

North Bay Energy Vulnerability Summit

May 19, 2006

Petaluma

Julian Darley

Founder & Director
Post Carbon Institute
Global Public Media

www.postcarbon.org
www.globalpublicmedia.com

Agenda

- Introduction
- Assumptions
- Survey of Governmental Effort
- Leadership

Assumptions

- Alternatives available will be expensive and scarce – at best
- Wise to start preparing for less
- Local opportunities need to be considered

Alternatives & Substitution

- This morning's information
- Realism warranted when results are potentially catastrophic
- Skepticism: Plan C in case alternative sources of energy and grand substitution (some plan Bs) do **not** pan out in time or at sufficient scale
- C for conserve, constrain, curtail, carrying capacity...

Wise to Start Preparing for Less

- Energy Vulnerability: energy will be...
 - Much more expensive, volatile, unpredictable
 - Subject to political instability
 - Scarce
- Already happening on your watch

Local Opportunities Need to Be Considered

- Hurricane Katrina lessons: “You’re On Your Own” (YOYO)
- Solutions closer to home are less vulnerable to disruption

Survey: What Others are Doing

- How are other cities responding to the challenges and opportunities of energy vulnerability?

Climate Change Efforts

- Dovetail with energy vulnerability efforts
- Climate change becoming accepted as defining issue
 - Time magazine
 - Sonoma County Climate Protection Campaign
- Some solutions are similar:
 - Less fossil fuels used, less GHG emissions
 - But some new dimensions
 - If Kyoto targets not met it doesn't usually directly affect officials – can't see direct connections – space-time disjunction
 - But if persistent or highly volatile energy prices occur and even shortages, then that will have a direct effect

Energy Vulnerability

- Post Carbon Institute currently conducting survey of governmental strategies, solutions and responses being pursued at local, regional and international levels

San Francisco, California

- San Francisco Oil Awareness Group lobbied San Francisco Board of Supervisors to pass Peak Oil Resolution (2005)
- Resolution passed unanimously April 11, 2006
- First U.S. city to pass peak oil resolution
- Full text of resolution: energybulletin.net/15086.html
- Interviews with Oil Awareness Group on GlobalPublicMedia.com



San Francisco Peak Oil Resolution

1. “...acknowledges the unprecedented challenges of Peak Oil”
2. Supports adoption of global Oil Depletion Protocol
 - “...to provide a framework of predictability”
3. Undertaking a city-wide assessment
 - Inventory of city activities and associated resource requirements, in regards to decreased energy availability and increased prices
4. “...urges the Mayor to provide funding and direction...for development of a response plan.”

Burnaby, British Columbia

- June 2005: Transportation Committee requested staff to report on Peak Oil and implications for City of Burnaby
- Jan 2006: Report to Transportation Committee
 - “There is much that municipalities can and should be doing in advance of peak in global oil production”
 - Unanimous vote to receive and distribute report to UBCM and member municipalities
- But not explicitly part of new economic development plan
 - (March 2006 draft version of Burnaby Economic Development Strategy)

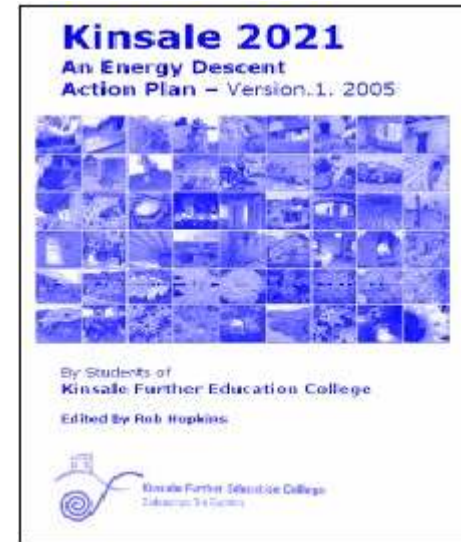
Portland, Oregon

- 2006: Portland Peak Oil committee lobbied City Council to pass **resolution to form a Task Force on implications of Peak Oil.**
- **Resolution passed unanimously May 10, 2006**
 - Recommendations will be incorporated in global warming local action plan, city's comprehensive plan, etc.
- Text of resolution at www.portlandpeakoil.org



Kinsale, Ireland

- Feb 2005: Kinsale Mayor and students formed town meeting on energy descent
- Findings were incorporated into report titled “Kinsale 2021: An Energy Descent Action Plan”
- Dec 2005: **Town Council voted unanimously to adopt plan**, designate Kinsale as Ireland’s first “Transition Town”



Denver, Colorado

- Mayor Hickenlooper implementing programs to **minimize impact of energy scarcity**
- Nov 2005: Denver World Oil Conference
 - **To discuss challenges of and intelligent responses to global oil peak**
 - Co-hosted with Association for the Study of Peak Oil (ASPO-USA)
- Interview with Mayor Hickenlooper on GlobalPublicMedia.com



