

Bottom-up meeting top-down: a SND on the local level

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Overview

- Triple Crunch
- Responses- bottom-up versus top-down
 - Historically- LA21
 - Recent example- Transition Towns Movement
- Benefits of Bottom-up
- Policy Proposals

Triple Crunch

In 2008 the New Economics Foundation suggested that:

- The global economy is facing a 'triple crunch':
 - a credit-fuelled financial crisis,
 - accelerating climate change and
 - soaring energy prices underpinned by encroaching peak oil.



A Green New Deal

Joined-up policies to solve the triple crunch of the credit crisis, climate change and high oil prices

Bottom-up meeting top-down to tackle Triple Crunch?

- Sustainable New Deal
 - Changing macro economic structures
 - Green Growth
- Could also embrace and tackle:
 - Social dynamics of consumerism
 - Promote eco-citizenship
 - Re-valuing quality of life

Previous 'Bottom-up' Approaches and SD

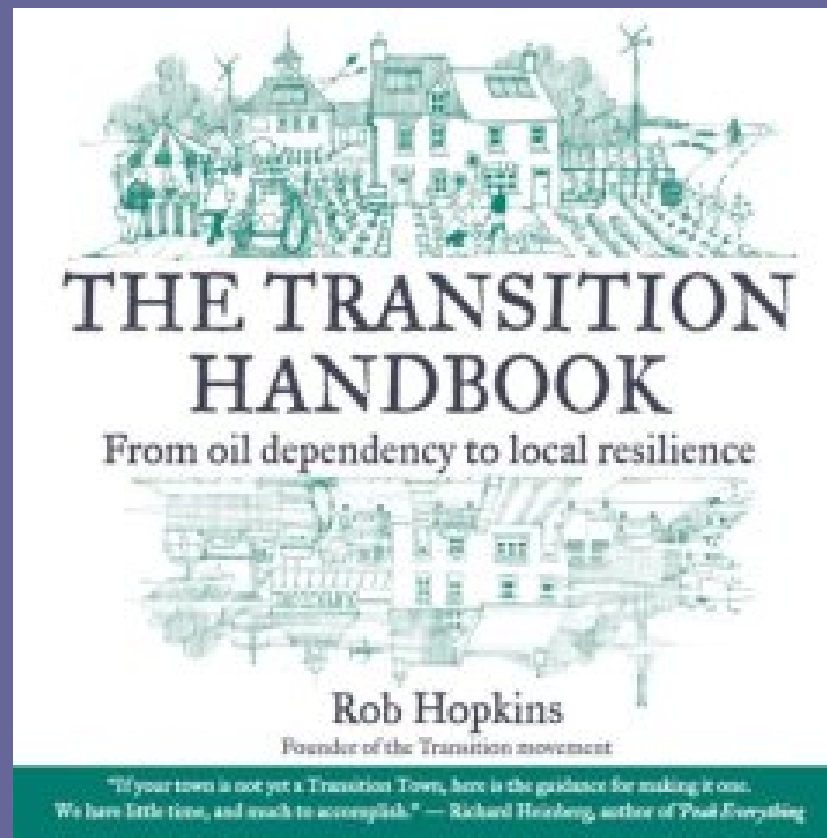
- Agenda 21 devolved the task of promoting sustainable development to local governments through the LA21 initiative.
- LA21 urged that all local government activities should be directed towards the simultaneous realisation of four core objectives:
 - environmental protection/reversal of environmental degradation
 - eradication of poverty
 - local participation of all sectors and groups in society
 - the formation of global partnerships to support these principles.

Problematic Top-Down

- Top-down centrally-led initiatives:
 - Have shown limited progress for public support and/or local level change/social adaptation
 - Often ignore the potential of social economy
- Transition Town Movement:
 - Might “provide an invaluable learning ground, giving us clues about the potential for more mainstream social change” (Jackson, 2009)

What is a Transition Town?

