

Links

Introduction and Table of Contents

Much of the work being done in the organizations listed below extends into many fields of activity. The reason for creating the categories used here—and for the more-than-brief introductory information provided about the links—is that this approach may help readers see more of the connections between different elements which are part of the same “big picture”.

The categories included here are:

Barter Networks and Local Currencies.....	2
Cities.....	2
Community Service.....	3
Community Supported Agriculture.....	3
Community Teaching and Learning Centers.....	4
Community Visioning.....	5
Conferences.....	5
Ecological Footprint Analysis.....	6
Ecovillages.....	7
Emergency Medical Aid.....	8
Energy Sustainability.....	10
Global Warming.....	11
Green Economy.....	13
Homesteading.....	13
Human Rights.....	14
Humanitarian Aid.....	14
Hunger (Alleviation).....	15
Mentoring.....	16
Peacebuilding.....	16
Permaculture.....	19
Publishers.....	19
Questionnaires and Surveys.....	20
Relocalization.....	22
Socially Responsible Investing.....	29

People who would like to make suggestions for links to add to this list are encouraged to do so. Please direct such suggestions to Stefan Pasti [at stefanpasti@ipcri.net (or by way of information provided in the contact section of the IPCR website at www.ipcri.net)].

Barter Networks and Local Currencies

BerkShares—“BerkShares are a local currency designed for use in the Southern Berkshire region of Massachusetts (USA) with issue by BerkShares, Inc., a non-profit organization working in collaboration with the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, participating local banks, local businesses, and local non-profit organizations.

“The purpose of a local currency is to function on a local scale the same way that national currencies have functioned on a national scale—building the local economy by maximizing circulation of trade within a defined region. Widely used in the early 1900s, local currencies are again being recognized as a tool for sustainable economic development. The currency distinguishes the local businesses that accept the currency from those that do not, building stronger relationships and a greater affinity between the business community and the citizens of a particular place.” [From the “BerkShares: Local Currency for the Berkshire Region” section of www.berkshares.org]

Ithaca Hours—“Ithaca Hours is a local currency system that promotes local economic strength and community self-reliance in ways which will support economic and social justice, ecology, community participation and human aspirations in and around Ithaca, New York. Ithaca Hours help to keep money local, building the Ithaca economy. It also builds community pride and connections. Over 900 participants publicly accept Ithaca HOURS for goods and services.” [From the homepage of “Ithaca Hours” (Ithaca, New York, USA) at <http://www.ithacahours.org/>].

LETS (Local Exchange Trading Systems)— An alternative to national currency based economic transactions which can provide more flexibility and stability in times of transition. There is good introductory information to the LETS theory and applications at <http://www.transaction.net/money/lets/> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_Exchange_Trading_Systems

Cities

Post Carbon Cities—A project of The Post Carbon Institute which provides news, tools, and resources to prepare local governments for energy and climate uncertainty. The website offers a guidebook titled “Post Carbon Cities: Planning for Energy and Climate Uncertainty”, which “provides a sober look at how these phenomena are quickly creating new uncertainties and vulnerabilities for cities of all sizes, and explains what local decision-makers can do to address these challenges”. (From <http://postcarboncities.net/>)

UN-Habitat--“UN-HABITAT is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. The main documents outlining the mandate of the organization (include) the ‘Habitat Agenda.’” [from the “About Us (Our Mission and Declarations)” sections of the UN-Habitat—the UN Human Settlements Programme website, at www.unhabitat.org]

“... unless concerted action is taken to redress urban inequalities, cities may well become the predominant sites of deprivation, social exclusion and instability worldwide.” [From “State of the World’s Cities 2006-7” (introduction by Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat) (at http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/sowcr2006/SOWCR_ED.pdf)

World Population Living in Urban Areas—

“In 1950, 30% of the world’s population lived in urban areas. 83 cities had 1 million or more inhabitants.”

“In 2000, about 47% of the world’s population lived in urban areas. 411 cities had 1 million or more inhabitants.”

(from website of Population Reference Bureau-- see

<http://www.prb.org/Educators/TeachersGuides/HumanPopulation/Urbanization.aspx>)

(see paragraphs one and two)

Community Service

Greater DC Cares—“Greater DC Cares is the world’s first non-monetary community foundation!”... “Greater DC Cares magnifies the impact of social change efforts in the D.C. region by redefining volunteering and philanthropy to engage all community assets. In brief, Greater DC Cares defines philanthropic assets to include direct service volunteers, pro-bono consultants, trained nonprofit board members, and donated goods and services.” (From the “Mission and Model” section of www.dc-cares.org).

“D.C. Cares offers up to 80 volunteer projects each month, most scheduled on weeknights and weekends, to give working people the perfect chance to pitch in at some point.

"Whatever someone's skills, we can find something that can help them help others," Mr. Boardman-Schroyer says. "You can just sign up for anything at any point." [From article “People Who Give Back” By Christian Toto November 18, 2007 The Washington Times in the section “Greater DC Cares in the News” (see <http://www.dc-cares.org/timesarticle.html>)]

Community Supported Agriculture

The Robyn Van En Center for CSA Resources—“Since the introduction of the CSA concept in 1985 by Robyn Van En, the movement has spread throughout North America and has gradually come to include some 1,200 CSA farms. Here at Robyn Van En Center, we strive to bring farmers and communities together and to provide resources for those in search information pertaining to the CSA movement. Although modern technology can be a great tool, it is ultimately grass roots action and networking that will grow the CSA movement and help CSA farms thrive!” (From the homepage of “Robyn

Van En Center for CSA Resources” at
<http://www.wilson.edu/wilson/asp/content.asp?id=804>)

Community Teaching and Learning Centers

What are they?

“Community Teaching and Learning Centers (CTLCs) are local, practical education centers designed to be embraced by and emerge from the community itself. CTLCs use existing facilities and are often outfitted with libraries (such as dictionaries, references, educational material of general interest) and computers, face-to-face classrooms, and break-out spaces, used primarily to serve several essential functions for community sustainability.” [From the “Community Teaching and Learning Centers” section of “Teachers Without Borders” (see <http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html>)]

How can they be created?

“Teachers Without Borders provides the following value:

Community organizing and readiness

Approvals by government

Site selection & development

Coordination of building retrofitting

Mutual plan, with CTLC leaders, for Internet access (with local and international investors)

Computer acquisition, shipping

Support for In-country leadership & CTLC Local Advisory Council

Extensive programs (educational, health, IT)

Organization and design of service delivery

Community Outreach”

[From the “Community Teaching and Learning Centers” section of “Teachers Without Borders” (see <http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html>)]

What is “Teachers for Borders?”

