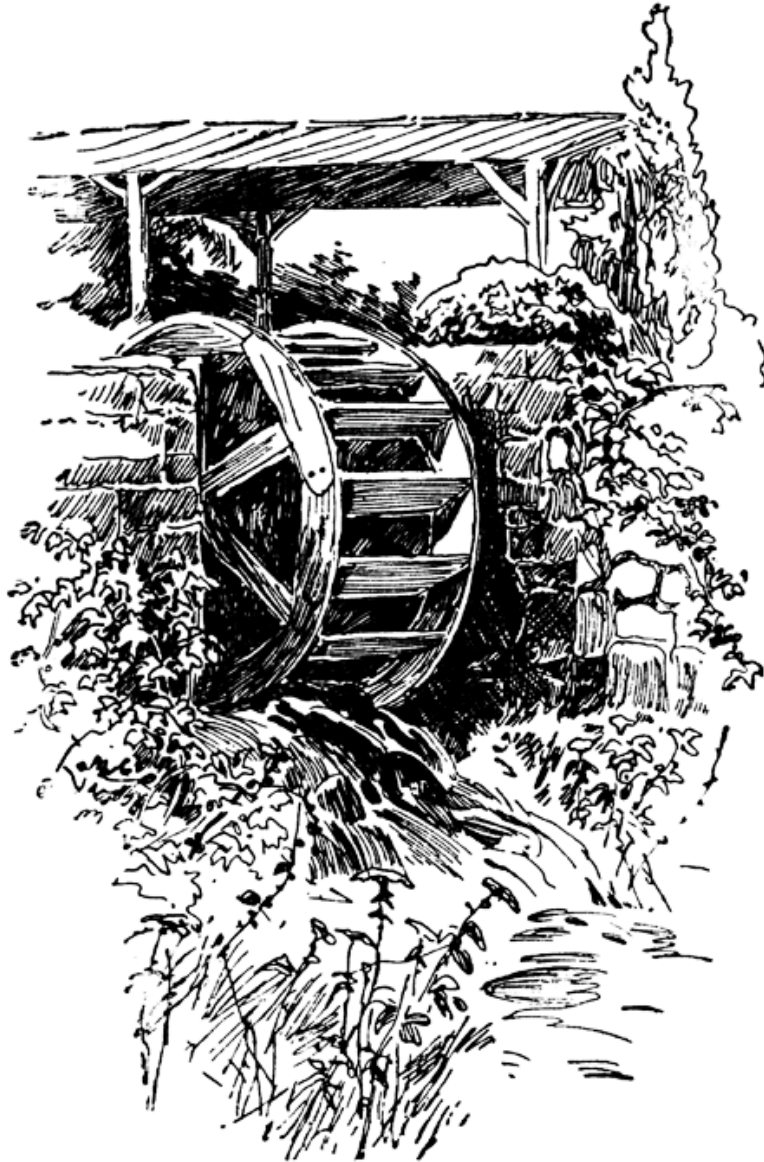


A Planning Framework for a New Community



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Foreword

A growing storm

There is a growing storm being stirred by the converging problems of ever rising oil prices and runaway climate change. This storm is introducing great **uncertainty** into our plans for the future. The demand for oil is outstripping supply and is causing an economic crisis. In addition we face the future consequences of runaway climate change unless action is taken soon.

Government, business and community groups need to prepare for the coming crisis.

What follows is a generic planning framework created in response to the urgent situation of peak oil and climate change. It is intended to help groups prepare contingency plans to counter the crisis and start the process of becoming self-sufficient.

In preparing a plan it is necessary to understand the nature and depth of the crisis we face. The generic planning framework attempts to do this. A list of official reports and resources that were studied in preparing this initiative are provided in the References section.

The effectiveness of a contingency plan is dependent on the accuracy with which emergency situations are identified and anticipated. Some critical situations will be common to all organisations such as fuel prices. Other crisis will be specific to particular organisations such as the provision of health services to people who do not have access to public transport and who no longer can afford to run a car.

When the crisis hits we need to be prepared to abandon ship in safety and have sufficient provisions in the lifeboats for survival.

Illustrations

The clip art used in this publication is from is from the Florida Centre for Instructional Technology (FCIT) at the University of South Florida Website <http://etc.usf.edu/clipart/> and is used in accordance with their requirements.

