

TRANSITION SHIRE WINGECARRIBEE

Transition Shire Wingecarribee is a new initiative modeled on the international Transition Towns Network.

TSW aims to spread awareness of peak oil and climate change and the impact they will have on our lives.

TSW will help the community to find its own ways of localizing the economy and so become more resilient to the impact of oil depletion - while decreasing our contribution to climate change.



Photo courtesy of David Holmgren

NOTABLE QUOTES

“One cannot alter a condition with the same mind set that created it in the first place.”

— Albert Einstein

“Throughout history, the really fundamental changes in societies have come about not from the dictates of governments and the results of battles, but through vast numbers of people changing their minds, sometimes only a little bit.”

— Willis Harman

“Creating the world we want is a much more subtle but more powerful mode of operation than destroying the one we don’t want.”

— Marianne Williamson

RECOMMENDED READING

Post Carbon Institute: www.postcarbon.org

Transition Towns Wiki: www.transitiontowns.org

The Transition Handbook by Rob Hopkins

Power Down: Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World by Richard Heinberg

Richard Heinberg’s Homepage:
www.richardheinberg.com

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CAN
YOU
IMAGINE
LIFE
WITH LESS
OIL?



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What is peak oil?

Peak oil is the point at which oil extraction reaches a worldwide maximum and we will be unable to increase production to meet increasing demand. Oil will be increasingly inferior, costly and difficult to extract.

When will it happen?

This will be judged in hindsight. Best estimates are that peak oil will occur between 2005 and 2015.

What aspects of our lives will be affected?

Almost all. Petrol prices, travel, freight, pharmaceuticals, food prices, manufactured goods, inflation. Our lives will be changed significantly.

Won't we find an alternative?

There is no other energy source that provides so much cheap output for so little input. Large scale alternatives to oil need huge amounts of fossil fuels and accelerate unpredictable climate change.

Industrial scale biofuels lock up a lot of food producing land; natural gas is a finite resource; coal requires energy for mining and distribution, is too polluting and won't power cars; nuclear poses disposal and contamination risks while uranium is a limited resource; hydrogen power requires more energy to produce than it provides.

What can we do?

Spread the word. *Discuss peak oil and climate change with family and friends and encourage them to think about possible challenges and solutions. Join the TSW online forum at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/T_S_W/*

Know our neighbours. *Establish bartering relationships; learn from the experience and skills of older people; work at a community garden or join a community group.*

Learn new skills for self-reliance. *Start growing food; teach children to cook and preserve food; save seeds; study permaculture; learn to sew, weave or work leather.*

Be responsible for less transport. *Buy local produce and products; plant fruit, nut and timber trees; car pool; use public transport; lobby for better public transport; ride a bike (or a horse!); walk.*

Work with nature. *Make your home less reliant on powered heating and cooling: use curtains, insulation and passive solar techniques. Put on a jumper before putting on a heater.*



What does TSW have planned?

In the short term we are focused on building peak oil awareness in the community. We are hosting film screenings and public discussions as well as communicating through media outlets.

After this awareness-raising phase, TSW will work to be a catalyst for community groups.

We encourage people to establish networks to share skills and ideas to address issues such as energy, food, transport, community celebration, public land use, health and learning. Together, these initiatives will feed into an Energy Descent Plan for Wingecarribee.

There is an important role for Council to play in supporting projects that build the kind of resilience in our community that will be vital as oil supplies falter.

The Wingecarribee Shire could be one of a growing number of Transition Initiatives across the globe, committed to thriving with less energy and contributing to the mitigation of climate change.



Photo courtesy of David Holmgren