The Transition Town Movement

- Rebuilding Community Self Reliance & Resilience

Meeting the Three Toughest Challenges of Our Times

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Overview

- What are Transition Towns? Current Status?
- How do Transition Towns view the future?
- What do they seek to accomplish,
- Why are they important? How do they foster behavioral change?
- How can you get involved? How can your organization partner with TT?
The Global Spread of Transition Town Movement

- Green & Blue with “Dots” - 264 Transition Towns (Global)
- 45 in the US
- Blue without “Dots” - more than 600 in mulling stage (Global)
Transition Town

A community creating a shared vision of how to respond sustainably to climate change, increasing oil & energy prices, the global & local financial crisis and other challenges, building resilience and happiness.
Describes the Overall Vision and Steps for Establishing a Transition Town

The “Transition Primer” also describes the vision and steps for establishing a Transition Town: it be downloaded from: www.transitiontowns.org/
Transition Towns want to respond effectively to Climate Change, Peak Oil and Economic Instability
I will now show you a 3 min video that features the following three people:

- Terry Lynn Karl; PhD; Stanford University
- David L. Goodstein; PhD; Caltech University
- Michael H. Meacher; UK Member of Parliament

Transition Towns are concerned about a future with Rising Oil and Energy Prices.
Transition Towns realize that our culture resists the need to respond to Climate Change & Peak Oil/Energy

To illustrate this, I will now show you a 3 min video that features Jason Bradford; PhD-Biology; Willits (CA) Economic Relocalization
Transition Towns help their residents to address obstacles to behavioral change

DENIAL
Climate change can’t be happening!

ANGER
We need the oil more than they do!

BARGAINING
Technology will fix the problem!

SADNESS & DEPRESSION
I give up, I’m only one person!

ACCEPTANCE
I’m ready to find a way forward.
The basic goals of many Transition Towns are similar to David Korten’s vision for “The Great Turning”

I will now show you a 1.5 min video that summarizes David Korten’s vision
TT Approach

Attract a growing group of citizens in the community to:

- Raise Awareness and Encourage Discussion of Challenges of Climate Change, Peak Oil & Economic Instability.
- Create a Positive Vision for a More Self-Reliant, Sustainable, Resilient and Enjoyable Future.
- Unleash the Collective Genius of the Community in Designing New Initiatives that are Inspiring and Fun.
- Form Partnerships with Business, Local Government and other Organizations that Share Similar Goals.
- Create an Energy Descent Action Plan
Typical Transition Town Structure

- Initiating Group (aka Steering Committee)
  - Plans and Leads Conduct of Awareness Raising
- Examples of Transition Town Working Groups
  - Local Food
  - Energy, Water & Buildings
  - Economics & Livelihood
  - Heart & Soul (Arts, Education & Other Support)
- Local Transition Support Network

I invite you to help grow your Transition Town!
Why Transition Towns foster behavioral change?

- Integrates our thinking (the Head), our values (the Heart) and our actions (the Hands)!

- Provides a supportive environment for people to cope with a realistic assessment of the future and their role in becoming an agent of positive change!

- Provides information and resources about what other successful Transition Towns are doing!

- Engages people in a positive way to create a future we all want to live into!

- It is grassroots, creative, fun, action-oriented and democratic!
I will show you a 2 min video featuring Rob Hopkins
Partnership Opportunities

- **Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy**
  - “Market Transformation” Organizations (including Local Government)
    - Design and conduct collaborative programs that use the community-level connections, resources, and interests of local Transition Towns in your region

- **Universities & Colleges**
  - Become a Transition Town
  - Provide student & faculty support for local TTs
Resources for More Info

• Transition Handbook; Rob Hopkins; Chelsea Green

• Websites
  ★ Transition US (www-transitionus.org)
  ★ Global Transition Network (www-transitiontowns.org)
  ★ Rob Hopkins Blog (www-transitionculture.org)

• Contacts w/ presenters: See Slide #1 for email addresses

• Behavioral Change Literature Review by Rob Hopkins
  ★ www-transitionculture.org/?page_id=508
• Thank you!

• Questions?