Introduction

The Transition In the world we inhabit now everything is centralised. We have become dependent on distant centres for the provision of our food, clothing, shelter, entertainment, healthcare, education, social services and security.

We accept economic growth as progress and we do not give much thought to the consumption of natural resources in our quest for a higher standard of living.

However we are running out of natural resources. We face a crisis not only in our belief in economic growth but also in our capacity to sustain the basic necessities of life. It is a crisis of our lives as individuals, as family members, as community members, and as citizens.



Introduction, continued

The Transition We have no option but to develop a reverence for the natural world rather than sacrificing it to the God of growth.

It is time to stand on our own feet as individuals and as communities and become self reliant in the provision of the necessities of life.

This is the transition we must make. Time has run out and we need to create a new vision for the future and start contingency planning now.

Framework This planning framework is specific about the consequences of Peak Oil and Climate Change. The assumptions on which the plan is based are made explicit. The tasks that need to be done to realise the vision for the future are listed.

This planning framework:

- is relevant at all groups in the community
- makes use of local government planning
- provides for exemplar community projects
- recognises that nothing will change until crisis occurs
- is highly flexible.

"Our strategy is to walk to the future finding the answers as we go along using our spontaneity and creativity. We don't have ready-made answers."

Priorities Experience indicates that this planning framework will only get the attention of the majority of people when we finally realise that we are up a creek without a paddle in leaky gumboots. In the meantime council and other organisations can make contingency plans.

Vision

A new opportunity

Long ago it was said that without a vision the people perished. This is equally true today. To respond to the oil crisis and climate change we need a new vision to awaken abilities and energies, to bring into our consciousness a greater sense of what we can become as a community.

The gathering storm provides the opportunity to create a new culture that brings the community together.



The world is running out of fossil fuels and this suggests future in which the community will produce its own food. Machinery and tools will be shared. Electricity from renewable sources will be the primary source of energy. All waste will be recycled. Sanitation and healthy living will be the primary means of health care. A **local** centre will treat injury and alleviate acute illness. The **local** school will provide learning relevant to sustainable living. People will develop a sense of common purpose and a feeling of belonging. Working within the **local** community will be satisfying.

Public transport will be the primary means of travel. It could be that transport fuels are rationed and priority given to essential services.

The scientific, technological, sociological and psychological knowledge developed since the industrial revolution will be adapted to a post carbon world.

Society will become decentralised and there will be much less travel. The local community will use large facilities in central locations such as dead malls for other purposes.

Making the transition

Alchemy is needed to transform the glitter of the consumer society into the gold of self-sustaining communities.

The transformation starts by marking on the map the position from which we are all starting. We will all benefit from a realistic understanding of our current situation.

Current Situation

Climate Change

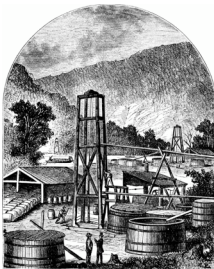
The world is threatened with runaway climate change unless something drastic is done soon. World authorities agree that the rise in global temperature has to be stopped now to prevent runaway climate change.



Runaway climate change could result in sea levels rising by several metres. To stop this disaster western nations need to reduce the emission of green houses gases by 90% by 2030. The biggest producers of greenhouse gases are fossil fuels and so we are talking about a drastic reduction in their use.

Peak Oil

The demand for oil is starting to outstrip supply. The world is running out of oil. Most experts consider this crisis will occur within the next few years.



No giant oil fields have been discovered since 1960. Currently the world is consuming six barrels of oil for each new barrel discovered. However there seems to be little understanding that we are at a tipping point.

The common assumption is that we have plenty of time before oil production peaks. This belief is based on oil reserves we hope to discover. This is a faith-based approach to energy policy. Even if oil does not peak for another 10 years this is still a short period of time when planning projects which have a fifty year life cycle.

The consequence of oil depletion includes permanent shortages, and will result in a modest standard of living across the globe.

Alternative fuels

Biofuels and other alternatives such as hydrogen are seen as the solution to future petrol shortages. However these fuels cost a lot more to produce are less efficient as a fuel. They will only ever replace about 5% of the present petrol consumption.

