 - Hydro
 - Wave and Tidal
 - Concentrating Solar Power

Actions

- Arrange seminars to inform people about available facilities and advice with invited speakers from the following:-
 - Energy Saving Trust
 - Herefordshire Council
 - Ecohere
 - Local Environmental Groups
 - Transition Groups
 - Local Gaia Partnership
 - Centre for Alternative Energy

Ecohere

Ecohere is a Herefordshire County Council Community First unique partnership project that will work with rural communities on sustainability issues.

The evidence we have found suggests that there is a real willingness from many individuals and organisations to become more sustainable: reduce their energy use, reduce their carbon footprint, save money on fuel bills and to become more sustainable in their everyday lives, but that the support, advice and guidance on this is not always easy to access.

Ecohere aims to address this need by providing support and advice - through the support we can offer directly; by researching and providing access to available resources & expertise; and by drawing on the skills and knowledge already in local communities.

Sustainability from the ‘ground up’ builds resilience from within communities, enhances skills and togetherness – and ultimately contributes to a more sustainable future for all – both locally and globally.

Transition Network

What is a Transition Initiative?

- It's a place where there's a community-led process that helps that town/village/city/neighbourhood become stronger and happier.
- It's happening in well over a thousand highly diverse communities across the world - from towns in Australia to neighbourhoods in Portugal, from cities in Brazil to rural communities in Slovenia, from urban locations in Britain to islands off the coast of Canada.
- These communities have started up projects in areas of food, transport, energy, education, housing, waste, arts etc. as small-scale local responses to the global challenges of climate change, economic hardship and shrinking supplies of cheap energy. Together, these small-scale responses make up something much bigger, and help show the way forward for governments, business and the rest of us.
- Really, it's the opposite of us sitting in our armchairs complaining about what's wrong, and instead, it's about getting up and doing something constructive about it alongside our neighbours and fellow townsfolk. And people say that as a result of being involved in their local "transition initiative", they're happier, their community feels more robust and they have made a lot of new friends.

In Transition 2.0 the movie

"In Transition 2.0 is an inspirational immersion in the Transition movement, gathering stories from around the world of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. You'll hear about communities printing their own money, growing food everywhere, localising their economies and setting up community power stations. It's an idea that has gone viral, a social experiment that is about responding to uncertain times with solutions and optimism. In a world that is awash with gloom, here is a story of hope, ingenuity and the power of growing salads in unexpected places".

Information and Resources

Some further reading and useful information

- The Transition Handbook
- The Transition Companion
- DVD - In Transition 1.0
- www.transitionnetwork.org
- www.comfirst.org.uk/ecohere
- Peak Everything – Richard Heinberg
- The End of Growth – Richard Heinberg
- Prosperity Without Growth – Prof Tim Jackson
- the Economics of Happiness a film by Helena Norberg-Hodge
- TEDxEQCHCH - Helena Norberg-Hodge – The Economics of Happiness Video @TE
- Orion Magazine - Richard Heinberg and Helena Norberg-Hodge – Discuss the End of Growth