

Who we are and what we do

Rob Hopkins and Peter Lipman

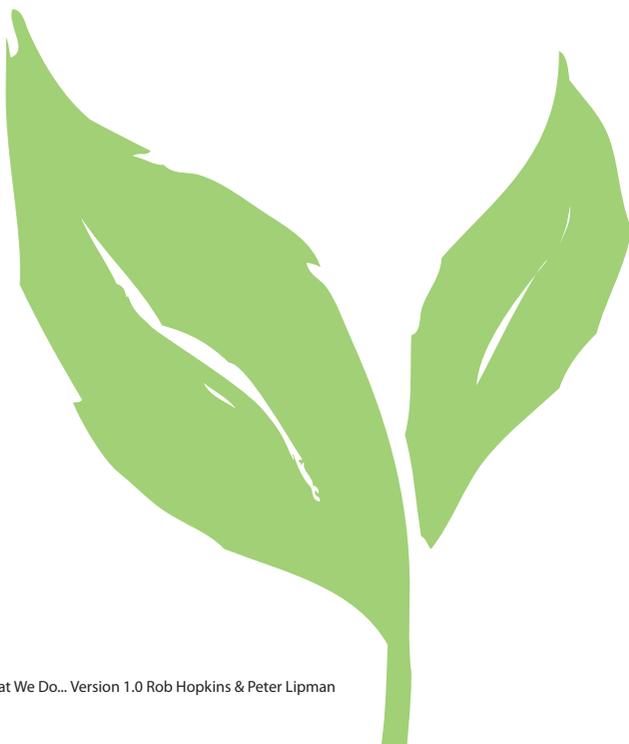
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Introduction

Peak oil and climate change have rapidly moved up in people's awareness in recent years, but often, particularly in relation to peak oil, solutions tend to be thin on the ground. Since its initial emergence in Kinsale in 2005, the Transition idea¹ has spread virally across the UK and increasingly further afield, serving as a catalyst for community-led responses to these twin challenges. As the Transition network has grown, questions have been raised regarding how this emerging movement might structure itself, which this document is the first formal attempt at answering. We have already been seeing a structure emerging organically over the last two years and what we propose in this document is based on a deepening and a supporting of this emergent model, on the principle that self-organisation, innovation and action are to be encouraged and supported where they arise, supported by a distinct set of principles and clear guidelines.

“All living systems are networks of smaller components, and the web of life as a whole is a multi-layered structure of living systems nestling within other living systems – networks within networks”.

Fritjof Capra “The Web of Life”.

This document has arisen from a process of extensive consultation across the Transition network, including face-to-face meetings, the use of on-line tools and fora. It will remain work in progress and be reviewed on an ongoing basis.



¹ For a more detailed exposition of the Transition concept, see either 'The Transition Handbook: from oil dependency to local resilience' by Rob Hopkins (Green Books 2008), or The Transition Primer, available at www.transitionnetwork.org.

List of Transition Initiatives at Time of Publication (February 2009)

England

Totnes
Penwith
Ivybridge
Falmouth
Moretonhampstead
Lewes
Stroud
Ashburton
Ottery St. Mary
Bristol
Brixton
Forest Row
Mayfield
Glastonbury
Lostwithiel
Forest of Dean
Nottingham
Wrington
Brighton & Hove
Market Harborough
West Kirby
Whitstable
Marsden & Slaithwaite
Frome
Brampton
Isle of Wight
Seaton
Bath
Exeter
Isle of Man
Canterbury
Wolverton
Leicester
Westcliff-on-Sea
Isles of Scilly
Liverpool South
Norwich
Tring

Crediton
South Petherton
Chichester
Berkhamsted
Coventry
Bungay
Mersea Island
Maidenhead
Ladock & Grampound
Road
Leek
Horsham
Exmouth
Buxton
Tynedale
Dorchester
New Forest
Stafford
Chester
Cambridge
Hereford
Buxton
Kingston-upon-Thames
Taunton
Langport
Sidmouth
York
Louth
Ely
Sampford Peverell
Tunbridge Wells
Hastings
Newton Abbot
Belsize, London
High Wycombe
Lancaster
Bassingbourn
Leamington Spa
Sevenoaks

Chesterfield
Sheffield

Ireland

Kinsale
Kildare
Kilkenny

Northern Ireland

Holywood

Wales

Llandeilo
Bro Ddyfi
Rhayader
Presteigne
Lampeter
Chepstow
Monmouth

Scotland

Portobello, Scotland
Dunbar, Scotland
Carbon Neutral Biggar,
a Transition Town
North Howe
Forres
Arran & Holy Isle