“Teachers Without Borders is a non-profit (501c3), non-denominational, international NGO founded in 2000, devoted to closing the education divide through teacher professional development and community education. Our organization focuses on the building of teacher leaders.” [From the “Mission” section of “Teachers Without Borders” (see

http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/who_we_are.html#missiontwb]

“We help to grow teachers. Click on the link to read more about our [Certificate of Teaching Mastery](#) program. We identify talent and find a way of attracting, retaining, and supporting cohorts of teachers from all sectors of local communities. We find mentors for teachers to ensure subject-matter mastery and teaching technique, and then provide opportunities at our community teaching and learning centers for emerging teachers to practice. Our plan is to start from the ground up - incorporating local mentorship, distance learning, and community college offerings, then assist local talent in

completion, at a high level, of course work at four-year schools. Most importantly, we provide a means of steady communication and feedback amongst cohorts of teaching talent.” [From the “Community Teaching and Learning Centers” section of “Teachers Without Borders” (see <http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html>)]

Meeting “A Compelling Need”

“The United Nations reports a huge shortage of qualified teachers, as well as a demonstrated need for accelerated, practical, local, contemporary, and flexible teacher education.”

“... evidence shows that those countries with the desire to "leapfrog" over the gaps they face in terms of skills, knowledge, and educational opportunities cannot grow through acquisition of equipment alone. They must have consistent and practical teacher training, along with the support of national education strategies.” [From the “Community Teaching and Learning Centers” section of “Teachers Without Borders” (see <http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html>)]

Community Visioning Initiatives

Community visioning initiatives, in the past, have been organized for the purpose of maximizing citizen participation in the planning and development phases of community revitalization projects. Community visioning initiatives can be described as a series of community meetings designed to facilitate the process of brainstorming ideas, organizing the ideas into goals, prioritizing the goals, and identifying doable steps. In 1984, the nonprofit organization Chattanooga Venture [Chattanooga, Tennessee (USA)], organized a visioning initiative (Vision 2000) that attracted more than 1,700 participants, and produced 40 community goals—which resulted in the implementation of 223 projects and programs, the creation of 1,300 permanent jobs, and a total financial investment of 793 million dollars. [The above statistics are from “Revision 2000: Take Charge Again”, a brochure this writer received from Chattanooga Venture. These statistics are also accessible in a detailed overview of Chattanooga community revitalization efforts titled “Chattanooga: The Sustainable City”, at the website for the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership at <http://www.academy.umd.edu/Resources/AcademyPublicationsPDF/BoundaryCrossers-CaseStudies/Ch3-Chattanooga/Chattanooga.pdf>]

Conferences

“Confronting the Global Triple Crises” Conference

From preconference (September, 2007) information for a “Teach In: Confronting the Global Triple Crises—Climate Change, Peak Oil (The End of Cheap Energy), and Global Resource Depletion and Extinction” (September 14-17, 2007 at The George Washington University Lisner Auditorium in Washington D.C.) Sponsored by The International

Forum on Globalization (www.ifg.org) and The Institute on Policy Studies [see Teach-In Flyer and Draft Program at http://www.ifg.org/events/Triple_Crisis_Speakers.pdf (see p. 2)]

“The planet’s ecological systems are on the verge of catastrophic change for which few societies are prepared. So far, responses by governments to this emergency are inadequate, or counterproductive. We call it the “Triple Crisis,” the convergence of three advancing conditions:

- a) Planet-wide climate chaos and global warming
- b) The end of the era of cheap energy (“peak oil”)
- c) The depletion of many of the world’s key resources: water, timber, fish, fertile soil, coral reefs; and the expected extinction of 50% of the world’s species.

“All are rooted in the same systemic problem—massive overuse of fossil fuels and the Earth’s resources; all driven by an economic ideology of hyper growth and consumption that’s beyond the limits of the planet to sustain.”

The Annual U.S. Conference on Peak Oil and Community Solutions—Since 2004, Community Service has been the host to the annual U.S. Conference on Peak Oil and Community Solutions. Each year, more than 200 participants from the U.S. and the world have come together to learn, to share information, and to network. [From the “Annual Conference” section of The Community Solutions website at www.communitysolution.org (Note: Summaries of previous conferences, and conference presentations are available)]

Ecological Footprint Analysis

From “**Revisiting Carrying Capacity: Area Based Indicators of Sustainability**”, by William E. Rees, 1996 (at www.dieoff.org/page110.htm)

“... as a result of high population densities, the enormous increase in per capita energy and material consumption made possible by (and required by) technology, and universally increasing dependencies on trade, the ecological locations of human settlements no longer coincide with their geographic locations. Twentieth century cities and industrial regions are dependent for survival and growth on a vast and increasingly global hinterland of ecologically productive landscapes.” [see section “Appropriating Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints” (paragraph 4)]

“**Ecological Deficit**—The level of resource consumption and waste discharge by a defined economy or population in excess of locally/regionally sustainable natural production and assimilative capacity (also, in spatial terms, the difference between that economy/population’s ecological footprint and the geographic area it actually occupies).” [see section “Appropriating Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints” (Box 3: “A Family of Area-Based Sustainability Indicators”)]

From Press Release (August 13, 2002) “Londoners Running Up Massive Debt on Earth’s Resources” at www.citylimitslondon.com/city_limits_press_release.htm

“**The City Limits Report** reveals each Londoner has an ecological footprint of 6.63 global hectares.... The current calculation for a sustainable footprint is 2.18 global hectares.”

“Paper and plastics are the biggest hitters in the material and wastes footprint. Paper’s large contribution is accounted for partly by the large quantities Londoners use, 2,908,000 tonnes (per year).... Londoners consume less plastic than paper—691,000 tonnes (per year)—but because it is derived from fossil fuel and very little is currently recycled, plastic makes up a large part of the average Londoner’s footprint.”

“Forty one per cent of the Ecological Footprint (2.80 gha) is accounted for by the food Londoners eat.... In total, London consumes 6.9 million tones of food (per year), more than three quarters of which is imported. London throws away 560,000 tonnes of food (per year) as waste.”

Global Footprint Network—Much good introductory and advanced information on the concept of “ecological footprint” at the website of the Global Footprint Network, at www.footprintnetwork.org

Ecovillages

Crystal Waters Permaculture Village

“Many of the ideas introduced here have been adopted well beyond our boundaries - our model of a mixed land ownership and design process has been used in the design of human settlements here and overseas; wastewater techniques tested here have travelled as far as Vietnam and New Zealand..... We are often the basis for academic surveys and media articles, and receive a constant stream of enquiries from people interested in following our example.”

“It received the 1996 World Habitat Award (assessed by Dr Wally N’Dow) for its ‘pioneering work in demonstrating new ways of low impact, sustainable living’”.

[From the section “An Overview of Crystal Waters Permaculture Village” at <http://www.ecologicalsolutions.com.au/crystalwaters/overview/overview.html>]

Ecovillage at Ithaca

“From the beginning, EVI has been connected with Cornell University through CRESP, the Center for Religion, Ethics, and Social Policy. Having an office at Cornell, and

working with professors and students has been an excellent foundation for our educational work.”

“Education is a round-the-clock activity here at EVI. There is an amazing amount of learning that happens in the process of forming, building and maintaining two cohousing neighborhoods and an organic farm, and developing relationships among the 60 households in our village. As residents, we are engaged in a fascinating social experiment. We have endless opportunities to test out methods of consensus decision-making, conflict resolution, creative parenting, strategic planning, creating community celebrations, green building, native landscaping, alternative transportation and much more. We are truly a learning community.”