Summary so far

The consequences of oil depletion and climate change are now starting to be felt. However leaders are responding like possums caught in the headlights of a very large truck that is heading straight their way. Right now they are sitting stunned in the middle of the road staring at the fast approaching lights, uncertain what to do.

Consequences

Pre Planning To make a realistic plan for the transition thought needs to be given to:

- the consequences of peak oil and climate change
- the assumptions that inform this planning framework and
- local conditions and available resources

“The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays, is coming to a close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences...”—Winston Churchill, November 1936

Overview There are over 300,000 products in everyday usage that are wholly or partially made from or derived from oil and natural gas. Not only does our community run on oil - including, very importantly, our production of food - but it is largely built from oil and built and maintained by the energy derived from oil.

We rely on resources from outside our community for its well being. We are not growing the food that our population needs. Our economy is reliant on trade with outside markets. The physical distances within the district require road transport to move the population and goods about from place to place. Thousands of tons of materials flow into and out of the district every day. The very high cost of petrol means reliance is going to have to be on rail and sea transport.

We will be forced to live within local means.

The following table describes the likely consequences in more detail.

Community Resource	Consequence
Land Use	<p>A big demand for land for food production in urban areas requiring drastic changes to the district plan and zoning of land.</p> <p>Suburbia as we know it will come to an end. Malls will be abandoned. Low lying coastal land will be inundated</p>

Consequences, continued

Community Resource	Consequence
Water Supply	World scarcity will create conflict. Centralised water supply could become too expensive in the Auckland region.
Food Supply	World food trade will collapse because of fuel shortages. The amount and variety of food produced will decrease worldwide. The community will become more dependent on locally grown food.
Manufacturing	World manufacturing and distribution will collapse - including clothing, appliances, tools, electronics, and computers. Local manufacturing using local materials will need to be established.
Housing	<p>Suburbs that require long commutes and that have no public transport will be abandoned in favour of housing close to work, services and transport terminals.</p> <p>Inundation, flooding and erosion will threaten low-lying coastal properties and the infrastructure that services them.</p>
Energy Supply	World scarcity will create conflict. Producers will dominate importers. Large entities will capture supply or cease to function.
Community	Those without resources will suffer. A breakdown of law and order could occur. Tensions will be chronic. People will relocate to be closer to work and public transport.
Family	Sharing of children between biological parents in different centres will become a problem.
Social Cohesion	A sociopolitical climate of anger, grievance, and resentment could arise. A sense of deprivation could drive people to extremes. There is an urgent need to rebuild community.

Consequences, continued

Community Resource	Consequence
Governance	People in power and authority will consider community initiatives a true, good and beautiful thing but they are not going to readily give up their control of taxes, legislation, land use & resources to local communities
Population	By the end of this century, world population may be drastically reduced because of the lack of water, food and fuel.
Borders	<p>Massive migrations of economic and environment refugees will occur.</p> <p>NZ will be an attractive destination for refugees and we will have problems controlling our borders.</p>
Security	The military be unable to function effectively in its traditional roles because of fuel shortages. There will be a threat from foreign predation.
Crime	Increased crime - hoarding, corruption and black-markets is a threat as people try to obtain scarce resources.
Trade	Food exports and tourism will collapse because of the cost and availability of fuel.
Currency/Finance	Without continuous growth fuelled by cheap oil the financial system is likely to collapse.
Built Infrastructure	Motorways will be become redundant. Sewage and stormwater systems may no longer work because of inundation

Consequences, continued

Community Resource	Consequence
Economy and Employment	<p>Economic growth will be stunted as cheap oil runs out.</p> <p>Local production of previously imported goods is also likely to increase as the high cost of transportation makes locally produced goods competitive, for example food processing, clothing, footwear.</p> <p>Many people will not have the skills for local production food and goods</p>
Services	<p>Health services for elderly, poor and young will suffer.</p> <p>The number of volunteers available to provide meals on wheels, home and hospital visits will decline.</p> <p>The demand for social services will increase, but the ability to provide service will decline.</p>
Transportation	<p>Transport costs will skyrocket. Car use will reduce dramatically. Air travel and air- freight will no longer be economically viable.</p> <p>There will be increased demand for bus, rail and ferry services.</p> <p>There will not be enough cheap oil to make the electric vehicles to replace the huge fleet of petrol vehicles. Batteries will not drive trucks.</p> <p>Biofuels will not be available on the scale required to maintain the present economy.</p>

Context of Review

Review Rodney District Council is conducting a review of its long term plans. The Council is consulting the community on the outcomes the community wants to be achieved in the long term. Following this the Council is reviewing its current ten-year plan.

