

AN INSPIRING TALE OF HOW local action CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Why ?

"A lot of opportunity is going to arrive in the next 20 years disguised as loss". Dr Martin Shaw

Things are changing rapidly around us. What we expect from the future is already significantly different from what we expected three or four years ago. What might some of our key challenges be?

Climate change

2795 gigatons: the amount of remaining CO₂ we must leave in the ground

20.2%

or 565 gigatons: the amount of remaining CO₂ we can still release into the atmosphere

If we want to keep the rise in global temperatures below 2°C to avoid runaway climate change, then we can only burn a fraction of the fossil fuels we know exist underground.

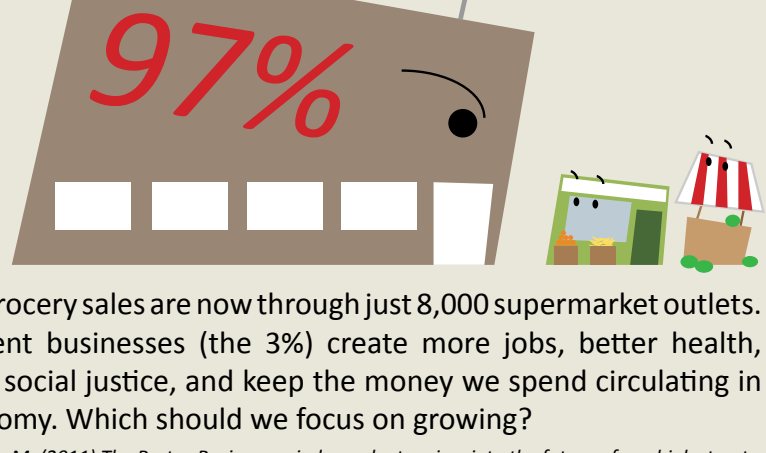
source: <http://www.carbontracker.org/carbonbubble>



Addicted to oil

Since the Industrial Revolution we've built a way of life which is dependent on easy access to fossil fuels. But as the Age of Cheap Energy (1850-2008) passes the point known as Peak Oil and gives way to the Age of Unaffordable Energy (2008-?) we are increasingly at risk, economically and socially, as we can't just open the spigot and expect more cheap and easily accessible energy to fuel our homes, businesses, leisure, transport, factories and agriculture.

A skewed economy



97% of all UK grocery sales are now through just 8,000 supermarket outlets. Yet independent businesses (the 3%) create more jobs, better health, wellbeing and social justice, and keep the money we spend circulating in our local economy. Which should we focus on growing?

source: Portas, M. (2011) *The Portas Review: an independent review into the future of our high streets*. Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Myth of Endless Expansion

The idea that relentless economic expansion is always a good thing – or even possible on a finite planet – no longer makes sense. Instead we need to grow community, wellbeing, social justice and resilience (the ability to respond and adapt to the unexpected). It would surely be sensible to be wary of any approach to creating growth which imperils those things, or which works only for a very few at the expense of the many by being focused solely on monetary growth within a flawed financial system.



We're faced with so many depressing graphs, charts, statistics and percentages everyday, that it can make us feel...

Anger

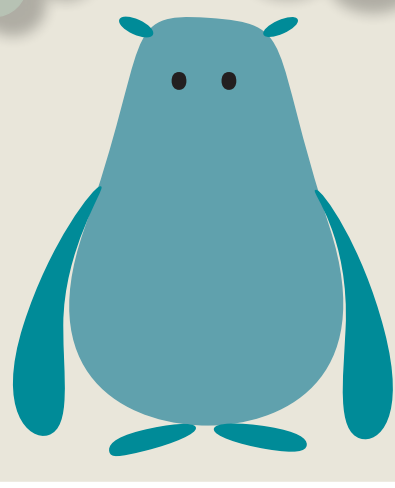
Frustration

Numbness

Despair

Powerlessness

You might be feeling overwhelmed by all the gloomy forecasts for our future. Often we just switch off from it, and it can look as though we don't care. But actually most of us care deeply – not just about our families, but about our community, the places we live, and



the future our children will inherit. We just need to feel we can do something about it, and that we have the support of others. We need to see the possibility that our actions can actually make a difference. And the more of us that do this, the bigger those changes will be.



We can end up feeling disconnected from ourselves and those around us.

BUT DON'T PANIC!

Transition Network is here to help you and your community build healthy, resilient, local responses to these challenges. We don't claim to have all the answers (we give no guarantee – this is an ongoing experiment and we're all learning as we go), but we've learned a lot that we can share with you.