[From the “Education” section of the “Ecovillage at Ithaca” website (see http://www.ecovillage.ithaca.ny.us/evi_education.html)]

Global Ecovillage Network

“The Global Ecovillage Network is a global confederation of people and communities that meet and share their ideas, exchange technologies, develop cultural and educational exchanges, directories and newsletters, and are dedicated to restoring the land and living ‘sustainable plus’ lives by putting more back into the environment than we take out.”

[From the “About GEN” section of the website of the Global Ecovillage Network (see <http://gen.ecovillage.org/about/index.html>)]

Emergency Medical Aid

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for conducting and supporting public health activities in the United States.”

The CDC has established six strategic areas of focus:

“Health Impact Focus: Align CDC's staff, strategies, goals, investments, and performance to maximize impact on the population's health and safety.

Customer-centricity: Market what people want and need to choose health.

Public Health Research: Create and disseminate the knowledge and innovations people need to protect their health now and in the future.

Leadership: Leverage CDC's unique expertise, partnerships, and networks to improve the health system.

Globalization: Extend CDC's knowledge and tools to promote health protection around the world.

Accountability: Sustain people's trust and confidence by making the most efficient and effective use of their investments in CDC.”

[From the “About CDC” section of the CDC website (see <http://www.cdc.gov/about/resources/facts.htm>)]

Doctors Without Borders--“Doctors Without Borders’ is an international independent medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural and man-made disasters, and exclusion from health care.”

“Each year, MSF doctors, nurses, logisticians, water-and-sanitation experts, administrators, and other medical and non-medical professionals depart on more than 4,700 aid assignments. They work alongside more than 25,800 locally hired staff to provide medical care.

“In emergencies and their aftermath, MSF provides essential health care, rehabilitates and runs hospitals and clinics, performs surgery, battles epidemics, carries out vaccination campaigns, operates feeding centers for malnourished children, and offers mental health care. When needed, MSF also constructs wells and dispenses clean drinking water, and provides shelter materials like blankets and plastic sheeting.”

From the homepage of Doctors Without Borders, at www.doctorswithoutborders.org

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies--“Proclaimed in Vienna in 1965, the seven Fundamental Principles bond together the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, The International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. They guarantee the continuity of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its humanitarian work.

The Seven Fundamental Principles (of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies):

- a) Humanity-- “... endeavours... to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found.”
- b) Impartiality—“It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.”
- c) Neutrality—“... the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.”
- d) Independence—“... must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.”
- e) Voluntary Service—“... not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.”
- f) Unity—“There can only be one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country.”
- g) Universality—“... all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other....”

From the “What We Do/Principles and Values” section of the International Federation

of The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies website, see http://www.ifrc.org/what/values/index.asp?navid=04_02)

World Health Organization--“WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.”

[From the “About WHO” section of the World Health Organization website (see <http://www.who.int/about/en/>)]

Energy Sustainability

Energy Bulletin-- [EnergyBulletin.net](http://www.energybulletin.net) is a clearinghouse for information regarding the peak in global energy supply. We publish news, research and analysis concerning:

energy production statistics, models, projections and analysis, articles which provide insight into the implications of peak oil across broad areas including geopolitics, climate change, ecology, population, finance, urban design, health, and even religious and gender issues.

a range of information to help preparedness for peak energy, such as:

renewable energy information
alternative financial systems
low energy agriculture
relocalization

any other subjects that could lead to better understanding the implications of an energy production peak

We welcome original content, and we especially invite industry insiders, independent researchers, journalists, specialists and activists to submit their insights relevant to these issues.

[From the Mission Statement, in the “About” section of Energy Bulletin (see <http://www.energybulletin.net/about.php>)]

Lester Brown’s new book: “Plan B 3.0: Mobilization to Save Civilization”

(Note: the Earth Policy Institute is making *Plan B 3.0* available for downloading free of charge from its website (see <http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/PB3/Contents.htm> .

Here are some quotes from the press release, and from the introduction:

“It is decision time,” says Brown. “Like earlier civilizations that got into environmental trouble, we have to make a choice”

“We can all make lifestyle changes, but unless we restructure the economy and do it quickly we will almost certainly fail.”

“Plan B is shaped by what is needed to save civilization, not by what may currently be considered politically feasible. Plan B does not fit within a particular discipline, sector, or set of assumptions. Implementing Plan B means undertaking several actions simultaneously, including eradicating poverty, stabilizing population, and restoring the earth’s natural systems. It also involves cutting carbon dioxide emissions 80 percent by 2020, largely through a mobilization to raise energy efficiency and harness renewable sources of energy. Not only is the scale of this save-our-civilization plan ambitious, so is the speed with which it must be implemented. We must move at wartime speed, restructuring the world energy economy at a pace reminiscent of the restructuring of the U.S. industrial economy in 1942 following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The shift from producing cars to planes, tanks, and guns was accomplished within a matter of months.”

Worldwatch Institute—“The Worldwatch Institute offers a unique blend of interdisciplinary research, global focus, and accessible writing that has made it a leading source of information on the interactions among key environmental, social, and economic trends. Our work revolves around the transition to an environmentally sustainable and socially just society—and how to achieve it.”

[From the “About Worldwatch” section of the Worldwatch Institute website (see <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/23>)]

“By virtually any measure—household expenditures, number of consumers, extraction of raw materials—consumption of goods and services has risen steadily in industrial nations for decades, and it is growing rapidly in many developing countries.”

“By one calculation, there are now more than 1.7 billion members of ‘the consumer class’—nearly half of them in the developing world. A lifestyle and culture that became common in Europe, North America, Japan, and a few other pockets of the world in the twentieth century is going global in the twenty-first.”

(From the “Online Features/Consumption/State of Consumption: Trends and Facts” section of the Worldwatch Institute website at <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/810>)

Global Warming

Centre for Alternative Technology—“We offer solutions to some of the most serious challenges facing our planet and the human race, such as climate change, pollution and the waste of precious resources. We demonstrate practical ways of addressing these

problems. Leading by example, we aim to show that living more sustainably is not only easy to attain but can provide a better quality of life.”

[From the “About the Centre” section of the “Centre for Alternative Technology” website (see <http://www.cat.org.uk/information/aboutcatx.tml?init=1>)]

From the website of “Transition Culture” at www.transitionculture.org (from Rob Hopkins notes from a talk by the director of the “Zero Carbon Britain” project, Paul Allen) (see <http://transitionculture.org/2007/08/10/cats-zero-carbon-britain-report>) (paragraph 4)

“Paul Allen: The Government argues for 60% cuts by 2050, this will not do the job that climate scientists tell us we need to do. Our emissions are a detonator, a trigger, creating larger and larger feedback loops, for example, sea absorbs heat better than ice, and warming seas release methane hydrates, which have a far higher impact on climate. To avoid runaway feedbacks, we need zero carbon in 20 years. Alongside the climate challenge is peak oil. We’ve got through half of the world’s total reserves in 150 years. Another pressing issue is global equity. It is morally unacceptable that the rich get richer while the poor get poorer.”