This is an opportunity for community members to reflect on the present and decide a direction for the future.

Lack of a Plan There is no contingency plan to address Peak Oil and Climate Change. Research shows that we are running out of time to find solutions. There is plenty of talk but no action while oil reserves continue to run down and greenhouse gases continue to rise.

Hibiscus Coast The Hibiscus Coast has always been an attractive place to live and has had a growing population for thirty years.

The Whangaparaoa Peninsula is almost completely subdivided and there are no significant areas of land available for development.

New development is taking place at Orewa West, Silverdale North and the Silverdale Industrial area. This development will slow as fuel prices continue to rise and shortages occur.

Council Policies Current council policies support growth. The transport policy gives priority to roads and the private car. The Council supports motorway construction, airport expansion, a thermal power station, industrialisation and more subdivision. These policies will not be sustainable without cheap oil.

Community Commitment There is a large retired population who support community organisations in large numbers such as Probus and the RSA.

Working ratepayers have not had much free time to be involved with community groups because they spend two hours a day commuting.

However there are a number of people active in conservation, gardening, horticulture, and farmers markets and this group provides a good resource for further development of local food production.

Assumptions

Planning Assumptions

The following assumptions were made in creating this plan framework.

- It is unlikely that governments and business communities will take action in time to avoid an oil crisis and runaway climate change.
- The tasks required to establish a self-reliant community cannot be achieved without local government and developers radically changing their approach to land use and property development.
- The consumer society is not and can never be sustainable. This culture will not undergo any sort of voluntary transformation to a sane and sustainable way of living.
- The needs of the natural world are more important than the needs of the economic system.
- There are more people in the world today than can be sustained in a post carbon world.
- There are no alternatives to cheap oil. Every alternative we plan to use is "underwritten" by cheap oil. Alternative energy sources will only provide a fraction of the present demand for energy
- Improving energy efficiency within the present economic framework leads **to more** consumption of resources and growth, not less. (Ref Wikipedia: Jevons Paradox)
- All the centralizing tendencies of the past half-century will have to be reversed. We will have to downscale all institutions, including government, schools and colleges, corporations, and hospitals.
- A simple life within the limits of renewable resources is the only choice we have.
- People will not be inclined to involve themselves with peak oil and climate change until it is in their face and it is too late.



Local Resources

introduction

The Hibiscus Coast has developed into a blend of dormitory suburb, retirement village and small town. Half of the working population commute daily to Auckland and the North Shore by car. There are no large employers on the Hibiscus Coast. Small businesses at Silverdale and Whangaparaoa provide local employment.

The Whangaparaoa Peninsula and Orewa are two distinct communities that share a common future. The Peninsula geographically is virtually an island. The sea bounds it on three sides. It is a long narrow peninsula. Everyone lives close to the water. Many people live on elevated sections and have a view of the water.

Bays and beaches give neighbourhoods their unique identity. People identify with their bay and beach.

Water

Household water is supplied from Auckland. A minority of residents still use roof supply. There are no major reserves or catchments of fresh water on the Hibiscus Coast.

Local streams and the Wade River are heavily polluted. Local estuaries are silted up and no longer provide a pristine environment for local fish.

Shell fish periodically are shown to be contaminated.

Sewerage

The Hibiscus Coast has one large linear sewerage system. Sewerage is pumped up 20 kms to Army Bay for treatment and after UV treatment - a high quality effluent is discharged into the Tiri Channel.

The system is energy intensive has no facility for recycling treated water. The pumping stations and associated storage tanks are at or below sea level and vulnerable to rising sea levels.

Local Resources, continued

House and Garden

New housing has little private open space and no room for a vegetable garden. This trend can be observed at Gulf Harbour, Red Beach, Silverdale North, Orewa West and Puriri Park. Many other properties sit on pocket handkerchief sections because of the practice of sub dividing quarter acre sections into smaller parcels of land.

Public Open Space

There is a shortage of public open space on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula for the planned population, particularly East of Stanmore Bay. However there are many tiny pockets of public land in each suburb which get little use and have potential to be turned into community gardens.