“in response to the twin pressures of Peak Oil and Climate Change, some pioneering communities in the UK, Ireland and beyond are taking an integrated and inclusive approach to reduce their carbon footprint and increase their ability to withstand the fundamental shift that will accompany Peak Oil” (*Brangywn & Hopkins, 2008:3*)



Based on Four Assumptions

1. That life with dramatically lower energy consumption is inevitable, and that it's better to plan for it than be taken by surprise.
2. That our settlements and communities presently lack the resilience to enable them to weather the severe energy shocks that will accompany peak oil.
3. That we have to act collectively, and we have to act now.
4. That by unleashing the collective genius of those around us to creatively and proactively design our energy descent, we can build ways of living that are more connected, more enriching and that recognise the biological limits of our planet. (Hopkins, 2008:134)

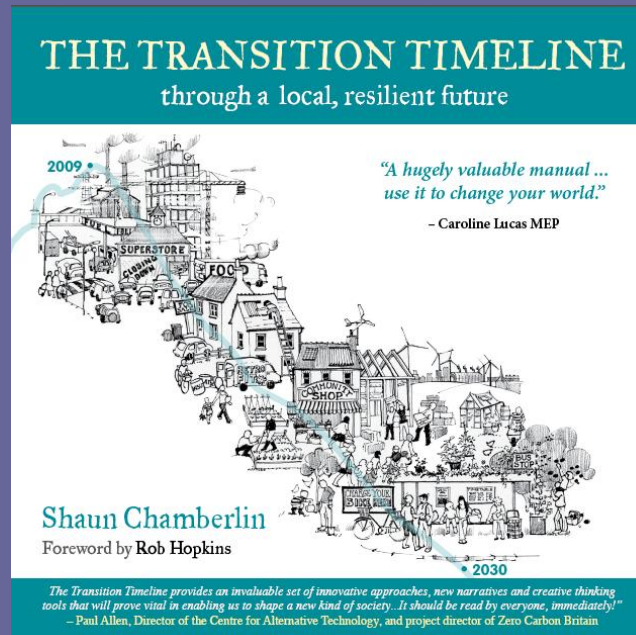
History of Transition Movement

- Rob Hopkins – Kinsale to Totnes
- Transition Town Totnes (2005)
- Transition Network website (2007)
- Transition Handbook (2008)
- Now have 206 'officially' designated in countries such as:



- England (50% of all TTs, mostly in south), Wales, NI, Scotland, Ireland, USA, Australia, Japan, Canada, Chile, New Zealand, Japan, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium (*mulling*)

- Transition Timeline Book (2009)



Resilience in Transitions

Draws on concepts from permaculture and ecological systems (work by Leven, 1999; Walker and Salt, 2007) to stress the need for more localised systems, place specific, community-led, small scale

- Diversity
- Modularity
- Tightening feedback loops



“Rebuilding local agriculture and food production, localising energy production, rethinking healthcare, rediscovering local building materials in the context of zero energy building, rethinking how we manage waste, all build resilience and offer the potential for an **extraordinary renaissance**- economic, cultural and spiritual”
(Hopkins, 2008:15-emphasis added)

12 Steps in the Transition Model

1. **Set up a steering group and design its demise from the outset**
2. **Awareness raising**
3. Lay the foundations
4. Organise a Great Unleashing
5. **Form sub groups**
6. Use Open Space
7. **Develop visible practical manifestations of the project**
8. **Facilitate the Great Reskilling**
9. **Build a bridge to Local Government**
10. **Honour the elders**
11. Let it go where it wants to go...
12. **Create an Energy Descent Plan**



Step 1: Form a Steering Group and Design Its Demise from the Outset.



Step Two: Awareness Raising...

TRANSITION SNEINTON
& STANN'S

The current economic system isn't working!

INVITES YOU TO ...

Is there a better way?