Australia

Sunshine Coast
Armidale, NSW
Bell, VIC
Bellingen, NSW
Newcastle, NSW
Hervey Bay, QLD
Eudlo, QLD
Sydney, NSW
Katoomba, NSW
Wingecarribee, NSW
Kenmore, QLD

Canada

Peterborough, ON

Chile

El Manzano

Germany

Berlin, Friedrichshain
Kreuzberg

Italy

Monteveglia

Japan

Fujino

Netherlands

Deventer

New Zealand

Waiheke Island
Orewa
Kapiti District
Opotiki Coast
Nelson
Whanganui
Brooklyn

USA

Boulder, CO
Sandpoint, ID
Ketchum, ID
Lyons, CO
Santa Cruz, CA
Montpelier, VT
Portland, ME
Sebastopol, CA



A Definition of Terms

Terms that perhaps need a brief introduction at this point include;

“Transition network” (small n) refers to the broad international community of individuals and groups basing their work on the Transition model (has sometimes been referred to as “the Transition Movement”).

“Transition Network Ltd” refers to the legally constituted body currently called Transition Network.

“Transition Support Scotland” (etc) refers to national Transition fora, usually driven by and arising from a national network of Transition initiatives feeling their work would be better served by having a national network.

‘Resilience’ has been defined as “the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganise while undergoing change, so as to still retain essentially the same function, structure, identity and feedbacks”². In Transition, the concept is applied to settlements and their need to be able to withstand shock.

‘Transition Primer’. The free online pdf. which acts as the guide for groups starting the Transition process. Available at www.transitionnetwork.org/Primer/TransitionInitiativesPrimer.pdf

‘Carbon cutting’ refers to endeavours which lead to reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases.

‘Energy Descent Plan’ or EDP refers to one of the main projects that a Transition initiative sets out to achieve, the creation of a 20 year ‘Plan B’ for their community, looking at how it might transition away from its current oil dependency, and towards a low carbon, resilient way of working.



The first pool of trained Transition Trainers in the US. January 2009

²Walker, B, Hollinger, C.S, Carpenter, S.R. & Kinzig, A. (2004) Resilience, Adaptability and Transformability in Social-ecological systems”. Ecology and Society 9 (2) p5.

3. The Purpose and Principles of Transition

We begin this document with a redefining and a clarification of both the Transition movement's Purpose and its Principles. These set out the common motivations for the entire Network.

The Purpose of Transition

“To support community-led responses to peak oil and climate change, building resilience and happiness”.

The 7 Principles of Transition

1. Positive Visioning

- Transition Initiatives are based on a dedication to the creation of tangible, clearly expressed and practical visions of the community in question beyond its present-day dependence on fossil fuels. Our primary focus is not campaigning *against* things, but rather on positive, empowering possibilities and opportunities. The generation of new stories and myths are central to this visioning work.

empowered rather than powerless.

- Transition initiatives focus on telling people the closest version of the truth that we know in times when the information available is deeply contradictory.
- The messages are non-directive, respecting each person's ability to make a response that is appropriate to their situation.

2. Help People Access Good Information and Trust Them to Make Good Decisions

- Transition initiatives dedicate themselves, through all aspects of their work, to raising awareness of peak oil and climate change and related issues such as critiquing economic growth. In doing so they recognise the responsibility to present this information in ways which are playful, articulate, accessible and engaging, and which enable people to feel enthused and

“Power is shifting from institutions that have always been run top-down, hoarding information at the top, telling us how to run our lives, to a new paradigm of power that is democratically distributed and shared by us all”.

Trippi, J. (2004) The Revolution Will Not Be Televised. Harper Collins.

3. Inclusion and Openness

- Successful Transition Initiatives need an unprecedented coming together of the broad diversity of society. They dedicate themselves to ensuring that their decision-making processes and their working groups embody principles of openness and inclusion.
- This principle also refers to the principle of each initiative reaching the community in its entirety, and endeavouring, from an early stage, to engage their local business community, the diversity of community groups and local authorities. It makes explicit the principle that there is, in the challenge of energy descent, no room for ‘them and us’ thinking.

4. Enable Sharing and Networking

- Transition Initiatives dedicate themselves to sharing their successes, failures, insights and connections at the various scales across the Transition network, so as to more widely build up a collective body of experience.