Sea Transport

Gulf Harbour has the potential to become a small port for the transport of goods, as well as a fishing port. It already is a ferry terminal and has a ship repair yard. Arkles Bay and Silverdale could become ferry terminals.

Waste Disposal

There is a small recycling depot at Whangaparaoa limited to bottles, aluminium and cardboard. There is no recycling depot at Orewa. Silverdale provides a standard waste disposal facility with very limited facilities for recycling.



Planning Process

Plan

A plan is required to cope with the consequences of peak oil and climate change.

The plan needs to:

- be inclusive of all elements of the community
 - make use of the local government planning framework
 - provide exemplar community projects
 - normalise preparations for the future as per Civil Defence
 - recognise that nothing will change until a crisis occurs.
-

Process of Planning

The transition to a post carbon community is complex and there are many aspects that cannot be anticipated or predicted. A set plan based on a sequence of events and times probably will not work and a process of continuous planning is indicated.

The following tag line is relevant

"Our strategy is to walk to the future finding the answers as we go along using our spontaneity and creativity. We do not have ready-made solutions."

Involvement in The Plan

We are all in this together and everyone must pull his or her weight for a successful transition to occur.

The planning for a world without cheap oil can start now even though the consumer society continues to burn fossil fuel freely. Rationing is probably the best solution to ensure the best use is made of the oil reserves in New Zealand, however there is no sign of this happening

Reducing greenhouse gases by saving at home on electricity, petrol and plastics is a waste of time if at the same time corporates are significantly increasing greenhouse gases by building motorways, airports and power stations that burn fossil fuels.



Planning Process, continued

Scope of Change

People will be shocked when they first realise that we are up the creek without a paddle in leaky gumboots.

Initially we will respond like stunned mullets when we realise the full consequences of peak oil and climate change.



Once the shock has receded people will tend to respond in one of the following three ways:

1. Encounter the challenge head on and throw ourselves fearlessly into the tasks of change
2. Procrastinate while they search for solutions that allow us to carry on business as usual.
3. Deny that there is any reason to change.

Encountering the challenge is necessary. Anything less is a waste of energy. We need to use every personal encounter to strengthen and build each other up to meet the challenge.

When the shock is experienced people need:

- time to be a stunned mullet before reacting
- time to reflect and take in what is actually happening
- encouragement to accept change in concert with others
- to develop a new consciousness (mental model)
- to form cooperative relationships
- to contribute to community
- to act autonomously as an individual
- to provide a lead to others

Summary

People will be shocked when they first realise that the ship is sinking.

What is then required is an orderly transition to the lifeboats and preparation for the voyage to the islands of the post carbon world. Some will deny the ship is sinking and insist on re-arranging the deck chairs or will return below decks in a hopeless attempt to control the damage.

Transition Tasks

Introduction This section of the planning framework contains a list of tasks to achieve a successful transition from the present world to a post carbon community.

The list of tasks have been identified taking into consideration the

- Global and local consequences of climate change and peak oil.
- The factors that enable communities achieve a self reliant and sustainable future.

Tasks	Description
Land Use	<p>Apply a holistic approach to achieve sustainable use of the land resource including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling carrying capacity • Restoring land, rivers waterways and streams • Establishing community farms, orchards and fisheries • Creating community solutions for processing of food
Water Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a sustainable water supply • Control storm water run-off to stop erosion and silting • Recycle storm and wastewater for community use.
Energy Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and maintain a renewable energy supply.
Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build sustainable community housing and adapt existing housing.
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a culture that enables community self-reliance and is inclusive of all demographic groups.
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a democratic system of local governance that enhances community independence, self-reliance, and sustainability. • This involves innovative delivery of health, social and educational services, and the reduction in the need for transportation.
Commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain biodiversity, common land, natural resources and fisheries to sustain ecological processes upon which all life depends.
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the local population at a sustainable level based on the carrying capacity of the local area.