From “Zero Carbon Britain”, a document from the Centre for Alternative Technology (UK) From section “Executive Summary” (paragraphs 1 and 2) (p. 12) at <http://www.zerocarbonbritain.com/images/zerocarbonbritain.pdf> (Accessed August 18, 2007)

“This report is the Centre for Alternative Technology’s considered response to the current understanding of the global climate.

“Two things have changed in recent years.

- The international scientific consensus on the causes and gravity of climate change has moved from ‘perhaps’ to ‘certainly’.
- A number of significant positive feedbacks have been identified in the climate system. Their effect is such that humanity’s greenhouse gas emissions will act merely as a trigger for much greater and more rapid climatic changes.”

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—“has been established by WMO and UNEP to assess scientific, technical and socio- economic information relevant for the understanding of climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. It is currently finalizing its Fourth Assessment Report ‘Climate Change 2007’, also referred to as AR4.” (To be released November 2007) This Summary Report is described by the IPCC website (<http://www.ipcc.ch>) as follows: “2500+ scientific expert reviewers, 800+ contributing authors, 450+ lead authors from, 130+ countries... 6 years work, 4 volumes, 1 report” “A comprehensive and rigorous picture of the global present state of knowledge of climate change.”

“Oslo, 10 December 07 - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Albert Arnold (Al) Gore Jr. were awarded of the Nobel Peace Prize ‘for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change’”.

[From the homepage of The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change”, at www.ipcc.ch]

Green Economy

Co-op America—“Co-op America is a not-for-profit membership organization founded in 1982. Our Mission is to harness economic power—the strength of consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace—to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society.”

[From the homepage of Co-op America, at www.coopamerica.org]

Note: in the “Tips and Resources” section of a “Coop Quarterly” issue I once had (but didn’t record the reference information for), the following “Unshopping List” was provided:

“Do I need it?

Do I want it?

Can I get away without buying it?

How long will it last?

Are the resources that went into it renewable or non-renewable?

Is it made of recycled materials and is it recyclable?

How will I dispose of it when I’m done using it?

Can it be maintained and repaired?

Could I buy it secondhand or used?

Is it overpackaged?

Is the use/pleasure I will receive from it equal to the work I had to do to pay for it, the cost of my time, and the cost to the environment?”

Homesteading

Countryside and Small Stock Journal—“Countryside & Small Stock Journal (better known as just "Countryside") is more than a magazine: it's a network where homesteaders share a wide variety of experiences and ideas about simple, sustainable, country living. There are no guidelines and no paid writers. Instead, there is an open atmosphere of neighborly sharing.”

“It's not a single idea, but many ideas and attitudes, including a reverence for nature and a preference for country life; a desire for maximum personal self-reliance and creative leisure; a concern for family nurture and community cohesion; a belief that the primary reward of work should be well-being rather than money; a certain nostalgia for the supposed simplicities of the past and an anxiety about the technological and bureaucratic complexities of the present and the future; and a taste for the plain and functional.”

[From the “About Us” section of the “Countryside” website (see <http://www.countrysidemag.com/aboutus.html>)]

Lehman’s—“Lehman’s, headquartered in northeastern Ohio, was founded by Jay Lehman in 1955 to serve the Amish, who believe in simple living without electricity or other modern innovations. From his Amish customers, Jay learned that non-electric products often give us the ability to complete a task faster and more efficiently than commonly accepted modern methods.

“Today the family business is run by Jay, his son Galen Lehman, and daughter Glenda Lehman Ervin. Through mail order operations and a massive, recently expanded retail store in Ohio, Lehman’s ships products to all 50 states and over 200 countries.

“The company supplies missionaries, survivalists, environmentalists, owners of second homes in remote areas, campers and the chronically nostalgic with practical, old-fashioned products. Merchandise like hand-powered kitchen appliances, water pumps, grain grinders, oil lamps, gas refrigerators, a huge selection of wood and cook stoves and hundreds of other unique, hard-to-find items are featured at Lehman’s. In a twist of irony, the company’s key customers (the Amish) are now a key vendor.”

[From the “About Lehman’s” section of “Lehman’s Country Life” website (see <http://countrylife.lehmans.com/about/>)]

Human Rights

Human Rights Watch—“Human Rights Watch is the largest human rights organization based in the United States. Human Rights Watch researchers conduct fact-finding investigations into human rights abuses in all regions of the world. Human Rights Watch then publishes those findings in dozens of books and reports every year, generating extensive coverage in local and international media.”

[From the “About HRW” section of the “Human Rights Watch” website (see <http://www.hrw.org/about/whoweare.html>)]

Humanitarian Aid

Alternative Gifts International—“AGI is a nonprofit, interfaith agency. AGI provides education for people of all ages about global needs and raises funds each year in its Alternative Gift Markets and from individual donors to respond to those needs. Designated grants then are sent to the established international projects of several reputable nonprofit agencies for relief and development.”

[From the “About AGI” section of the Alternative Gifts International website (see <http://www.alternativegifts.org/pages/about/mission-statement/>)]

Hunger (Alleviation)

The Hunger Site—“The Hunger Site was founded to focus the power of the Internet on a specific humanitarian need; the eradication of world hunger. Since its launch in June 1999, the site has established itself as a leader in online activism, helping to feed the world's hungry and food insecure. On average, over 220,000 individuals from around the world visit the site each day to click the yellow "Click Here to Give - it's FREE" button. To date, more than 200 million visitors have given more than 300 million cups of staple food. Its grassroots popularity has been recognized with Web awards in the activism category — the 2000 Cool Site of the Year Award and the People's Voice winner at the 2000 Webby Awards.

“The staple food funded by clicks at The Hunger Site is paid for by site sponsors and distributed to those in need by Mercy Corps and America's Second Harvest. 100% of sponsor advertising fees goes to our charitable partners. Funds are split between these organizations and go to the aid of hungry people in over 74 countries, including those in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and North America.”

[From the “About This Site” section of The Hunger Site (see http://www.thehungersite.com/clickToGive/aboutus.faces?siteId=1&link=ctg_ths_aboutus_from_hungerintheus_leftnav)]

World Food Programme—“WFP is the United Nations frontline agency in the fight against global hunger.”

“Operations aim to:

Save lives in refugee crises and other emergencies

Improve nutrition and quality of life of world's most vulnerable people at critical times in their lives

Enable development by (a) helping people build assets that benefit them directly; (b) promoting the self-reliance of poor people and communities”

[From the “What We Do”/“Introduction” section of the “World Food Programme website (see http://www.wfp.org/operations/introduction/index.asp?section=5&sub_section=1)]

WFP by Numbers

Food distributed to 87.8 million of the poorest people in the world, including 58.8 children

24.3 million people in development programmes

63.4 million beneficiaries in emergency and protracted relief and recovery operations

Operations in 78 countries around the world

90 relief operations

22 development projects and 34 country programmes in 48 countries

Total food distributed: 4 million tonnes
26 percent for emergency operations
18 percent for development projects
2 million tons contributed in kind
2 million tons purchased with cash - valued at US\$600 million, of which 77 percent was procured in developing countries

Direct expenditure: US\$ 2.9 billion

Total number of employees: 10,587
92 percent of WFP staff serve in the field

[From the “Who We Are”/”Facts and Figures”/”WFP by Numbers” section of the World Food Programme” website (see http://www.wfp.org/aboutwfp/facts/2006/index.asp?section=1&sub_section=5)]

Mentoring

Big Brothers Big Sisters—“is the oldest, largest and most effective youth mentoring organization in the United States. We have been the leader in one-to-one youth service for more than a century, developing positive relationships that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of young people. Big Brothers Big Sisters mentors children, ages 6 through 18, in communities across the country - including yours.”