Hervey Bay, Queensland, Australia

- MP Andrew McNamara discusses Peak Oil in Parliament
- Established **Queensland Oil Vulnerability Task Force**
 - Interest in contributing has grown throughout government, but this is delaying report, due 2006.
- Interviews with Andrew McNamara, as well as his speeches to Parliament, on GlobalPublicMedia.com

Franklin, New York

- Peak Oil Resolution proposed to appoint a Citizen's Commission
 - "...creation of a Citizens' Commission to examine the issues raised by **declining energy supplies and rising energy costs**, to explore the needs and resources of the Town of Franklin affected by energy costs and supplies..."
- **Dec 2005: Approved by Town Board**

Sweden: Fossil Fuel free by 2020

- Prime Minister announced looming peak oil as reasoning behind program
- Oil dependence ~35%
 - 2nd highest per capita consumer of energy in Europe
- Commission on Oil Dependence: first report due summer 2006
- Commission line of reasoning:
 1. More resource-efficient technology combined with more sensible use of such technology
 2. Conversion from oil and fossil fuels to renewable, non-fossil fuels
 3. Infrastructure development
 4. Change in behaviour

Sweden

- Most of energy from nuclear and hydro
 - 26% renewable energy
 - Most heating has been converted to electric, biofuels and waste recycling
- ~450/4,000 gas stations offer biofuels
 - Expected to be 2,400 by 2010
 - Already produces ~23% of own ethanol
 - Has considerable agricultural potential and no need for artificial irrigation
 - Tax breaks make biofuels cost ~1/3 less at the pump, despite costing 40% more to produce

Sebastopol, California

- Sept 2005: Mayor Robinson's Town Hall meeting: "Peak Oil – Adapting to an increasingly scarce energy supply"
- Sebastopol Community Advisory Group On Energy Vulnerability
 - came from the City Council January 2006
- Solar Sebastopol Program
 - City, private PV vendors, the energy tech program at Sonoma State University, and individual citizens
 - Goal: 1/3 of city electricity by next year
- Interview with Mayor Robinson on GlobalPublicMedia.com

Willits Economic Localization (WELL)

- 2005: City of Willits signed statement calling for local and sustainable economy
 - A call for self-sufficiency in Willits
 - Food, energy, goods, etc.
 - Signed by Mayor Jorgensen and many public and private representatives
 - WELL now undertaking assessments of resource use and transition strategies

Hamilton, Ontario

- 2005: Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy (GRIDS) identified a community planned around an airport as #1 priority for Hamilton development (“Aerotropolis”)
- In light of fossil fuel depletion, now re-examining its development strategy