Transition Tasks, continued

Tasks	Description
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a local neighbourhood watch unit against predation and crime. • Cooperate with other communities to establish and maintain a local prison, court, police, defence and emergency services. (fire, ambulance, rescue).
Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a local currency to enable trade and a steady state economy.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate with other communities to construct a sustainable transport system including public road, rail and sea transport. • Establish rail stations, bus stations, local waterfront and harbour facilities for trade and travel. Provide accommodations for travellers and build warehouses.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate with other communities to create community education facilities relevant to sustainable living and self-reliance.
Health	<p>Cooperate with other communities to create health services that focuses on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting primary health care needs • Treatment of injury • Controlling communicable diseases; • Protecting vulnerable groups; • Reducing health risks from environmental pollution • Clean water, adequate sanitation, and safe food.
Social Cohesion	<p>Build social cohesion so that people feel part of society; family and personal relationships are strong; differences among people are respected; and people feel safe and supported by others.</p>
Social Services	<p>Cooperate with other communities to create local social services to meet the needs of elderly, dependent, disabled, impoverished and young people.</p>

Transition Priorities

Introduction This section describes a **sequence** for achieving transition tasks under the headings of culture, society, governance, trade, finance and infrastructure.

It is suggesting that we lay the foundations of a new community by first establishing a new culture. Then social, governance, trade and finance infrastructure can be built on that foundation.

A New Culture We need a new culture that values being involved with others, accepting them and treating them with respect. **This is a matter of survival not etiquette.** The goodness of humanity needs to be reaffirmed. People need to renew their capacity for kindness, generosity, consideration, affection, honesty, hospitality, compassion and charity. Groups need to come together and cooperate in the sustainable use of scarce resources.

The following table illustrates the shift in values that will be required

From	To
Dominating the environment	Working with the environment
Emphasising compliance with rules	Emphasising relationships
Individual rights and responsibility	Emphasising the groups importance
Limited involvement with others	Total involvement with others
Competition	Consensus
Criticism and negating others	Dialogue and co-operation

A New Society Faith that "your people will take care of you" needs to be reaffirmed. The local social networks and social organisation comprising local businesses, local government, social services, associations, societies, clubs, institutions and community organisations need to be revitalised around a new purpose. The resilient self-sustaining community needs to become the primary organisation in society.



Transition Priorities, continued

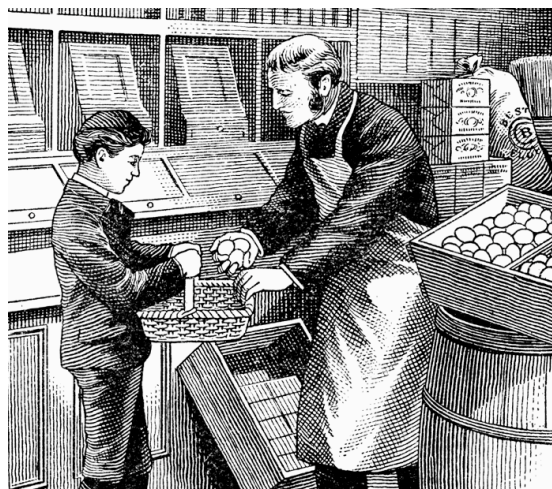
New Governance

Local self-government needs to become the legitimate and relevant form for managing land, resources, shelter, security, social services and trade.



New Trade

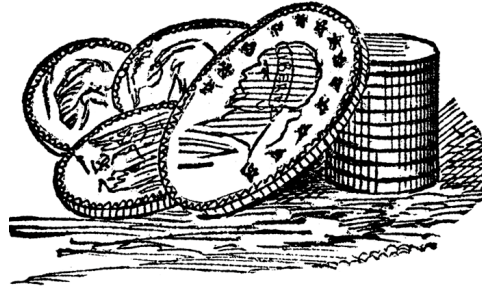
Local production, local distribution and local trade of goods and services need to become the primary focus of commerce.



Transition Priorities, continued

Finance

A local currency needs to be established to facilitate trade within and between communities, allow savings to be made, assets valued and a steady state economy to be maintained.



Infrastructure

The resilient and self-sustaining community needs a complementary infrastructure. Elements of the present centralised infrastructure will become either decentralised or will fall into disuse.

The following infrastructure will become decentralised -government, transport, education, health, security, defence, food production and distribution, trade, entertainment, sanitation,

The following infrastructure will fade away - airports, malls, large stadia and campus.

Role of the Individual

People will need to make the transition from being specialists to being generalists. New skills will need to be developed to

- Make and mend things
- Produce and preserve food
- Live a simple life.