[From the “About Us” section of the “Big Brothers, Big Sisters” website (see http://www.bbbs.org/site/c.diJKKYPLJvH/b.1539781/k.4319/Mentors_The_Largest_Youth_Mentoring_Programs_from_Big_Brothers_Big_Sisters.htm)]

Peacebuilding

Beyond Intractability—“Efforts to limit the terrible destructiveness commonly associated with [intractable conflicts](#) ultimately depend on the ability of people in a full range of conflict roles to successfully play their part in a broad [peacebuilding](#) effort. Though each circumstance is, to some degree, unique, there is also much to be learned from others who have solved similar problems before. The goal of the Beyond Intractability (BI) system is to make such knowledge more widely and freely accessible, so people aren't forced to "reinvent the wheel." To the extent we can all contribute to a knowledge base on better ways of approaching and [transforming](#) intractable conflicts, the closer we can come to limiting the destructiveness of these situations around the world.”

“Initially created by a team of more than 200 distinguished scholars and practitioners from around the world, the Beyond Intractability Knowledge Base is built around an online "encyclopedia" with easy-to-understand essays on almost 400 topics. These essays

explain the many dynamics which determine the course of conflict along with available options for promoting more constructive approaches.”

[From the “About Beyond Intractability” section of the “Beyond Intractability” website (see <http://www.beyondintractability.org/about/about.jsp>)]

Religions for Peace—“Religions for Peace is the largest international coalition of representatives from the world’s great religions dedicated to promoting peace.

”Respecting religious differences while celebrating our common humanity, Religions for Peace is active on every continent and in some of the most troubled areas of the world, creating multi-religious partnerships to confront our most dire issues: stopping war, ending poverty, and protecting the earth.

”Religious communities are the largest and best-organized civil institutions in the world, claiming the allegiance of billions across race, class, and national divides. These communities have particular cultural understandings, infrastructures, and resources to get help where it is needed most.”

[From the “Mission” subsection of the “About Us” section of the “Religions for Peace” website (see <http://www.religionsforpeace.org/about/index>)]

Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement--“Shramadana means ‘sharing work, knowledge, talents and time.’ The aim of the Movement is to use shared work, voluntary giving and sharing of resources to achieve the personal and social awakening of everyone—from the individual, to the village, and continuing up to the international level.

“(Sarvodaya) ‘Awakening’ means developing human potential, and is a comprehensive process taking place on the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, economic and political levels. Sarvodaya strives for a model of society in which there is neither poverty nor excessive affluence. The movement’s holistic approach is based on Buddhist principles (including goodness, sympathy, and tranquility) and on the Gandhian values of truthfulness, nonviolence, and self-sacrifice.”

(from the “Development Model” subsection of the “About” section of the “Sarvodaya Shramadana” website (see <http://www.sarvodaya.org/about/development-model/>)]

b) How the Movement Works

“... the movement is working with a participatory approach in nearly 15,000 villages on the island. The program is adjusted to the specific social, cultural, and religious conditions in each region. At the same time, all the villages go through five states of evolution or awakening.

Stage 1—Inquiry from the village and organization of an introductory shramadana camp for the village, during which problems are analyzed together and needs identified

Stage 2—Establishment of various groups (children’s, youngsters, mothers’, farmers, etc.), construction of a child development center, and training of staff

Stage 3—Program for meeting the basic needs and setting up institutions (including the

founding of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Society, which is responsible for the village's development initiatives)

Stage 4—Measures to produce income and employment; establishment of complete self-reliance and self-financing

Stage 5—Support for other village communities

(from the “Development Model” subsection of the “About” section of the “Sarvodaya Shramadana” website (see <http://www.sarvodaya.org/about/development-model/>)]

c) Strengthening Community Cohesion

“... it is not a novel message; but a message people have heard for 2,500 years.

Ariyaratne echoes it and its echo understandably finds its counterpart in the hearts of the rural folk. To them what Ariyaratne preaches had been a remarkable and harmonious way of life. Ariyaratne's genius lies in being able to identify this dormant philosophy and plan of action and give it new flesh and blood. He has been able to do it in a manner no other contemporary of his has been able to do, and the echo of his message would undoubtedly reverberate through decades into the future.”

“He divides what one could discern in tradition to main groups like: 1) the traditional aspects such as norms, folkways, mores, customs, beliefs, attitudes, etc. which are positive in character and which contribute to the strengthening of the cohesion in a given Community by underscoring the value of popular participation 2) those traditional aspects such as norms etc. which are either consciously or unconsciously contributing their share to divide man thus loosening the community cohesion, eroding man's spirit and belief in self-reliance. These two groups have to be identified and the first encouraged and promoted, if necessary modified, to suit present contingencies. It is the second group that we have to be wary of, eschew and teach others to refrain from practicing. Tradition, if understood correctly, has a tremendous and dynamic role to play in development. Ariyaratne by far is the only thinker known to me in Sri Lanka working in the field of community development who has thus advanced a theory of this nature pin-pointing the value of tradition.”

“... whatever the technology is, it should be introduced to strengthen man's faith and reliance on himself and his fellow beings. Technology thus introduced should not in any way become an instrument capable of disintegrating the forces of cohesion existing in a community.”

[From the “Introduction” subsection of the “Collected Works 1” subsection of the “Philosophy” subsection of the “About” section of the “Sarvodaya Shramadana” website (see <http://www.sarvodaya.org/about/philosophy/collected-works-vol-1/introduction/>)]

United Religions Initiative—“There are many manuals and books written for peacebuilders. This is a guide for interfaith peacebuilders. It therefore brings a distinctive perspective to peacebuilding and is grounded in the values and the special potentials that communities of faith and especially interfaith bodies have for transforming conflict. A document of the World Conference on Religion and Peace describes those potentials this way:

Many religions possess social and moral characteristics that give them the potential to act as constructive forces for peace and conflict transformation. Dispersed throughout societies and often organized at the national and international levels, religious communities represent significant potential channels for communication and action. Religious traditions establish ethical visions that can summon those that believe in them to powerful forms of committed action.[i]”

[From the “Overview” subsection of the “Interfaith Peacebuilding Guide” subsection of the “Peacebuilding” section of the “United Religions Initiative” (see <http://www.uri.org/Overview.html>)]

Permaculture

“Energy and Permaculture” (by David Holmgren)—a short introduction to permaculture which provides much insight into the potential of permaculture to maximize energy production and support sustainable practices at the same time. (see <http://www.permacultureactivist.net/Holmgren/holmgren.htm>)]

Permaculture Activist—the website of the “Permaculture Activist” magazine includes a “Planetary Permaculture Directory” with a significant number of entries in many regions of the world (see <http://www.permacultureactivist.net/pcresources/PcResources2.htm>)

SEED International—“SEED International is experienced in the design and delivery of innovative, flexible and responsive environmental educational programs and ecological design services that meet the needs of participants and clients both in Australia and overseas.”