5. Build Resilience

- This stresses the fundamental importance of building resilience, that is, the capacity of our businesses, communities and settlements to deal as well as possible with shock. Transition initiatives commit to building resilience across a wide range of areas (food, economics, energy etc) and also on a range of scales

(from the local to the national) as seems appropriate – and to setting them within an overall context of the need to do all we can to ensure general environmental resilience.

6. Inner and Outer Transition

- The challenges we face are not just caused by a mistake in our technologies but as a direct result of our world view and belief system. The impact of the information about the state of our planet can generate fear and grief – which may underlie the state of denial that many people are caught in. Psychological models can help us understand what is really happening and avoid unconscious processes sabotaging change, for example, addictions models and models for behavioural change. This principle also honours the fact that Transition thrives because it enables and supports people to do what they are passionate about, what they feel called to do.

7. Subsidiarity: self-organisation and decision making at the appropriate level

- This final principle enshrines the idea that the intention of the Transition model is not to centralise or control decision making, but rather to work with everyone so that it is practiced at the most appropriate, practical and empowering level, and in such a way that it models the ability of natural systems to self organise.

4. Identifying the Dazzling Array of Transition Initiatives

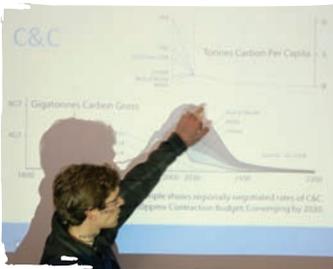
Since the emergence of Totnes as the first Transition Initiative in 2006, the concept has been popping up at a wide range of scales. Trying to divide Transition Initiatives into neat bands of groups and categories is somewhat akin to trying to nail jelly to a wall. We celebrate this spontaneity and diversity and don't intend to be prescriptive, but rather we are happy to advise and support emerging groups as to the most effective scales on which to operate.

We are seeing a combination of scales which includes some of the following, local Transition initiatives, regional Transition networks, regional 'hubs', national Transition support organisations/networks, temporary groupings of local initiatives to carry out particular projects, as well as other manifestations.

In addition to the 7 general Principles outlined above, there are 6 practical guidelines which we ask initiatives on whichever scale to observe.

“As innovation becomes more central to the way we make our livings and how we tackle pressing challenges we face – from global warming to health pandemics – our well-being will depend more and more on what we share with others and create together”

Leadbeater, C. (2008) We-Think: mass innovation, not mass production. Profile Books.



6 Practical Guidelines for Transition Initiatives

1. An agreement with the core Purpose and Principles set out above:

this includes an assumption that the group will contribute to the ongoing development and updating of these principles.

2. Life is Easier if we don't Reinvent the Wheel:

there are now hundreds of initiatives out there who have developed constitutions, projects, websites, structures. Look around, don't be afraid to ask, groups are generally delighted to share what they have learnt; learn from their mistakes rather than your own! Transition Training is extremely helpful for this, as is ensuring that your initiative contains, at the earliest possible opportunity, some people who have long been embedded in the local community.

3. Start with a Initiating Group That Designs Its Demise:

the initiating group exists to navigate the first few steps of the process, but always with an intention of dissolving itself as the project evolves (with the caveat that early experience indicates that this guideline may be more appropriate at the local level than the larger scales).

4. Interdependence: Transition initiatives are far stronger where they work supportively with the initiatives around them.

Communication is key, as is supporting newer emerging

initiatives around them, inspiring and encouraging them where possible.

5. Openness to Feedback and Learning:

Implicit within an acceptance of these principles is an openness to feedback from others also working in this field. This would generally be feedback which questions whether we are starting to run our Transition initiatives in such a way as to no longer embodies these principles. This kind of feedback is most effective when it emerges from our peers, but an openness to being challenged is vital, as feedback can be highly affirming and can generate confidence.

6. Start in Your Own Back Yard:

Local Transition Initiatives will identify for themselves the scales that feel most appropriate for them to work at, but this principle encourages them to work at the scale that feels comfortable and over which they can have an influence, rather than leaping straight in to regional scale work. Don't bite off more than you can chew. It is also vital that anyone who takes an active role in a Transition project on any scale larger than the local is themselves active within a local initiative, so as to maintain a solid connection to the challenges and practicalities of Transition work.

