



Gerri Williams facilitates a Brookland Sustainable Transition Network meeting.
 Photo Shannon Brescher Shea

12 Steps to Transition

Set up steering group to attain Steps 2-5.

Once minimum of 4 sub-groups formed, steering group reforms with one member from each sub-group.

Awareness raising.

Identify allies, build crucial networks and prepare community for launch of Transition initiative.

Lay foundations.

Network with existing groups and activists, making clear that Transition Initiative is designed to incorporate their previous efforts and future inputs by looking at the future in a new way.

Organize Great Unleashing.

Create a memorable milestone to mark project's coming-of-age, move it into the larger community, build momentum to propel initiative forward and celebrate community's power to affect change.

Form working groups.

Integral to developing an Energy Descent Action Plan is tapping into the genius of the community. These groups each focusing on specific issues under the umbrella of the project may address food, waste, energy, education, youth, economics, transport, water, local government.

Use Open Space.

Open Space Technology is a highly effective approach to running meetings for Transition Initiative. A large number of people come together to explore a particular issue with no agenda, no timetable, no obvious coordinator and no minute takers. By the end of the meeting everyone has said what they needed to, extensive notes have been taken.

Develop visible practical manifestation of the project.

You need to create practical high visibility manifestations in your community. These will significantly enhance people's perceptions of the project and their willingness to participate.

Facilitate the Great Reskilling.

To respond to Peak Oil and Climate Change by powering down and relocalizing our communities, we'll need many of the life skills our grandparents took for granted. Some skills we may regain are cooking, bicycle maintenance, natural building, weaving, bee-keeping, brewing, canning, hand-laundering, etc.

Build a Bridge to Local Government.

No matter how well-conceived your plans, you will not progress very far without the cooperation of your authorities. It is best to have them on board at the outset. When regulations and legislature need to be introduced or amended they will already be on your side.

Honor the elders.

It's hard to imagine a life with less oil and the energy we've come to take for granted. Those born before 1950 know what it was like and we can learn much from them.

Let it go where it wants.

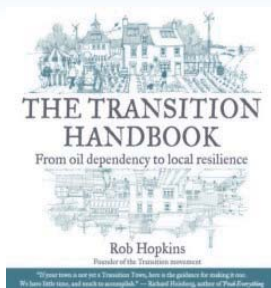
Holding to a rigid vision will sap your energy and end up frustrating you. Your role is not to come up with all the answers but to act as a catalyst for the community to design their own transition. The collective genius and wisdom of the community will enable a feasible, practical and highly inventive solution to emerge.

Create an Energy Descent Action Plan.

Combine the efforts of the working group to form the basis of the EDAP, building on current and potential community resources, establishing a timeline that relies on community resilience indicators.

... a lower-energy, more localized future, in which we move from being consumers to being producer/consumers, where food, energy and other essentials are locally produced, local economies are strengthened and we have learned to live more within our means is a step towards something extraordinary, not a step away from something inherently irreplaceable.

~ Rob Hopkins



The Transition movement arose out of a permaculture course taught by Rob Hopkins in Kinsale, Ireland. It has spread virally throughout the world as the perfect storm of climate change, peak oil and economic collapse makes an impact on daily life.

The Transition process acts as a catalyst, drawing on the collective genius and enthusiasm of the community and harnessing the untapped power of engaged optimism to devise specifically local solutions.

Rather than a return to an idealized pre-industrial existence, or projecting scenarios of certain doom, Transition communities prepare for a post-carbon future utilizing appropriate technology, renewable energy and emphasis on supportive human relationships.

TransitionDC is working towards building a broad-based initiative to create and implement an **Energy Descent Action Plan** for the District of Columbia.

Being at the natural center of the Greater Washington Metropolitan area and the Mid-Atlantic Region, we encourage and invite regional partnerships and cooperation to bring to Transition to these areas.



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The future with less oil could be preferable to the present, if we are able to engage with enough imagination and creativity sufficiently in advance of the peak ... Emerging at the other end, we will not be the same as we were; we will have become more humble, more connected to the natural world, fitter, leaner, more skilled and, ultimately, wiser.

~ Rob Hopkins

<http://www.transitiontowns.org>
<http://www.transitionus.org>
<http://transitionus.ning.com>
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<http://ecocity.ning.com>



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COMBINING HEAD, HEART AND HANDS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF ENERGY DESCENT AND BUILD LOCAL RESILIENCE



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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA & GREATER WASHINGTON

Those who are involved in Transition Initiatives are part of one of the biggest and most important research projects underway anywhere in the world. You are catalyzing those around you to ask the questions that government still finds it very hard to ask, but that are essential to our collective survival. You are acknowledging that it is with us that real change begins, and that it is up to us whether we accept this responsibility or shy away from it.

~ Rob Hopkins

BE PART OF THE CHANGE.