

## 12 Steps to Transition

- Set up a steering group
- Awareness raising
- Lay the foundations
- Organize a celebratory launching
- Form sub-groups
- Use Open Space
- Develop visible manifestations
- Facilitate the Great Re-skilling
- Build a bridge to local government
- Honor the elders
- Let it go where it wants to go
- Create an Energy Descent Action Plan

## Local Economy

Our current economic model is based on the forever expansion of the money supply in the form of debt. This benefits the rich while increasing the gap between the rich and the poor.

Resilient communities relearn how to grow their own food and share with each other. By trading with their local currencies or using a LETS (Local Exchange Trading System) they support the local economy, preserve local jobs and are resilient to shock from the collapse of global markets.

This is an integral part of the Energy Descent Action Plan.

## Resources

### Books

- *The Transition Handbook, from oil dependency to local resilience*, Rob Hopkins
- *Blessed Unrest*, Paul Hawken
- *Life, Money & Illusion – Living on Earth as if we want to stay*, Mike Nickerson
- *Carbon Shift*, Thomas Homer Dixon
- *The Party's Over*, Richard Heinberg
- *Why your world is about to get a lot smaller*, Jeff Rubin
- *Agenda for a New Economy*, David C. Korten

### Videos

- *In Transition*
- *The Power of Community, How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*
- *The End of Suburbia*
- *The Age of Stupid*
- *A Crude Awakening*
- *Money as Debt*

There are over 200 official Transition Initiatives globally with many more getting started. Official Initiatives in Canada include:

- Peterborough ON
- Guelph ON
- Dundas ON
- Victoria BC
- Nelson BC
- Ottawa ON



## Dundas in Transition

Dundas in Transition is a community organization making an effort to tackle the dual challenges of peak oil and climate change.

This is a grass-roots organization spreading the call for an urgent need to make the transition from a lifestyle dependent on oil and cheap abundant energy to one that is resilient to shock.

We can do this by simplifying and localizing our individual actions and by building a network of strong resilient communities.

The Transition Town Initiative was founded and is supported by the Transition Network based in the UK. Their goal is to encourage and promote the creation of such initiatives in communities around the world.

**Dundas in Transition – write to us at**

**[dundasintransition@gmail.com](mailto:dundasintransition@gmail.com)**

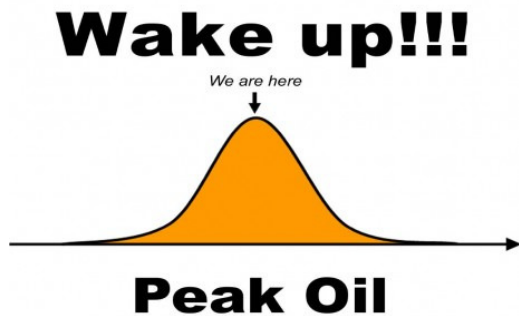
**Visit our web site**

**[www.dundasintransition.ca](http://www.dundasintransition.ca)**

## What is Peak Oil?

**Peak oil** is the point in time when global oil production has reached a maximum. From here on, production rates will decline and our modern economy which was based on cheap and abundant fossil fuel will have to switch to renewable sources of energy.

Our economy depends on growth, and growth needs energy. When we are up against the physical limitations of the planet we come to realize that this economic model is not sustainable.



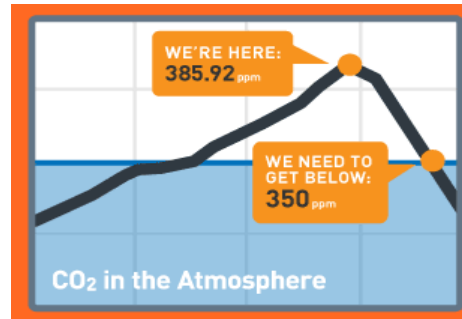
It is important to note that **peak oil** is not about running out of oil. Rising oil prices and curbs in consumption will necessarily lead to imaginative ways of living with less.

Are we making plans for our children and grandchildren or are we just going to hand them the debt that we have created?

*Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the National Debt* – Herbert Hoover.

## Climate Change

For millennia, carbon dioxide levels in the earth's atmosphere fluctuated between 200 and 280 ppm (parts per million). From the start of the industrial revolution, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration level has climbed steadily until it now stands at 385 ppm.



What is a safe CO<sub>2</sub> level? A continuously rising level of CO<sub>2</sub>, a green house gas, will pose dire consequences for our environment and all living species, including humans. CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations must be brought back down to levels of 200 years ago. Our global effort is to bring CO<sub>2</sub> levels to below 350 ppm.

We must act now to stall

- melting of polar and mountain ice caps
- rising sea levels
- increasing sea water acidity
- dead coral reefs
- diminishing fish stock
- drought and forest fires
- desertification and loss of topsoil
- diminishing fresh water supply
- deforestation
- loss of biodiversity

## Resilience

Society must plan for a lifestyle that is less dependent on oil. We must come to recognize that the economy, the environment and social justice are all intertwined.

Our modern economy is built on continuous growth, forever increasing rates of consumption and continuing depletion of natural resources. These are all clearly unsustainable. At our current lifestyle and population levels, we have exceeded the carrying capacity of the Earth.

Sustainable living means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

In order to be sustainable, society must curtail consumerism and adopt lifestyles of voluntary simplicity.

By working together to build strong and resilient communities we will be able to support one another in times of need. We will come to understand that the foundation of a vital economy is the sharing and exchanging of what we produce in an equitable and just manner free from exploitation of our fellow human beings and of the earth.

Are we prepared for the coming shock?

We must think globally and act locally.