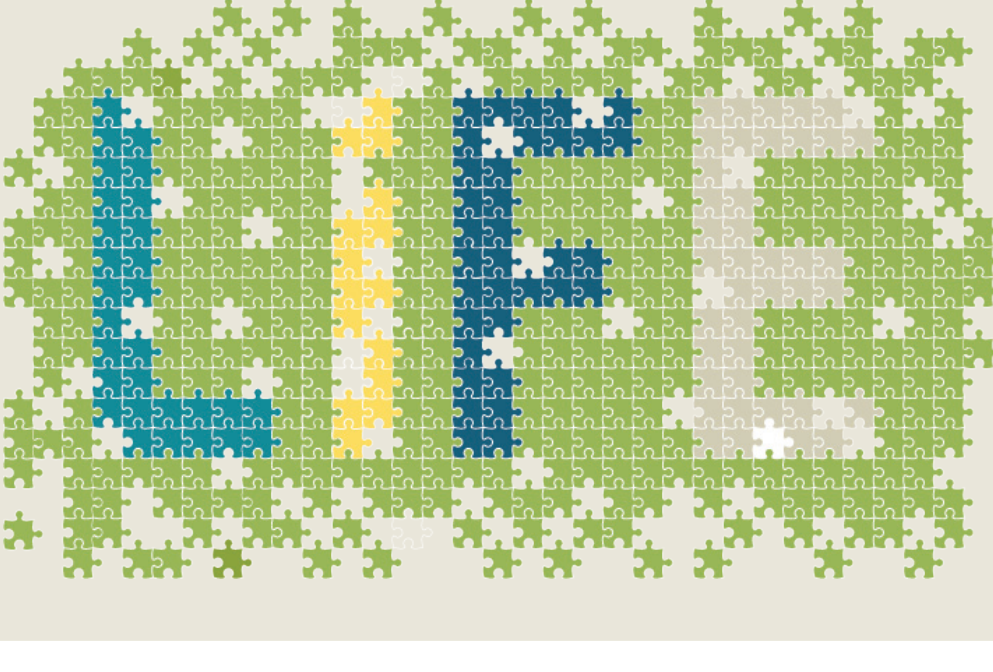
GUARANTEE

What ?

Transition towns, cities, neighbourhoods, projects, enterprises, universities, schools, livelihoods...

The aim of Transition is to help you be the catalyst in your community for an historic push to make where you live more resilient, healthier and bursting with strong local livelihoods, while also reducing its ecological footprint.

Transition – filling the gaps in the jigsaw, the bits that governments, individuals and institutions can't do



You could think of Transition as being the bit in the middle, between things you can do as an individual and all the big stuff government can do. It's something that can only happen from the ground up, driven by ordinary people. It's the missing piece of the puzzle.



What are these gaps? Give us an example...

A few examples of what Transition groups get up to:

Community breweries and brewing: Topsham, Totnes, Crystal Palace, Leytonstone...

Community bakeries: Dunbar, Cambridge, North Howe...

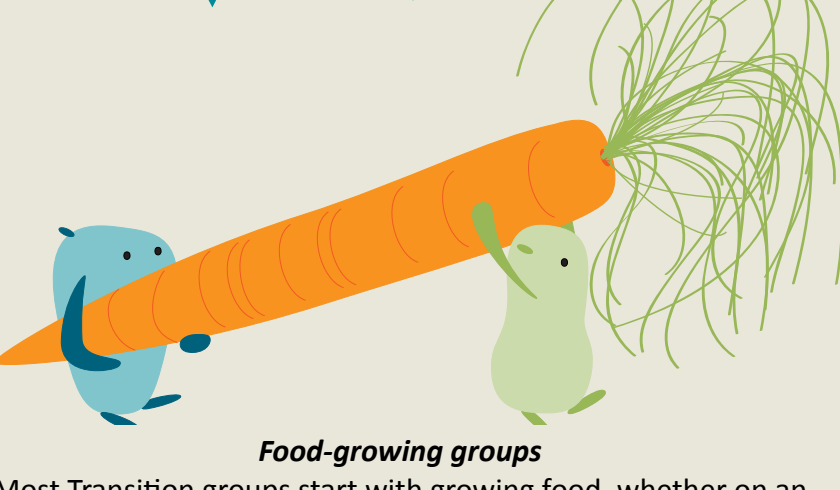
Community energy projects: Totnes, Bath, Shrewsbury, Brixton, Lewes, Lillithgow, Melbourne, Edinburgh, Newport, Marlow, Belper...

Food growing groups and enterprises: Norwich, Matlock, Stroud, Bielefeld, Wilmslow, Toronto, Kilburn, Sarasota, St Albans, Lancaster, Slaithwaite, Portlough, Shetland, Crystal Palace, Chichester, Kentish Town, Worthing, Jamaica Plain...