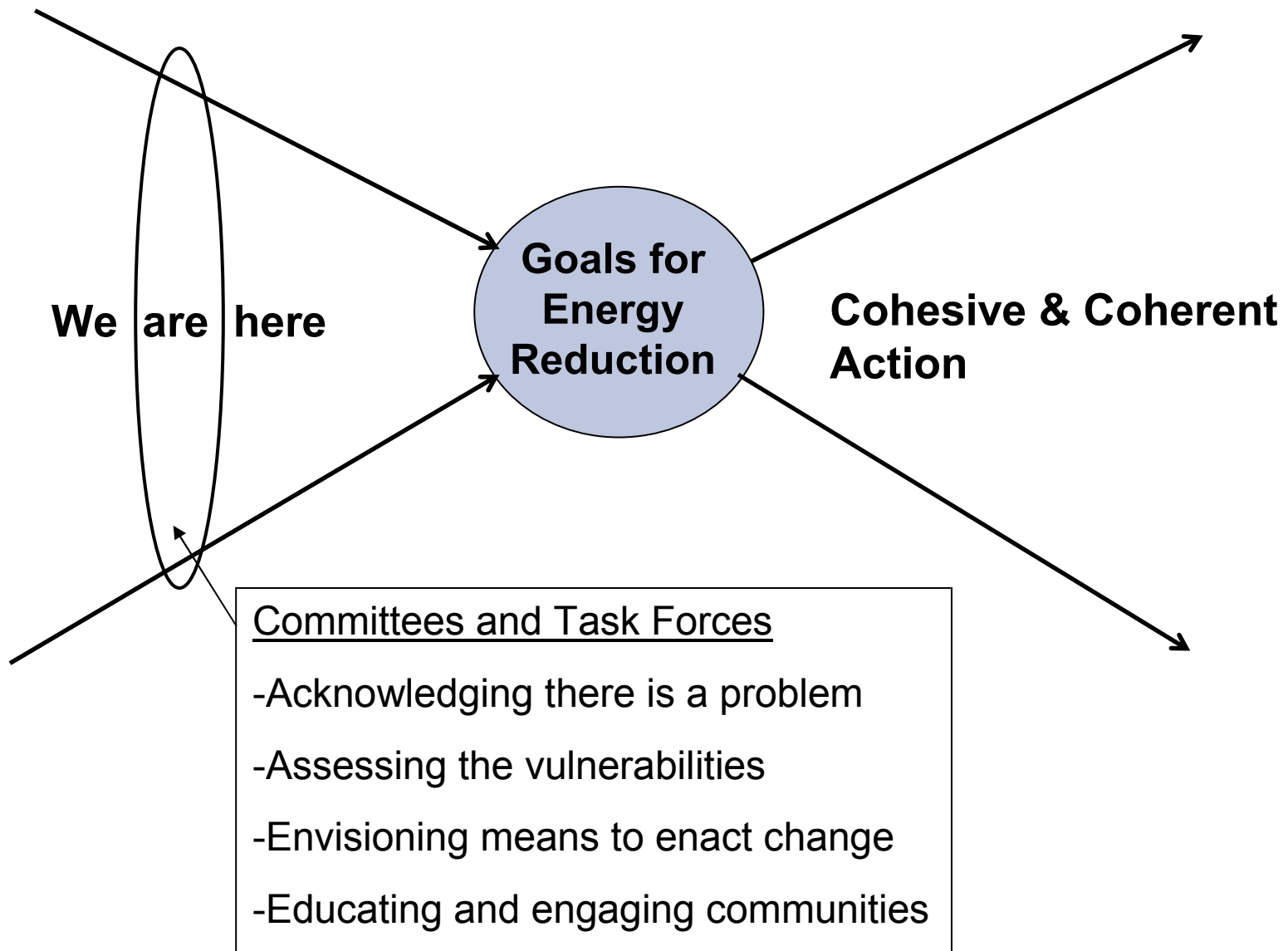


Hamilton, Ontario

- Dr. Richard Gilbert commissioned to report on impacts to Hamilton and Aerotropolis
 - Strategies include: reducing per-capita energy use by 2/3; creating all electricity within Hamilton; replace “Aerotropolis” with energy cluster as the first priority
- April 2006, City Council **voted to proceed in direction of Dr. Gilbert’s proposals**

Hamilton, Ontario

- Vision 2020: Hamilton's Commitment to a Sustainable Community
- Adopted by Regional Council - 1992
- Vision 2020 goals include
 - “In the year 2020, Hamilton-Wentworth supports a population consistent with the carrying capacity of the region”
 - Development of local culture
 - Ensuring adequate local agriculture for the community
 - Development of sustainable transportation system (for people, goods and services)
 - etc.



Leadership

- Still in early stages of addressing issue
- Climate Change and Energy Vulnerability defining issues of our time
- Elected officials are on the front lines
- Public needs further education
 - More than just ‘pain at the pump’

Leadership

- Your attending this summit is a leadership act – helping to prepare your jurisdiction
- Given no blueprint available, we need to develop own templates & demonstrations – and share them
- Every community has different needs, resources & constraints
 - In the long term, responses and solutions will be based on our locales

Why Work at Municipal Level?

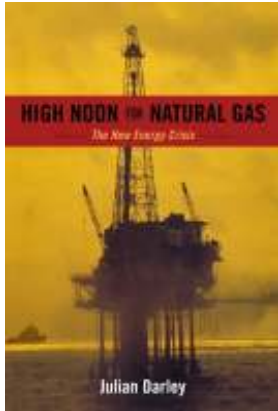
- Municipalities are the most effective political level at which change can occur
- Future daily requirements will be met more and more locally
 - Sourcing will need to be from within the locale, we must plan for energy use from within the locale
- Local collaboration is important to solve these local problems

Questions

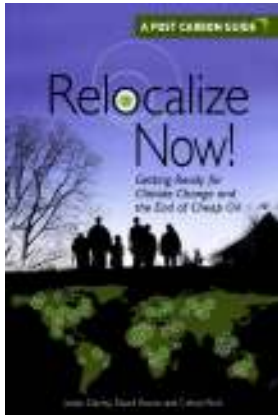
- Can local public policy support a competitive and sustainable economy in the face of rising energy costs?
- How can you do what you need to do (in your jurisdiction) with less energy?
- How can you leverage your leadership position to begin to address these issues?



For interviews about oil & gas peak
www.globalpublicmedia.com



*High Noon for Natural Gas
The New Energy Crisis*
by Julian Darley



*Relocalize Now! Preparing for Climate
Change & the End of Cheap Oil*
by Julian Darley, Celine Rich, David Room & Richard Heinberg
Forthcoming 2006 from New Society Publishers

Julian Darley julian@postcarbon.org
Post Carbon Institute <http://www.postcarbon.org>

Questions and Answers

Discuss specific, actionable ideas that will enable you and your jurisdictions to successfully navigate the vulnerabilities, challenges, and opportunities that you identified this morning.