Transition Priorities, continued

Inner Self

Some people will feel abandoned, lost and in crisis as those material things that gave them a sense of identity, purpose, belonging and status are no longer available to them. Clubs and associations that rely heavily on high conspicuous consumption and material success may also face crisis.

People will need to make the transition to a new sense of self that will give them personal resilience and sustain them without the material possessions that gave them status in the past.



Implementing the Plan

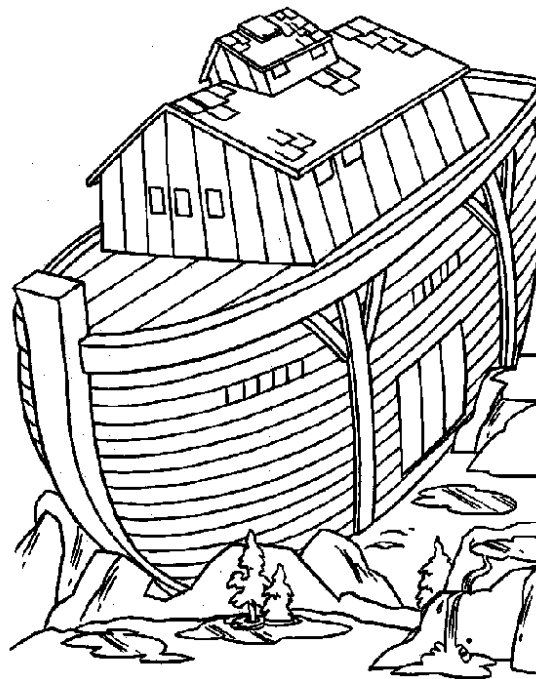
Getting Started The planning framework outlines the seriousness of the problems we face, provides a vision of the future, lists the tasks that need to be achieved and suggests priorities for creating a new community.

It is hoped that it will act as a catalyst to help groups get started collectively and individually to create a contingency plan for the whole of the community.

Re-treading existing groups This is a plan to make the transition to a resilient community through the existing governance, organisation and social structures rather than setting up alternative organizations.

It provides a crucible for the whole of the community to transform itself systemically using the established decision making processes.

The idea is to make use of the planning, risk management and service delivery processes used in government, business and community organizations. In New Zealand this is feasible - we are small country with small communities and inter agency cooperation and community consultation have become established norms in civic life.



Implementing the Plan, continued

Relevant Groups

The relevant groups for this planning framework are the organisations that represent and contribute to the community in a variety of ways

The range includes:

- Local government
- Government services - education, health, social welfare, security
- Local businesses
- Service organisations.
- Environmental Care Groups
- Community groups that help the aged, families and disadvantage
- Churches
- Groups that practice self sufficiency



Nature of the problem

When taking action on this plan it is worth considering the nature of the problem we face. We are planning for an emergency and the creation of a self-sufficient community that can survive in a world without cheap oil.



The situation is illustrated by the story of the Titanic hitting the iceberg and sinking. We need a plan that will help us make the transition from a secure, comfortable and enjoyable lifestyle to a lifeboat in open water equipped with a ration of food and water, a fishing line and a GPS.

Our standard and style of living and level of consumption will start to sink like the Titanic when world oil production starts to run down

Contingency plans that anticipate the oil shortages will be the lifeboats that help make the transition to a new society.

Implementing the Plan, continued

Getting Attention



Making a contingency plan is relatively straightforward but getting the involvement of the community is challenging. Attracting the attention of the community as a whole before the crisis occurs is unlikely.

Peak oil will only become a media story when fuel prices are so high that the cost of car travel is beyond the means of the average family.

In the meantime we need to be ready with a contingency plan.

Forming the plan

The consequences of peak oil and climate change are coming about in ways that we cannot predict both in terms of timing and severity. It would be a mistake to make a detailed plan that is set in concrete. A flexible planning process is necessary rather than a fixed plan.

World oil production, supply and prices and indicators of climate change need to be monitored constantly, impacts assessed and plans adjusted accordingly.

The following reports provide guidance on what to include in a contingency plan:

- **Climate Change and Energy Taskforce: Final Report: A Call for Action** Brisbane City Council 12 March 2007: Prepared by Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd
 - **Descending the Oil Peak: Navigating the Transition from Oil and Natural Gas:** Report of the City of Portland Peak Oil Task Force: March 2007
-

Implementing the Plan, continued

Exemplar Project

Until people become aware of Peak Oil there are things to get on with.