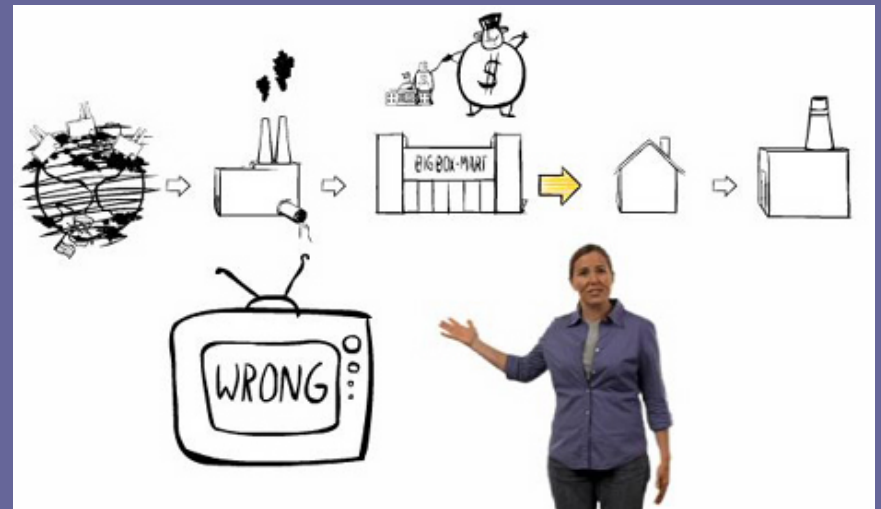
'THE STORY OF STUFF'

Short film & opportunity to share ideas

7.30PM ON WEDS 1ST APRIL
AT IONA SCHOOL
BEHIND BAKERSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE, SNEINTON DALE

THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF EVENTS
EXPLORING TRANSITION THEMES

The poster features two windmill icons at the top corners and a central thought bubble containing the text 'The current economic system isn't working!' and 'Is there a better way?'. The main title 'THE STORY OF STUFF' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, the event details are listed in a smaller font. At the bottom, it mentions 'THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF EVENTS EXPLORING TRANSITION THEMES'.



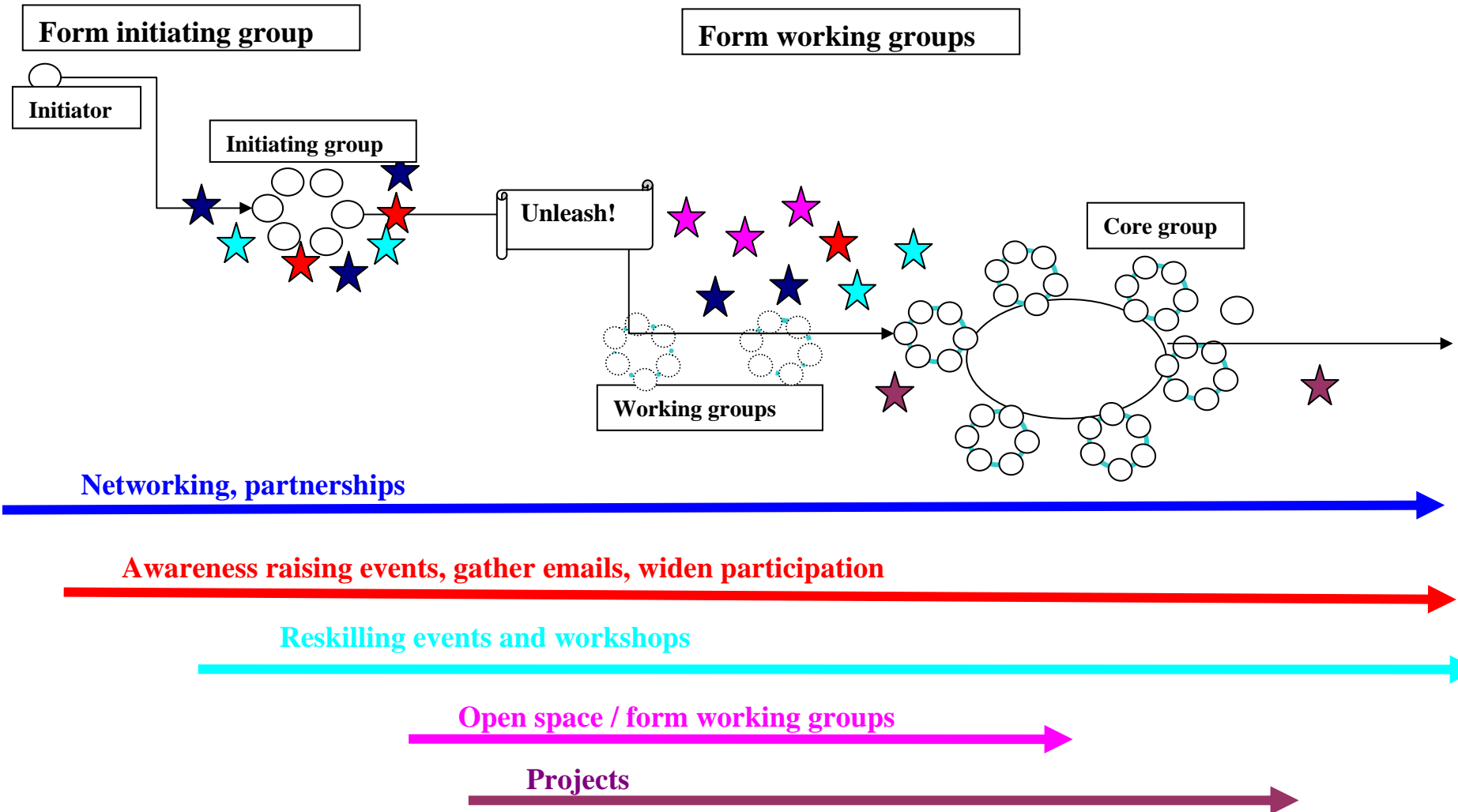
Step 5: Form Working Groups.