Transition Streets: St. Albans, Totnes, Herefordshire, Blewbury, Kingsteigton, Dorchester, Suffolk coast, Reading...

Arts in Transition projects: Tooting, Liverpool, Kendal, Totnes, Heathrow...

For more projects, see <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/projects>



Food-growing groups

Most Transition groups start with growing food, whether on an allotment, community garden or through garden share schemes, as well as by setting up new food-related enterprises.



Community-owned bakeries

Every community needs (or kneads?) one, a vital piece of the local infrastructure, sadly no longer common on our high streets, often replaced by out-of-town supermarkets.



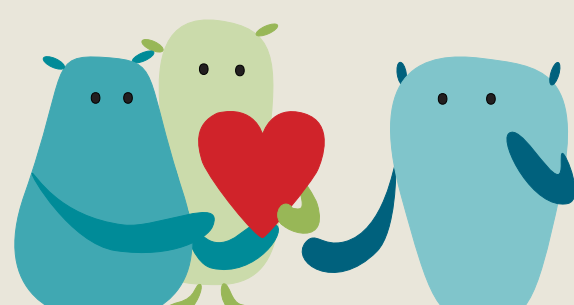
Transition Streets projects

Transition Streets shows how change can happen on a street-by-street basis, reducing household costs and energy use while also rebuilding a sense of community.



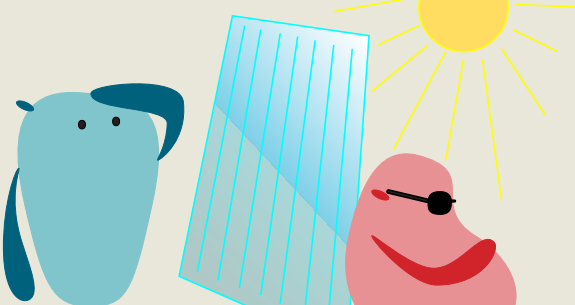
Community-owned breweries

Community-owned breweries: one of the ways we can keep money local while innovating and creating employment. Oh, and really good beer.



Building community relationships

Transition groups pay attention to how they work together as groups, to supporting each other and avoiding the burnout which can often happen with volunteer activities.



Community-owned energy

Renewable energy offers huge potential for communities to create cleaner electricity for homes, schools and businesses – generating income and providing a safer place for investments.



REconomy projects

All of the above are making a real difference in their communities. Increasingly, Transition groups are creating new jobs and livelihoods and vibrant, viable new enterprises that keep money local and boost resilience. These groups are also mapping their local economies to measure the potential benefits of this process. Transition Network's REconomy project offers the tools, networking and support to enable this.

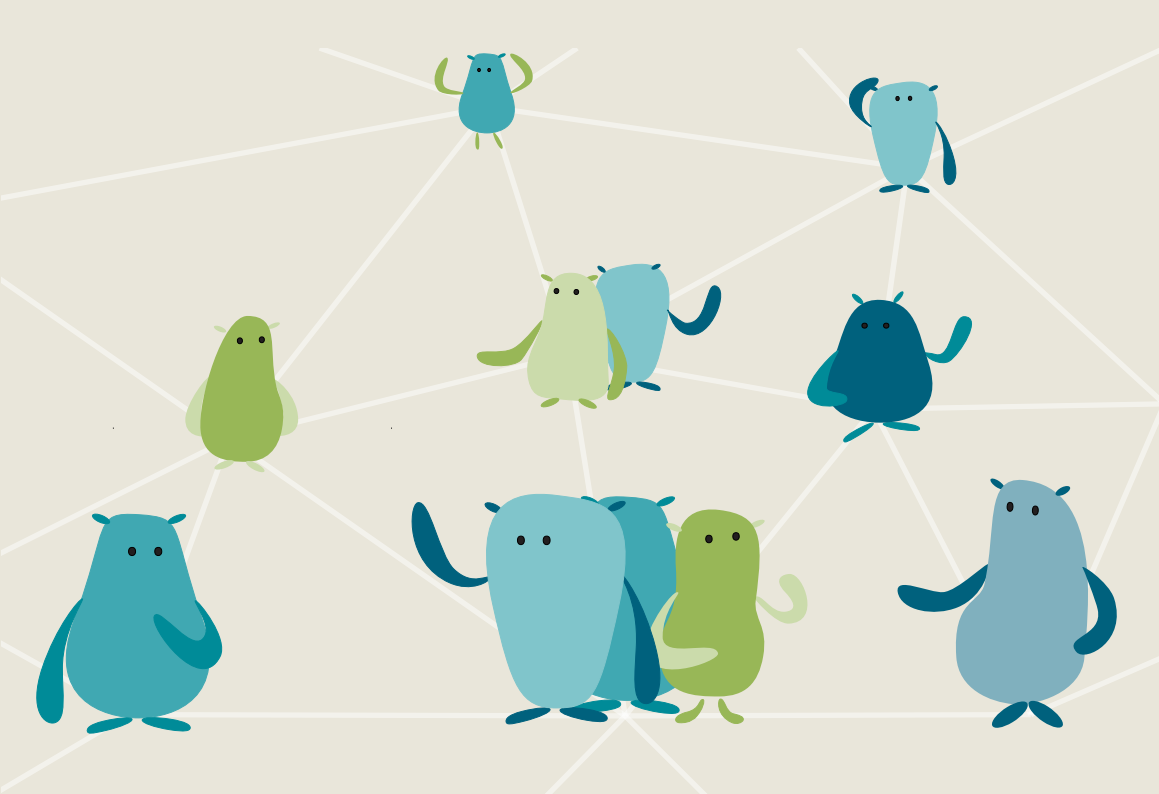
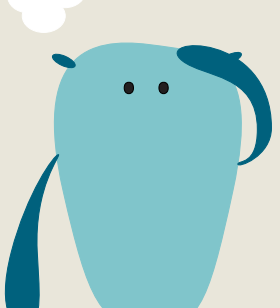
How ?