”Our expertise is in human capacity development through customised education and training programs, the development of educational resources and inclusive processes of design. Our unique approach includes a focus on sustainable community development, community needs assessment, highly relevant programs, and follow-up and evaluation strategies that result in long-term relationships with our partners.”

[From the “About SEED International” section of the “SEED International” website (see http://www.seedinternational.com.au/SEED_Int.html)]

Publishers

New Society Publishers—“New Society Publishers' mission is to publish books that contribute in fundamental ways to building an ecologically sustainable and just society, and to do so with the least possible impact on the environment, in a manner that models this vision.”

“Committed to facilitating social change, our mandate from the early years has broadened to embrace a broad social transformation toward sustainability. We specialize in providing the understanding, the tools and the skills for enabling such a transformation to occur.”

“NSP also sees itself as a solutions publisher, providing 'good news' most of the time as well as clear analysis of the major issues we face in the struggle to create a more just and equitable world. We see this as a practical task, as well as a spiritual and intellectual task, and one in which values play a crucial part. As practicing bioregionalists, we believe in creating the future we seek, with priority placed on the natural, the local and regional, the self-reliant. Day to day, we are inspired by those who offer a positive vision of the future. We gain satisfaction from providing activists and visionaries with a broader voice, and from sharing the creativity of trouble-makers, organizers and writers in so many spheres who are working to create a better, more sustainable world.”

“New Society Publishers strives to walk its talk in terms of social and environmental responsibility in these other ways as well:

We also bulk purchase our office paper that is 100% post consumer recycled fiber Processed Chlorine Free (PCF), union made in Canada (Rolland DP 100). All our office paper is recycled through our local on-island recycling depot. Our staff are covered by an extended healthcare benefits package and receive six weeks paid vacation annually, as well as bonuses when possible. We tithe monthly to our local Community Kitchen project to help ensure that everyone in our community has access to good quality food. We regularly donate books to prisoners, as well as making donations to other groups to help their fundraising efforts.”

[From the “About NSP” section of the “New Society Publishers” website (see <http://www.newsociety.com/NSPaboutnsp.php>)]

Questionnaires and Surveys

Community Sustainability Assessment—“a comprehensive checklist that anyone can complete to get a basic idea of how sustainable their community is. This assessment tool is applicable to any community. While it requires good knowledge of the life-styles, practices and features of the community, it does not require research, calculation and detailed quantification. This assessment takes about three hours for an individual to complete, or a series of sessions if done as a group experience by community members.”

[From the “Introduction” subsection of the “CSA” subsection of the “Activities” section of the “Global Ecovillage Network” website (see <http://gen.ecovillage.org/activities/csa/English/index.html>)] (Note: The “Community Sustainability Assessment” can be downloaded for free from this address).

“The Community Sustainability Assessment (CSA) was developed to assist communities in assessing their accomplishments and charting directions toward ever increasing sustainability. Like a Three Legged Stool, overall sustainability of a community (the seat) is upheld when each of the three legs is strong and balanced. In the CSA the three legs, each as important as the other, are the Ecological, Social and Spiritual aspects of community.”

[From the “General Instructions and Scoring Information” subsection of the “CSA” subsection of the “Activities” section of the “Global Ecovillage Network” website (see <http://gen.ecovillage.org/activities/csa/English/scoring.php>)]

The IPCR “Building Caring Communities” Questionnaire—“Organizations and communities or people often use questionnaires and surveys to identify problems and resources, and to build consensus for collective action. Here are five ways questions like those included in this questionnaire can help build caring communities:

- a) A local community or regional information services provider could publish the questions, receive and organize the responses, and then publish a compilation of the responses
- b) Residents of a local community could discuss the compilation of responses in small group settings
- c) If there was a “Community Journal” at a central location in the community, attributed (or anonymous) responses to the questionnaire could be accumulated in the “journal”, providing a constructive framework for public discourse
- d) Annual questionnaires can become part of a traditional community event which includes evaluating, summarizing, and celebrating successful initiatives in the areas of peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability—and contributions to a “community yearbook”
- e) The use of questionnaires for the specific purpose of helping to build caring communities will surely bring forth comments and suggestions on how to improve such questionnaires, and will thus assist in building a resource base of “most helpful questions” for future use”

Special Note: The IPCR Initiative defines “caring communities” as follows:

“‘Caring communities’ are communities with residents who are aware of the depth and range of the challenges of our times, and therefore do their best to take actions which will have positive repercussions on the fields of activity described by the IPCR Mission Statement goals, and on other related fields of activity (see “105 Related Fields of Activity” at IPCR website)”.

[From the introduction to “The IPCR ‘Building Caring Communities’ Questionnaire” document, accessible in the “Interact and Contribute” section of the homepage of The IPCR Initiative (See <http://www.ipcri.net/images/The-IPCR-Building-Caring-Communities-Questionnaire.pdf>)] (Note: The IPCR “Building Caring Communities” Questionnaire can be downloaded for free.)]

The World Yoga Survey—“Following the success of the Yoga in Australia survey in 2006, researchers at RMIT University in Melbourne and University of Queensland, Australia, are now collaborating with universities in India, the UK and USA to conduct the first-ever world survey of yoga and meditation.

”You are invited to be part of this history-making event. Partnerships are currently being established with many yoga related organisations with a view to officially launch the world yoga survey in 2008, however, please [register](#) your email address now so we can tell you when the survey goes live.”

Why do a survey about yoga and meditation?

Professor Marc Cohen, head of Complementary Medicine at RMIT University, says “While there is considerable research into the health benefits of yoga, little is known about the actual practice of yoga, whether as a spiritual path, a lifestyle, a form of exercise or as a therapy for a range of medical conditions including heart disease, asthma, depression, diabetes, and arthritis. The results of this survey will be of special interest to anyone practising yoga, as well as yoga teachers, therapists and the wider health community.”

[From the homepage of the “World Yoga Survey” at <http://yogasurvey.com/>]

Relocalization

The Community Solution—“The Community Solution program, started in 2003, is a national resource for knowledge and practices on low-energy living and self-reliant communities. We educate about the coming global oil production peak and climate change, and design solutions to the current unsustainable, fossil-fuel based, overly centralized way of living.” [From the “About Us” section of “The Community Solution” website (see <http://www.communitysolution.org/about.html>)]

“What can we do about Peak Oil and Global Warming? Plan A says there’s not really a problem. Plan B says that technology and renewable energy sources will provide the solutions.... We propose Plan C: Curtailment and Community, with solutions for food, housing, and transportation.”

“Plan C – Our strategy of culture change, conservation and curtailment.

Through reductions in resource consumption, dramatic conservation and curtailment of energy use coupled with an increase in local community living we can survive peak oil and create a sustainable world in its wake. Plan C addresses many of today’s issues head on and reduces the impetus for war. Our solutions look at how each individual can make a difference, reduce CO2 emissions, and help bring peace to the world.”