National Transition Organisations

The only scale we feel needs more than the Guidelines outlined above is the National scale initiatives starting to emerge in the US, New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Japan and other places. The need is arising in countries for functioning replicas of Transition Network Ltd to provide its 5 functions in a way embedded in the language, culture and context of the host nation and/or culture, and also to provide a strategic national overview. The

idea is that the handover is gradual, taking place over 4 stages, starting with inspiring, supporting and encouraging, then moving on to training, and finally taking on the networking functions as well as the development of adapted principles and offering support to newly emergent initiatives. They would also act as ambassadors for the Transition movement at Governmental and organisational levels³.



Sonya Wallace and Janet Millington unveil the Sunshine Coast Energy Descent Action Plan, the country's first

³ This approach is set out in the Transition Network document 'A Memorandum of Understanding for National Transition organisations, available at www.transitionnetwork.org

5. Becoming a Transition Initiative

Transition initiatives on all scales other than national ones go through a succession of stages, as follows.

The Initial Stage: typically, a group of people start to meet each other, start to discuss the Transition concept, and begin the process of enthusing each other to initiate the process

The 'Mulling' Stage: Currently here contact is made with the Transition Network Ltd, the individuals or group enter themselves into the Googlemap of Transition initiatives, download the Transition Primer, and let the Transition Network Ltd know of their 'mulling' status (although in time this will devolve to regional/national Transition networks).

Formal Transition Initiative: the 'mulling' stage can last for a few weeks or for many months, depending on the group. In order to proceed to formal status, the group completes a declaration of intention, which lists the guidelines and asks for information about the initiative, as well as checking that the initiative is in the best possible position to proceed successfully⁴. Many initiatives have told us that they cherish their

formal status, and are very proud of having reached that point.

At the moment, applications for formal status are managed by Transition Network Ltd., but in time, the idea is that this function will most naturally be fulfilled by emerging national groups/networks, and also by regional initiatives. Some people in the Transition movement have suggested that new initiatives should self-assess – or that there shouldn't be any criteria at all. Others strongly disagree with both these suggestions. On balance, and based on the feedback we have received from across the network, we feel that having clear guidelines which are assessed by supportive third parties creates a positive, meaningful process, but fully agree that they must remain open to debate and to ongoing review.

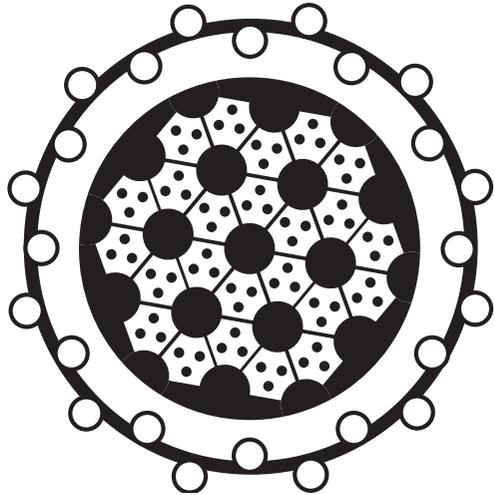
⁴ These can be found in the Transition Primer at www.transitionnetwork.org/Primer/TransitionInitiativesPrimer.pdf

6. What Does the Transition Network Ltd Look Like?

We have found the image on the right as a useful way of visualising the Transition Network Ltd. It is based on a cell, a biological system, which feels in keeping with the organic emergence of this structure. Although a cell is not a perfect metaphor, in many ways it is very useful for explaining how the Transition Network Ltd functions.

Various scales of initiatives emerge organically like spores in a petri dish at scales that feel most appropriate to them, guided by the Purpose and Principles of Transition, then network together in ways that feel most useful, creating the networks between each other they feel to be most productive. These are represented by the **circles of varying sizes within the main circle, larger ones** representing regional initiatives, and the **smaller circles** individual local initiatives.

Transition Network Ltd, in this context, becomes **the white encircling ring** surrounding the individual initiatives. It functions, in some ways, like a cell membrane, enshrining the Purpose and Principles common to the wider Transition Movement, and acts as a catalyst which keeps the circle expanding as the number of initiatives it contains grows. In biology, a cell membrane



is created by the nucleus and the other contents of the cell, but it also defines the identity of the whole and grows with the cell. The role of the Transition Network Ltd then becomes to continue this catalysing function, to continually review and, collaboratively, refine what Transition means, as well as enabling the maximum amount of networking.

