

New Thinking, New Tools

Transition Initiatives inspire communities to come together to explore practical action steps for rebuilding local resilience and reducing carbon emissions.

Resilience is the ability to flex and adapt in the face of change. It refers to the capacity of our businesses, communities, and settlements to deal with outside shocks, whether from fuel price volatility or food shortages. Transition initiatives strive to build resilience across a wide range of areas (food, economics, water, energy, etc.)

Work in these areas eventually forms the backbone of a locally-designed Energy Descent Action Plan. This timetabled roadmap will define the steps leading towards a life that has minimal reliance on fossil fuels and dramatically lower carbon emissions, a life that profits from the abundance of resources and capabilities within our communities.



Think globally, act locally

The Transition Network is an international organization that aims to inspire, encourage, network, support and train communities, including existing groups and initiatives, in exploring the transition from oil dependency to relocalized economies.

Since the “unleashing” of Transition Town Totnes in 2006, the concept has quickly spread through the UK, Australia, Japan, and other locations around the world. Transition Initiatives make no claim to have all the answers, but by building on the wisdom of the past and accessing the pool of ingenuity, skills and determination in our communities, we believe the solutions will emerge.

By thinking and acting together, the transition to a way of living that consumes substantially less carbon energy—yet is a happier, more fulfilling and abundant place—will become much more achievable.

Transition Network (international)
Read the “Transition Primer” free online.
www.TransitionTowns.org

Transition United States
offers live training events in Transition ideas
www.TransitionUS.org

Transition in Los Angeles

Transition in the vast Los Angeles basin is happening via a network of local pods. Some of these local pods are organized within geographic neighborhoods; others have been founded around already-existing gathering points within the community such as community gardens, churches, or Permaculture groups. Local activities include awareness raising, holding reskilling classes, creating physical projects, and forming working groups.

Would you like to have transition activities in your local neighborhood? Transition Los Angeles offers a city hub for activities and events in the greater Los Angeles area. We can help you find like-minded people and get started.

www.TransitionLA.org
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Can you imagine life beyond oil?



TRANSITION LOS ANGELES

*guiding our communities from
oil dependency to local resilience*

The Challenges



The toughest challenge facing humankind at the start of the 21st century is climate change and peak oil combined. While climate change is well documented and quite visible in the media, there is much less public awareness of Peak Oil.

Peak Oil is the understanding that the world's supply of fossil fuels is finite, and that we are currently dipping into the second half of that planetary supply. The brief Age of Cheap Oil has come to its inevitable end.

The end of cheap oil will soon have a severe impact on our lifestyles. Oil is deeply embedded in our ways of living, from transportation and food production to consumer products. We are fed, clothed and warmed not by the produce of the land around us, but by food, goods, and fuel transported hundreds and thousands of miles—a system which is entirely dependent on supplies of cheap oil.

The impact that burning fossil fuels has on our climate has become obvious. And yet, decreased fossil fuel availability may well prevent the economic and social stability that is essential if we are to mitigate the threats posed by climate change.

Transition Initiatives currently represent one of the most promising ways of engaging people and communities in strengthening themselves against the effects of these two monumental challenges. Furthermore, these efforts can be designed to result in a life that is more fulfilling, socially connected, and resilient.

First Steps to Transition

☼ Raise awareness

Films, events and talks can alert the community to the potential effects of both Peak Oil and Climate Change. While climate change calls for a reduction in carbon emissions, peak oil demands that we increase community resilience.

Here's how to start a Transition initiative in your local area...

☼ Establish a core team

Gather some like-minded people to drive the project forward during the initial phases.

☼ Facilitate the “Great Reskilling”

Offer training in the vast range of practical skills which we have lost over the past 40 years—skills like food production and preservation, repairing, water harvesting, construction with local materials, growing local economies, etc.

☼ Create physical projects

which grow the resilience of your community. These might be productive tree plantings, solar panels, or a beautiful cob structure. Demonstrate that something is happening.



Tree planting



Bread baking

The future with less oil could be better than the present, but only if we engage in designing this Transition with creativity and imagination.

—Rob Hopkins, founder of the Transition Towns movement



Solar cooking

☼ Build connections

Network with existing complementary groups. When the time is right, build a bridge to local government. Rather than duplicating their work, you're requesting their input in a new way of looking at the future.

☼ Eventually your team will...

Tap into the collective genius of your community. Set up working groups to focus on all key aspects of local life such as: energy, food, water, building, transport, business, education, health, psychology, waste. After about a year, you'll be ready to develop an Energy Descent Action Plan, and the task of transitioning to a life beyond oil begins...

The full “12 Steps of Transition” are online at the “Transition Primer” www.TransitionTowns.org



Local food