[From the “Our Solutions” section of “The Community Solution” website (see <http://www.communitysolution.org/solutions.html>)]

Ecovillage Design Education - Training of Trainers 2008

”(Beginning) Saturday 11th October, 2008
presented by the Findhorn Foundation in partnership with
Global Ecovillage Network and Gaia Education

”Based on the Gaia Education Ecovillage Design Curriculum - an official contribution to
the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014

”Facilitated by:

Pracha Hutauwatr - Director, Wongsanit Ashram, Thailand
May East - Director, Gaia Education
Jonathan Dawson - President, Global Ecovillage Network
Michael Shaw - Director, The Ecovillage Institute
and Findhorn Ecovillage experts

”You are invited to join this four-week comprehensive training of trainers on the
fundamentals of sustainability design for urban and rural settlements, covering all
elements of an ecovillage-based education.

”While the course will be facilitated by a very experienced team of ecovillage educators,
it will be highly collaborative in nature, with all participants drawn in as rich resources
for the learning community.

”Ecovillage Design - Training of Trainers is an advanced training course based at the
Findhorn Ecovillage providing a practical forum for learning and developing skills
needed to work effectively with design for sustainability at all levels.

”The programme is based at the Findhorn Ecovillage and comprises four separate
weeklong modules, which may be attended as a whole or separately.

[Social Design - Week 1: Oct 11 - 17](#)

Building Community & Embracing Diversity
Communication Skills
Conflict Facilitation and Decision-Making
Coaching, Personal Empowerment and Leadership
Celebrating Life: Creativity and Art

[Economic Design - Week 2: Oct 18 - 24](#)

Shifting the Global Economy to Sustainability
How Money Works: Community Banks and Currencies
Right Livelihood
Social Enterprise
Legal and Financial Issues

[Ecological Design - Week 3: Oct 25 - 31](#)

Whole Systems Approach to Ecological Design

Appropriate Technology: Water
Organic Agriculture and Local Food
Appropriate Technology: Energy
Green Building & Retrofitting

[Worldview - Week 4: Nov 1 - 7](#)

Holistic Worldview
Listening to and Reconnecting with Nature
Awakening & Transformation of Consciousness
Personal Health, Planetary Health
Socially Engaged Spirituality and Bioregionalism

”The EDE is being introduced to the world at this time to complement, correspond with, and assist in setting a standard for the United Nations' Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014.”

[From the “Ecovillage Design Training” subsection of the “Ecovillages and Sustainable Living” section of the “Findhorn Foundation” website (see <http://www.findhorn.org/programmes/programme189.php>)]

Ecovillage Training 2008

”Coordinated by Craig Gibsone and members of the community
”(Beginning) Saturday 16th February, 2008
presented in association with [Global Ecovillage Network Europe](#)

”There is an increasing and urgent global need for viable, sustainable human settlements. Ecovillages provide environmental, social, economic and spiritual sustainability, and an enhanced quality of life for all. Ecovillage communities are cohesive social structures, united by common social and/or spiritual values. Working with the simple principle of not taking more away from the Earth than one gives back, ecovillages are consciously diminishing their ecological footprint.

”Ecovillage principles apply equally to urban and rural settings, to both developing and over-developed countries.

”Ecovillage Training provides a practical forum for learning, and for developing action plans. It draws on the experience and expertise developed within the Findhorn Ecovillage over the past 44 years, as well as on other local and international initiatives.

”Findhorn Ecovillage has the lowest ecological footprint for any community in the industrialised world, just half the UK national average.

”Ecovillage Training teaches concepts, tools and techniques for creating sustainable human settlements. It lasts for a month and may be attended as a whole, or for one or more of its theme-based weeks.

”Topics covered include:

- * Ecological building and engineering
- * Local organic food production
- * Renewable energy systems
- * Cooperative social economies
- * Group building and global networking
- * Deep ecology, earth restoration and environmental art
- * Permaculture design

”This month-long training incorporates the internationally recognised Permaculture Design Certificate syllabus.

”We invite you to join the ecovillage movement. Thousands of individuals and hundreds of ecovillage initiatives and existing ecovillages have joined the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) since its creation in 1995, becoming what has been called the Habitat Revolution.”

[From the “Ecovillage Training” subsection of the “Ecovillages and Sustainable Living” section of the “Findhorn Foundation” website (see <http://www.findhorn.org/programmes/programme53.php>)]

Gaia Education – “officially founded in July 2005 - is an international consortium of experienced ecovillage educators developing curricula and courses on ecovillage design and sustainable community development.”

“Ecovillages around the world offer valuable experiences and lessons about the design and creation of sustainable communities in rural and urban settings. Gaia Education is united in the effort to make the knowledge and skills developed in ecovillages accessible to a wide audience.”

”In 2006, Gaia Education successfully supported the delivery of a number of pilot programmes on five continents. Internationally, the number of four-week long intensives and other course formats are increasing steadily along with a sharp increase in the number of applicants and participants of these courses. These vocational courses are open to a diverse group of people with a wide range of professional and academic backgrounds who are interested in taking an active role in the sustainability transition. The ecovillage Crystal Waters in Australia is currently pioneering a 4 month-long ecovillage apprenticeship scheme based on the EDE curriculum.”

“The Ecovillage Design Education curriculum has the endorsement of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).”

Gaia Education is a programme of the Global Ecovillage Network.

[From the “About Gaia Education” section of the “Gaia Education” website (see <http://www.gaiaeducation.org/about.php>)]

Richard Heinberg’s Museletter—Richard Heinberg is widely acknowledged as one of the world’s foremost Peak Oil educators. He is a journalist, educator, editor, lecturer, and a Core Faculty member of New College of California, where collaborative efforts between faculty, students, and a variety of other “stakeholders” are creating models for “Powerdown” efforts at the regional and community level. Some of the books he has written: *The Party’s Over: Oil, War, and the Fate of Industrial Societies*; *Powerdown*; *The Oil Depletion Protocol: A Plan to Avert Wars, Terrorism, and Economic Collapse*; and *Peak Everything: Waking Up to a Century of Declines*”

Richard Heinberg’s Museletter (monthly publication) can be found in the “Museletter” section of Richard Heinberg’s website (see <http://www.richardheinberg.com>)]

Two particular “Museletter’s” will be recommended in these links:

August 2007 #184 “A View from Oil’s Peak” (see <http://www.richardheinberg.com/museletter/184>)]

December 2007 #188 “What Will We Eat When The Oil Runs Out?” (see <http://www.richardheinberg.com/museletter/188>)]

Low Impact Living Initiative

What we do

“Low-Impact Living Initiative (LILI) is a not-for-profit organisation, founded in 2001. We are based at Redfield Community (founded 1978) in Buckinghamshire. We help people to understand the damage that human impact is causing to our planet, to change aspects of their lives to lower their own impact, and at the same time save money and improve their quality of life.”

Why we do it

“The world is an incredibly beautiful place. It is also a complex and diverse place; billions of years of evolution have resulted in a perfect balance between its atmospheric and hydrological systems, its plants, animals and its soil. In just a few thousand years, the impact of human activity is threatening its beauty, its diversity, and ultimately its ability to provide for us. At the beginning of the 21st century, the public is more aware than ever before of the damage that we are inflicting upon our planet, from climate change, soil erosion and habitat destruction to pollution of our air and water, damage to the ozone layer and the exponential increase in the rate of extinctions of species. Each of these has serious implications for human health and global ecology, and in combination, unless things change, they could even threaten the continued survival of the human race itself. We need to change.”

