

From oil dependency to local resilience

Tuesday 27th May 2008
5.45 - 6.45pm
BioCity Nottingham
Pennyfoot Street
Nottingham
NG1 1GF

SPEAKER Rob Hopkins

Architect of the Transition movement, co-founder of the Transition Network and Transition Totnes.

The linked problems of Climate change and Peak Oil threaten catastrophe. We must drastically reduce our use of fossil fuels in order to avoid dangerous global warming. We are also rapidly approaching the end of the age of cheap oil when demand will massively exceed supply. All aspects of our current way of life depend on fossil fuels - food, transport, energy, health.

We have to learn to live differently, and a gentle transition to a low fossil fuel culture will be much less traumatic than a sudden collapse.

Instead of succumbing to gloom and despair about the future, the Transition process offers creative and positive solutions. These centre around the rebirth of local communities, which will grow more of their own food, generate their own power and keep money in their local area.

This meeting has been organised by Transition Nottingham, part of a network of pioneering communities working to reduce our impact on the climate and increase our resilience to the effects of Peak Oil.

For more information: email

info@transitionnottingham.org.uk

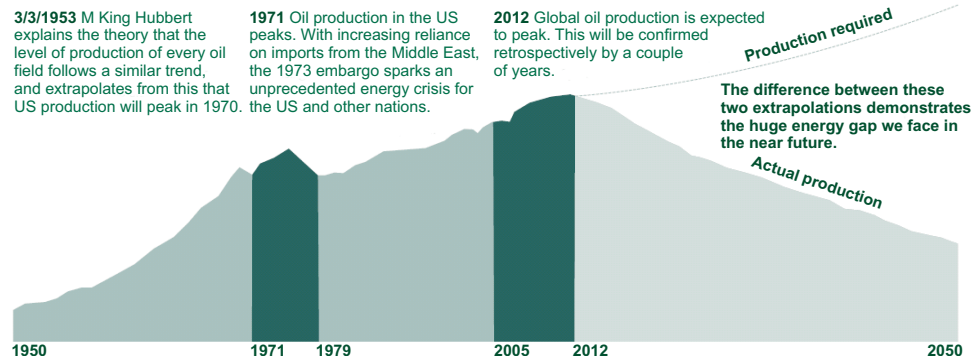
www.transitiontowns.org

www.transitionculture.org

What is Peak Oil?

Although there's still plenty of oil left, it is a finite resource and demand is rapidly outstripping supply. We are close to Peak Oil - the time when we will have used up half the world's recoverable oil. After this time, the amount produced reduces year on year. As a result the price will start to rise, having enormous knock on effects for the way we live our lives. Cheap oil is essential to the way most of our food and medicines are produced; the way we travel and heat our homes. In fact, our whole infrastructure and economy is dependent on it. Unless we reduce our oil dependence, food shortages, economic collapse and more wars for oil are all on the cards.

PEAK OIL TIMELINE



Won't Peak Oil help us prevent Climate Change?

Unfortunately not. As the cheap stuff becomes harder to find, we're switching to more polluting sources such as tar sands which produce more CO₂ and there's still more than enough fossil fuel left to cause catastrophic climate change.

This sounds pretty bad - is there anything we can do?

There is nothing that can replace oil as a cheap, energy rich, and easily transported fuel. Our communities currently have no resilience to Peak Oil. And there are no easy techno-fixes on the horizon. The best solution is reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. This approach is a win-win, as it reduces CO₂ emissions as well.

The positive solutions to Peak Oil and Climate Change.

Wouldn't you like to live in a strong and vibrant local community resilient to Peak Oil? Eat locally grown, healthy and tasty food? Have safer, more child friendly streets, with shared open spaces, more greenery and great local entertainment? Would you like to improve your health and well-being while getting to know your neighbours and see less of your money disappearing into the profits of faceless corporations? If so, then come and learn about the Transition Process, which aims to make life better in the face of these serious challenges.

What is a Transition City/Town/Village/Island?

A Transition initiative is a community that is unleashing its own latent collective genius to look Peak Oil and Climate Change squarely in the eye and to discover and implement ways to answer this big question: 'For all those aspects of life that this community needs in order to sustain itself and thrive, how do we significantly increase resilience (to mitigate the effects of Peak Oil); and drastically reduce carbon emissions (to prevent damaging climate change)?' The resulting coordinated range of projects across all these areas of life leads to a collectively designed Energy Descent Pathway - a way of planning to reduce oil dependence whilst reinvigorating our local communities and sense of well-being.