This means facilitating smooth and efficient networking between the various levels of hubs and initiatives, as well as between different interest groups, i.e. enabling the various food groups to communicate, swap good practice and organise national events, as well as the energy

groups, economics groups and so on. It would also enable networking by geographical areas, by cultures and by population size of project. The communication thus enabled would be deep, diverse and self-perpetuating.

The **outer ring** in this diagram represents two additional aspects of the work of Transition Network Ltd, its development of creative 'edge' with other groups and areas of interest. The circles around the outer ring represent the strong set of partnerships that continue to be developed. This includes key organisations (currently in the UK only, but we think that that will

change) such as the Soil Association, NEF, Centre for Alternative Technology, key funders and so on. The **circles within that ring** represent the emerging new strands to Transition, Transition Business/Local Government etc. The role of Transition Network Ltd is to develop initiatives and projects with the partner groups, and also to network the emerging strands together with the relevant other networks. As time passes, those will grow, perhaps ending up as large as or larger than the current Transition communities circle.



“...the key characteristic of a living network is that it continually produces itself. The being and doing of [living systems] are inseparable, and this is their specific mode of organisation. Autopoiesis, or 'self-making', is a network patterns in which the function of each component is to participate in the production or transformation of other components in the network. In this way, the network continually makes itself. It is produced by its components and in turn produces those components”

Fritjof Capra “The Web of Life”

7. How Transition Network Ltd supports these initiatives

Transition Network Ltd. was established in late 2006 with its stated intention being to;

Inspire • Encourage • Support • Enable Networking • Train

What follows is an outline of some of the projects and developments that Transition Network Ltd. will be undertaking over the next three years in order to carry out this intention. It will continue doing this, always bearing in mind the desirability, where possible, of projects and functions being owned by the most appropriate people/groups and at as local a level as possible;

Training

- Continuing to develop and deepen Transition Training, increasing the quantity and ensuring the quality of Transition Training workshops (the full menu of trainings that have been developed) across the country, training core teams of Transition trainers in other parts of the world, and providing ongoing support to those trainers already qualified to deliver the training

Communication

- Radically improving our delivery of our “enabling sharing and networking” by, for example, setting up a much improved web platform

Media

- Producing ‘The (First) Transition Movie’, a film about the Transition concept, developed as a collaborative process
- Supporting the emergence of a monthly , e-bulletin, ‘Transition Network News’, which has now

begun online but which has potential to evolve into a regular publication. This will be complemented by a blog on the new website where individual initiatives are invited to post their successes and failures, events and news

- Supporting the production of a series of books on different aspects of Transition, i.e. food, energy and so on... The Transition Guides to Food and Money are already in development
- Hosting, moderating and editing the collaborative rewrite of ‘The Transition Handbook’ using a wiki approach, with the original book serving as the basis for a gathering of tools, stories, experience and insight from across the Transition

Tools

- Tools to facilitate the writing of Energy Descent Plans, up-to-date presentations and examples of best practice, as well as a forum for people to post their own

resources, be it links, papers, short films or their own powerpoints, which they think others will find useful

- Producing clearer 'maps' of how Transition Initiatives might evolve over time, how to assemble the 12 Steps and how a variety of Initiatives have designed different ways through them, drawn from the experience of various initiatives
- Setting up an online registry of Transition speakers

Consulting

- Setting up Transition Consulting to offer Transition advice to businesses, including Oil Vulnerability Auditing and analysis of the resilience of the business, as well as practical measures that can be taken.

Research

- Supporting and enabling action research and evaluation at a national/international level – partnering with universities where appropriate

Events

- Organising (in the UK) bi-annual national Convergences alternating with regional Transition Convergences.
- Supporting new emerging areas of Transition by designing specific events, i.e. Transition in Cities conference (November '08)

Providing Support

- Supporting national and regional transition organizations as set out in the principles above

Ongoing

- Thinking strategically about the emerging context in which Transition Initiatives grow and develop – and when needed revising our practices and this document as a consequence.

In essence, Transition Network Ltd's core function will be to continue to be a catalyst for the Transition model.

