

What is a Transition Town?

A Transition Town is a community working together to look Peak Oil and Climate Change squarely in the eye and address 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 mitigate the effects of Climate Change)?"



It all starts off when a small collection of motivated individuals come together to form a Transition initiative, which takes their community through a comprehensive and creative process of:

- Awareness raising around peak oil, climate change and the need to undertake a community-led process to rebuild resilience and reduce carbon.
- Connecting with existing groups in the community.
- Building bridges to local government.
- Connecting with other Transition initiatives.
- Forming groups to look at all the key areas of life – water, food, energy, transport, health, heart & soul, economics & livelihoods, etc.
- Kicking off projects aimed at building people's understanding of resilience and carbon issues and community engagement.
- Eventually launching a community defined, community implemented "Energy Descent Action Plan" over a 15 to 20 year timescale.

This results in a coordinated range of projects across all these areas of life that strives to rebuild the resilience we've lost as a result of cheap oil and reduce the community's carbon emissions drastically. The community also recognises two crucial points:

- That we can adopt the creativity, ingenuity and adaptability we used on the way up the energy slope to bring ourselves down the energy slope to a point of sustainability.
- If we collectively act early enough there is the likelihood that we can create a way of living that's significantly more connected, more vibrant and more in touch with our environment than the oil-addicted treadmill that we find ourselves on today.

Just in case you were under the impression that Transition is a process defined by people who have all the answers, you need to be aware that we truly don't know whether this will work. Transition is a social experiment on a massive scale. We are convinced however that:

- If we wait for the governments, it'll be too little, too late.
- If we act as individuals, it'll be too little.
- But if we act as communities, it might just be enough, just in time.

You will find much more on the Transition Towns WIKI: www.transitiontowns.org.