[From the “What We Do and Why We Do It” subsection of the “About LiLi” section of the “Low Impact Living Initiative” website (see <http://www.lowimpact.org/whatwedo.htm>)]

Note: The “Low Impact Living Initiative” has a most comprehensive and useful list of links for how-to adapt oneself to a low impact lifestyle. Although many of the links are local to their UK location, many others are from other parts of the world. **A good example of a resourceful link section** (see <http://www.lowimpact.org/links.htm>)]

“The Oil Crash and You”-- Less and less availability of cheap oil will directly impact much more of the infrastructure of modern industrial society than most of us can easily imagine. (For some examples, see “The Oil Crash and You” by Bruce Thomson at www.oilcrash.com/roe.htm) Note: Bruce Thomson is a technical writer in New Zealand, and moderator of the RunningonEmpty2 Internet Discussion Forum, which assisted in creating the document.)

Post Carbon Institute—The Post Carbon Institute is at the forefront of creating and supporting comprehensive community and municipal responses to the likelihood of an energy constrained future. These link pages have specifically mentioned the “Post Carbon Cities” program (see the “Cities” category), and “The Relocalization Network” program (see below). Other programs of the Post Carbon Institute include “Global Public Media”, “Energy Farms”, and “Oil Depletion Protocol”.

The Relocalization Network (a program of the Post Carbon Institute)—“Relocalization is a strategy to build societies based on the local production of [food](#), [energy](#) and [goods](#), and the local development of [currency](#), [governance](#) and [culture](#). The main goals of Relocalization are to increase community energy security, to strengthen local economies, and to dramatically improve environmental conditions and social equity.

“The Relocalization strategy developed in response to the environmental, social, political and economic impacts of global over-reliance on cheap energy. Our dependence on cheap non-renewable fossil fuel energy has produced climate change, the erosion of community, wars for oil-rich land and the instability of the global economic system.

“The [Relocalization Network](#) supports [local groups](#) in developing community activities and programs that can be implemented locally and as working models for other communities seeking to increase their resilience.”

[From the “What is Relocalization?” subsection of the “About” section of “The Relocalization Network” website (see <http://www.relocalize.net/about/relocalization>)]

“The Relocalization Network is now composed of nearly 150 Local Post Carbon Groups from all over the world that are working to prepare their communities for an energyconstrained future. These groups operate autonomously, while receiving guidance, educational resources, project and technical support and electronic infrastructure from Post Carbon Institute.”

[From the “Background and History” subsection of the “About” section of “The Relocalization Network” website (see <http://www.relocalize.net/about/background>)]

Transition Culture—The “Transition Culture” website (at www.transitionculture.org) is a journal of the experiences of Rob Hopkins, a permaculture practitioner at the forefront of designing, implementing, and evaluating systematic transition processes in response to global warming and peak oil.

“This involves looking at what I call the Head, the Heart and the Hands of Energy Descent. By the Head I mean the concepts of peak oil, arguments for and against localisation as well as any historical examples that we can learn from. The Heart refers to exploring how to actually engage communities in a positive and dynamic way, how to use peak oil as a tool for empowerment rather than leaving people feeling helpless. This part of the exploration is about how to actually facilitate change, and the dynamics of cultural transformation. The Hands refers to the practical aspects, could the UK become self sufficient in food and how? How much well managed woodland would it take to heat a town with efficient CHPs? Can local materials be used to retrofit houses?”

[From the “About” section of the “Transition Culture” website (see <http://transitionculture.org/about/>)]

Transition Network—“The mission of our embryonic charity is:

to inspire

to encourage

to network

to support and

to train

communities as they as they consider, adopt, adapt and implement the transition model in order to establish a Transition Initiative in their locale. The transition model emboldens communities to look peak oil and climate change squarely in the eye and unleash the collective genius of their own people to find the answers to this big question: for all those aspects of life that this community needs in order to sustain itself and thrive, how are we going to:

significantly rebuild resilience (in response to peak oil)

drastically reduce carbon emissions (in response to climate change)?

Typically, self-determined solutions will involve some flavour of relocalisation.”

[From the homepage of the “Transition Network” (see <http://transitiontowns.org/TransitionNetwork/TransitionNetwork>)]

Special Note: There are two publications associated with Rob Hopkins and the above mentioned “Transition” links which, I believe, many people already consider “significant landmark documents” for people hoping to be successful in transitioning to more sustainable towns and communities.

One is already published: the “**Transition Initiatives Primer**”.

“Here's the contents of the primer:

Introduction

Why Transition initiatives are necessary

More about Peak Oil

Taking action: the big picture - initiatives at global, national and local levels

The Transition Model – what exactly is it?

Kinsale 2021 – an Energy Descent Action Plan

Transition Town Totnes

Other Transition initiatives

Setting up your Transition Initiative – criteria

Setting up your Transition Initiative – different types

Setting up your Transition Initiative – formal structures and constitutions

Starting a Transition Initiative – 7 “buts”

The 12 steps to Transition, including preparing your EDAP (energy descent action plan)

The wider context of Transition

Questions of leadership and structure

The role of local government

Getting businesses involved

Movies for raising awareness

Transition Network

Conclusion

Further Reading”

[From the homepage of the “Transition Network” (see <http://transitiontowns.org/TransitionNetwork/TransitionNetwork>)]

The second “significant landmark document” associated with Rob Hopkins and these “Transition” links is due to be available in March, 2008: “**The Transition Handbook: from oil dependency to local resilience**”. There is a link at the “Transition Culture” website (from a January 7, 2008 post titled “An Advanced Taste of the Transition Handbook”) which provides access to the table of contents, and a few samples of text. (see <http://transitionculture.org/wp-content/uploads/2007/TransitionHbook12ppBladLR.pdf>)]

Socially Responsible Investing

Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility—“For thirty-five years the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) has been a leader of the corporate social responsibility movement. ICCR's membership is an association of 275 faith-based institutional investors, including national denominations, religious communities, pension funds, foundations, hospital corporations, economic development funds, asset management companies, colleges, and unions. ICCR and its members press companies to

be socially and environmentally responsible. Each year ICCR- member religious institutional investors sponsor over 200 shareholder resolutions on major social and environmental issues.”

[From the homepage of the “Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility” at <http://www.iccr.org/>]

The Social Investment Forum (SIF)—“is the only national membership association dedicated to advancing the concept, practice, and growth of [socially and environmentally responsible investing \(SRI\)](#). Our members integrate economic, environmental, social and governance factors into their investment decisions and SIF provides programs and resources to advance this work.”

“SIF’s membership includes [more than 500 social investment practitioners and institutions](#), including financial professionals, analysts, portfolio managers, banks, mutual funds, researchers, foundations, community development organizations, and public educators.”

[From the “About Us” section of the “Social Investment Forum” website (see <http://www.socialinvest.org/about/>)]