The Board of Transition Network Ltd (as at February 2009)

***Peter Lipman (Sustrans, Chair),
Brian Goodwin (Schumacher College),
Ben Brangwyn (Transition Network),
William Lana (Greenfibres),
Julie Richardson (Dartington / Landscape),
Pamela Gray (Transition US),
Rob Hopkins (Transition Network).***



8. Membership and Issues of Voting

One issue which remains under review is that of membership of Transition Network Ltd. At present, the Board of Trustees is self-appointed, and there is no formal mechanism to enable those in Transition Initiatives to vote for or remove Trustees. We have, for now, consciously avoided having a formal, fee-paying membership, due to the amount of administrative work it would create for the Network. Instead, we

consider anyone active within Transition to be an informal member of this movement. The Trustees of Transition Network Ltd continue to seek new input for the Transition Network Ltd board which brings fresh perspectives and a opinions not yet represented there, and will continue with the current situation for a year, keeping it under review, although it will be discussed again at the 2009 Transition conference.



The Unleashing of Transition Town Brixton



A group 'mapping' activity at the 2008 Transition Network conference



The 'Transition Timeline', one of the tools developed as part of the creation of the Totnes and District Energy Descent Plan



A Seedy Sunday seed swap event, Totnes, Devon

9. A Snapshot of the Transition Movement in 2011

What might the Transition movement look like in three years time? We present this fictional look into the future to inspire and provoke debate.

Overall, community responses to peak oil and climate change have begun to take shape in many hundreds of communities across the UK and also the rest of the world. The rising prices of food, fuel and the economic contraction that began in 2008 due, in part, to high oil prices, have been met by people working creatively together to make their money go further, to strengthen their local economies and to build resilience.

"Once you have glimpsed the world as it might be, as it ought to be, as it's going to be (however that vision appears to you), it is impossible to live compliant and complacent anymore in the world as it is."

Victoria Safford

1. Local initiatives

There are now many hundreds of local Transition initiatives, with more forming all the time, many of the early ones now well advanced in producing Energy Descent Plans. Transition has begun to make a lot of difference to people's lives, especially those active in it.

- **Social:** It provides a rich social life, with frequent social events big and small: shared meals, parties, meetings. Typically after a shared meal there might be swapping and trading, or a lecture, film or discussion to govern the Initiative, often followed by music and dancing. People know each other better, and work closely together in many ways.

- **Food:** People source a lot more of their food from local producers, often organic. They increasingly share produce grown in their gardens and allotments and some new community gardens. They have well-organised deliveries from local farms and farmers' markets. There are a growing number of newly-established Community Supported Agriculture schemes, and peri-urban market gardens. A few are experimenting with pig and chicken clubs, and community bakeries are starting to mill local flour. Some people are cooking prepared meals for time-pressed neighbours. Many people are learning to cook and garden for the first time, with Transition groups offering training and reskilling in both.
- **Transport:** Fuel for personal car use has become much more expensive than 3 years ago, so Transition groups' Transport theme groups have organised ride share schemes, collection and delivery systems for children, shoppers and

social events. Living without a car is now possible in a way that it wasn't 3 years previously. Car share schemes mean that people have access to borrowed or hired larger vehicles when they need them. There is a lot more cycling among the fit and healthy, and the high price of fuel has meant that many businesses now encourage people to work from home where possible.

- **Household Energy:** Transition initiatives have, with funding from their local authorities, initiated 'insulation clubs', where people have learned the best ways of reducing household heating needs and help each other do it. Numerous tricks and tips to use less energy have become popular. A growing number of Transition initiatives have now set up Energy Services Companies (ESCOs), owned by the community, to provide locally generated electricity through community-owned wind, solar, hydro and biomass schemes.
- **Re-use, recycling, repair:** Many local schemes have been started to extend the life of clothes, repair goods and appliances, creating some part-time employment. Workshops in making do and repairing are commonplace, often inviting older people to share their undervalued skills with younger generations. Much of the local food is distributed in re-usable containers. Transition initiatives are facilitating the bulk-buying of goods designed for durability and

which can be repaired when needed.

- **Local economy:** People have begun to do a lot of organised trading and exchange with each other, sometimes for money, sometimes for local currency, but very often as favours. They give and receive goods that they no longer want, help each other with childcare, rides, deliveries, and many other services. Groups of young people offer 'technical support' on anything from computers to DVDs. This enables people's money to go much further, and provides some income for those without jobs. They have identified the like-minded local independent businesses and tradespeople whom they preferentially patronise, and give them ratings and recommendations on their websites.
- **Other aspects of community:** People are learning that grassroots self-organisation takes a certain amount of effort and are beginning to learn how to do it well. Some people volunteer to look after aspects of the whole of the local transition initiative. There are groups set up to handle conflicts between people, to provide emotional support and counselling when needed, but also to co-ordinate the initiative: to help keep the theme groups in touch with each other and working synergistically, to plan for the future, and to systematically consult on policy decisions.