A network of permaculture community centres could be established on the Hibiscus Coast starting immediately and without any resistance.

Each centre would become the catalyst for the creation of a resilient and self-sustaining community.

Common cause could be established with the community in general without creating the resistance associated with the major change implied by the transition.



Implementing the Plan, continued

Exemplar Project

Ideally each permaculture centre will have:

- A community building with kitchen, toilets, meeting rooms.
- A community garden, orchard. Plant nursery, community compost
- Facilities for fowl and dairy animals
- Facilities for preserving and storing food
- Machinery garage and workshop
- A market place.

The purpose of each centre would be to

- Develop the practice of working as a community
- Provide training in gardening, husbandry and mechanics
- Provide a catalyst for local food production, distribution and trade
- Provide a catalyst for developing a resilient community.



Community Outcomes

Introduction

As stated earlier the Rodney District Council is reviewing the Community Outcomes contained in Vision Rodney in consultation with the community.

The Community Outcomes that currently guide council planning were created ten years ago and are based on the assumption of a constant supply of cheap oil and constant economic growth.

These outcomes are no longer viable and new outcomes are needed similar to the one described below.

New Community Outcome



A network of self governing, resilient and self sustaining communities are created and thriving. We know we have achieved this outcome when the following can be observed -

Community Outcomes

Culture

There is a commitment to be involved with others, accept them and treat them with respect. The goodness of humanity is reaffirmed. People have renewed their capacity for kindness, generosity, consideration, affection, honesty, hospitality, compassion and charity. Groups have come together and cooperate in the sustainable use of scarce resources.

The following table illustrates the shift in values that has been attained

From	To
Dominating the environment	Working with the environment
Emphasising compliance with rules	Emphasising relationships
Individual rights and responsibility	Emphasising the groups importance
Limited involvement with others	Total involvement with others
Competition	Consensus
Criticism and negating others	Dialogue and co-operation

Society

Faith that "your people will take care of you" is reaffirmed. The local social networks and social organisation comprising local businesses, local government, social services, associations, societies, clubs, institutions and community organisations are revitalised around a new purpose. The local community has become the primary organisation in society.

Governance

Self-government has become the legitimate and relevant form for managing land, resources, shelter, security, social services and trade

Trade

Local production, distribution and trade of goods and services have become the primary focus of commerce.

Finance

A local currency is established to facilitate trade within and between communities, allow savings to be made, assets valued and a steady state economy to be maintained

Infrastructure

The community is supported by an infrastructure relevant to its needs.

Governance, transport, education, health, security, food production and distribution, trade, entertainment, sanitation have decentralised to the community.

Epilogue

Final Thoughts NZ is one of the few countries in the world that can survive the coming oil crisis because it has the natural resources and a small population. However we cannot do anything about rapidly falling world supplies of fossil fuels and that will leave us with a very different lifestyle.

Political leaders are hoping that there are billions of barrels of oil just off the coast, ready for discovery and that there will be no crisis. Others are being more realistic and are preparing for the possibility that we are going to have to live like the Amish.

All energy comes from the sun, either directly or through the molten core of the earth. And there are numerous ways in New Zealand to capture and exploit its energy on a sustainable basis -- solar, wind, wave, tides, biomass, and geothermal. The technology to exploit most of these resources is available now.

The key to our future in our communities is having a plan to make the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy when the decline in oil production is upon us.

On the world stage life is going to be determined by the rate at which fossil fuels decline, increasing levels of greenhouse gases, and the depth and duration of the burgeoning financial crisis.

New Zealand is going to be hit directly by dropping oil imports and indirectly by a failing world economy. But so far there is no willingness to sacrifice economic growth and embark on a crash transition programmes. The planners and decision makers are hanging back hoping something will turn up and allow us to carry on in the style to which we have become accustomed.

The elephant in the room being ignored is population and the carrying capacity of the country in the future. Many countries will not be able to sustain their present and growing population in the future. How many refugees from the oil crisis, climate change, food shortages will we be able to accommodate before our own situation becomes unsustainable and for what numbers should we plan?

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