

WHAT ARE TRANSITION INITIATIVES?

Transition Initiatives are a way of strengthening local communities against the effects of **climate change** and **peak oil**. Climate change is well-documented and visible in the media but there is much less awareness of peak oil. Briefly, peak oil represents the inevitable decline in easily available and cheap oil. But our current lifestyles absolutely depend on cheap oil! We are fed, clothed and warmed by food, goods and fuel transported hundreds and thousands of miles. Therefore, the end of cheap oil will have a severe impact on all our lives.

a few of the things in our homes made from oil
aspirin, sticky tape, trainer shoes, glue, paints, carpets, shoe polish, DVDs, contact lenses, electric sockets, hair gel, lipstick, laptops, electric sockets

crazy trading

In 2004 the UK imported 17.2 million kilos of chocolate-covered wafers and exported 17.6 million kilos; we imported 10.2 million kilos of milk and cream by weight from France and exported 9.9 million.

Andrew Simms et al, 2006 "The Interdependence Report" New Economics Foundation

The first Transition Initiative was 'unleashed' in Totnes in 2006. Since then the concept has quickly spread, with over 150 'official' initiatives around the world and many more just starting off. Finsbury Park was formed in November 2008 and at roughly the same time the Highbury, Stoke Newington, Hackney and Crouch End groups were started.

Here in Finsbury Park we intend to find ways of living that are not based on cheap and polluting oil but on localised food, sustainable energy sources, resilient local economies and an enlivened sense of community. We believe this will result in a better quality of life; one that is more fulfilling, abundant, socially connected and resilient. Although it will be a challenge to come up with city-based solutions, there is plenty of inspiration from existing projects, in Hackney, Haringey and Islington.



for more information

Transition Initiatives: <http://transitiontowns.org/>
Peak Oil: www.energybulletin.net
Climate Change: www.realclimate.org

WHAT CAN WE DO IN FINSBURY PARK?

We don't claim to have all the answers, but we believe that if we tap into the local supply of knowledge, skills, ingenuity and determination the right solutions will emerge.

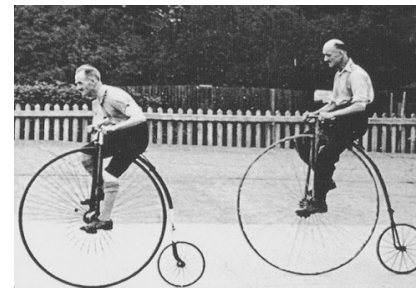
DID YOU KNOW?...

- **Transition Nottingham** had an urban harvest festival last year. There were workshops on wild food foraging, home brewing, apple pressing and bread making.
- In **Transition Town Lewes**, a local company (OVESCO) is working with the local authority to fit homes with cut-price solar panels.
- **Transition Town Brixton** has already started piloting a local currency with local businesses. It's called 'the Brixton Brick'.
- **Transition Bristol** and a local arts group are running free workshops that will help bring environmental education to young people.
- In an attempt to become 'nut capital of the UK' **Transition Town Totnes** has planted hundreds of nut trees.



JOIN US!

You could join the Growing Group, the Energy and Buildings Group or the Re-skilling groups, which are all busy starting local projects. Alternatively, you could be part of a future group focused on local economics; waste and recycling; transport; community building; communications; education and training; local government; or the arts.



Just let us know what you're interested in and when there are enough people in one particular area, off you go!

<http://transitionfinsburypark.org.uk>
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FIRST STEPS TO TRANSITION

In Finsbury Park the steering group was set up in November 2008 and now we are simultaneously 'awareness raising', 'laying the foundations', 'forming working groups' and 'building a bridge to Local Government'. The steps for setting up a Transition Initiative can be done in any order.

Set up a steering group: Establish a core team to drive the project forward during the initial phases.

Awareness raising: Films, events and talks to alert our community to the potential effects of both Peak Oil and Climate Change - the former demanding a drive to increase community resilience, the latter a reduction in carbon emissions.

Lay the foundations: Build connections to Local Transition Initiatives and network with local groups.

Organise a Great Unleashing: A memorable event will announce our Transition Initiative to the entire community.

Form working groups: Set up groups to focus on all key aspects of local life, tapping into the collective genius of the community, such as: energy, food, building, transport, business, education, health, psychology, waste and local government.

Use Open Space: An innovative meeting technology that brilliantly encourages and captures all the creativity, intelligence and problem-solving ideas of the participants.

Develop visible manifestations: Prove to everyone around that our Transition Initiative is determined to implement practical solutions.

Facilitate the Great Reskilling: We can reverse the "great deskilling" of the last 40 years by offering training in the vast range of lost practical skills - repairing, construction, growing, local economics, etc.

Build a bridge to Local Government: Get the local council on board and they'll provide significant support.

Honour the Elders: Crucially, these may be the only people in our community who know what a lower energy life is like.

Create an Energy Descent Plan: After about a year, we'll be ready to develop the plan, and the task of transitioning to a life beyond oil begins...



Making the most of local resources, local community and local knowledge to build a more sustainable future.