2. Regional hubs

A variety of forms of regional hub have emerged from a strong network of local initiatives who have decided that such a Hub would aid their work. Some link initiatives in a town or city, others in a rural area or bioregion. These are formed out of members of local initiatives who offer to work at the regional level. There is now an annual Transition cities convergence, where best practice is shared and several similar meetings for more rural hubs. Cities have begun to develop their own version of the Transition model.

- **Supporting new initiatives:** The regional hubs have become the first point of contact for those in that area, offering support and mentoring for new initiatives. They have taken over much responsibility for the process of becoming a formal Transition Initiative.
- **Supporting existing initiatives:** The regional hubs organise links between the various food groups, transport groups, and other theme groups to help them work synergistically. They share best practice to help the local initiatives avoid problems and correct mistakes. They have begun to take on much of the training aspects, not just for new initiatives, but in reskilling, conflict resolution, organisation and other areas where local initiatives are too small to provide it effectively.

- **Government links:** Transition hubs are increasingly working with local government on their local sustainability plans, and have received funding from them for a range of research projects as well as practical initiatives.
- **Business links:** Many Transition groups are actively working with local independent businesses, offering consultancy and a range of services, including oil vulnerability auditing and energy efficiency advice, as well as exploring how they can become more resilient and locally embedded in increasingly uncertain times. Many of these businesses have become financial sponsors of the local initiatives and regional hubs.

3. National Support Networks

There are now support networks at the national level in the UK: Transition Support Scotland, Transition Ireland Network, Transition Support Wales and Transition England, and a growing number of national support networks in other countries around the world, with strong networks in the USA and New Zealand leading the way.

- **Infrastructure:** With much of the day-to-day support for local initiatives now devolved to the regional hubs, the national networks concentrate more on providing infrastructure and co-ordination. They are supporting ongoing development of communications systems that are available for use by local initiatives



“Humans are capable of a unique trick, creating realities by first imagining them, by experiencing them in their minds. ...As soon as we sense the possibility of a more desirable world, we begin behaving differently, as though that world is starting to come into existence, as though, in our mind’s eye, we are already there. The dream becomes an invisible force which pulls us forward. By this process it begins to come true. The act of imagining somehow makes it real... And what is possible in art becomes thinkable in life”.

Brian Eno

and regional hubs. A great variety of different systems have developed, but with common standards so that they can share resources and hold discussions across them.

- **Training and education:** The national support networks now develop much of the materials used for the training done by the regional hubs. They have developed strong links with universities some of whom are applying transition concepts to themselves, some of whom are running courses in transition issues, adding a practical dimension to their previously purely academic courses, and several who are doing basic research to support and strengthen the transition model. Transition Training has begun to receive support and funding from various national skills and training programmes.
- **Transition Business:** The national networks have begun to develop a strong economic function. They work with each other and outside organisations to identify products and companies that have strong environmental and community credentials. Feeding this information through the network creates a good captive market for such businesses to serve. The networks themselves have developed a range of consultancy services based on the expertise of the regional and local networks, that provides income while effecting constructive change.

4. Transition Movement Worldwide

Transition Network Ltd still remains, performing a co-ordinating role for the national networks, helping them to work synergistically, avoid errors that each other have made, and supporting planning and overall policy. A multi-level structure has emerged naturally – local, regional, national, global – but without any top-down control. Transition concepts of building a positive future are increasingly common in everyday conversation, TV and other media, in response to the increasingly unavoidable reality of the end of cheap energy and economic growth. The shift away from business as usual, or from shocked/doomladen responses to the need to downsize and relocalise is well underway.



10. Thank you

This document is very much work in progress and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. We welcome your thoughts and comments on it, and hope that you have found it as much fun to read as we have found the process of creating it. We hope that what we have set out here is a model for a dynamic and powerful movement, one based on that which has been emerging naturally since the Transition concept first emerged. We are deeply grateful to the many hundreds of people across the Transition network who have contributed to the various stages in its creation.

If you would like to comment or offer any feedback, please contact info@transitionnetwork.org or write to our office at 43, Fore Street, Totnes, Devon. TQ9 5HN.

For more information see;
www.transitionnetwork.org
www.transitionculture.org

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