That sounds wonderful, but how to even start?

While Transition is an experiment, the groups of people actually doing it have learned a lot about how to start and how to continue doing it. What follows is an introduction to some of what we've found really helps these projects get underway with the best chance of success.

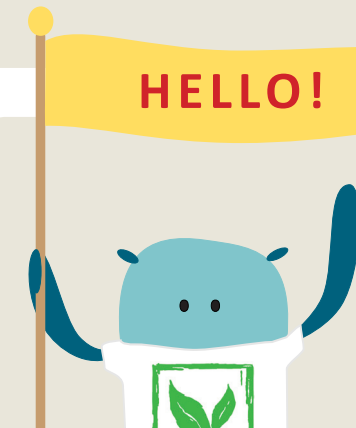
Visioning (& scale)

To create a positive, flourishing, nurturing and more resilient world, you'll first need a vision of what it could look like in practice. What geographical area does it cover? What might it look like, feel like, smell like and sound like? Having a common vision within your Transition initiative and, increasingly, with your community, generates the passion and the energy to bring it about. You could draw it, write it, model it, make a film about it or even sing it! Involve as many people as possible from different parts of your community in sketching out what a less oil-dependent future could look like, with its increased wellbeing, social justice, resilience and community cohesiveness.



Networking

Transition is a community-wide push for resilience, and it needs as much engagement as possible. It really helps if you can build relationships and partnerships with as broad and diverse a range of local organisations as possible. What do you have in common? What are their (and your) strengths? What can you do together? Who else do they know who could become part of your network?



Awareness raising

What creative ways can you find to share the information from the 'How' and 'Why' sections above and the solutions from the 'What' section with your local community? Inspire them and invite them to get involved and make even more great stuff happen.

Good groups

It really matters that you give time and attention to how your group will come together and then work together. How will your meetings work? How will you make decisions? What will you do if you don't agree? Designing for your group's organisational and personal resilience matters every bit as much as designing for community resilience. Transition Training is a great resource for equipping your group with these necessary skills.

Maybe we should all sign up for a Transition Training course?



Just Doing Stuff



Part of the real excitement of Transition comes from rolling up our sleeves and just doing stuff. Make sure it's fun, visible, and invites people to get involved. And try to remember regularly to celebrate your achievements.

Where ?

Where are all these projects? And where is my nearest group? What's happening near me?

A quiet revolution is happening around you. Everyone's at it. Get involved, make stuff happen, see your community in a whole new way and help build a healthy human culture.

From tiny acorns...



The Transition movement has grown from just two groups in 2006 (Kinsale, Ireland and Totnes, England) to over 1,107 initiatives in more than 43 countries across the world in 2013. Can you get involved in the one in your community? Or could you add another?

Next steps

Find local Transition, get involved
do.transitionnetwork.org

Buy The Power of Just Doing Stuff
power.transitionnetwork.org

Register for Transition updates
www.transitionnetwork.org/user/register

Subscribe to the Transition Free Press newspaper
www.transitionfreepress.org/subscribe/

Go on a Transition Training
www.transitionnetwork.org/training

For new economic thinking visit:
www.reconomy.org