In Totnes:

Building and housing
Economics and Livelihoods
Education
Energy
Food
Health and Well-Being
Heart & Soul
Local Government
The Arts
Transport
Admin



Transition phases



Step 7: Develop Visible Manifestations of the Project.



"Totnes, the Nut Tree Capital of Britain". Tree Planting, January 2007.

The Totnes Pound




Totnes Pounds Accepted Here.
 Please Ask for Them In Your Change,
 Spend Them Where You See the Signs.



"Totnes Pounds: Like Real Money, Only Better"
Issued by Transition Town Totnes. Supported by Totnes and Electoral Churches of Commerce and Schoolmaster College.



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Town poised for its own currency

A south Devon town has taken a step towards having its own currency after a month-long experiment.

Three hundred Totnes pounds were printed in March for circulation only in local outlets.

Sixteen shops joined Transition Town Totnes (TTT), a new group campaigning for a more self-sufficient community.

The experiment, which has just finished, could be followed up by another print-run of 3,000 notes later this year.

TTT based the idea on a similar scheme in the Southern Berkshire region of Massachusetts, US.

There the alternative currency, Berkshares, can be swapped for dollars in banks.

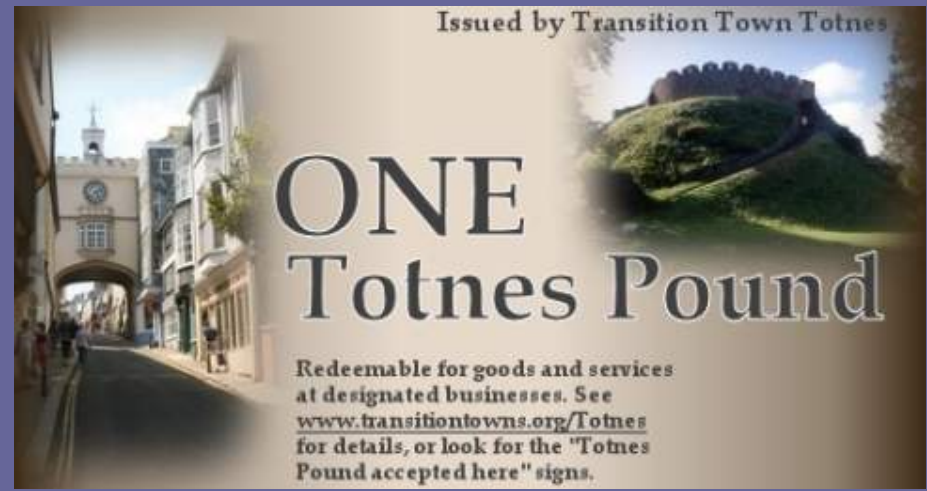
WELDED AND ADDED NEWS
The money is to help the town become more self-sufficient

WHERE I LIVE
BBC Devon Sport, leisure, environment and more from the BBC website for Devon


RELATED INTERNET LINKS
• Transition Town Totnes
• Berkshares
The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

TOP DEVON STORIES
• Father a suspect in fire deaths
• Zoo cuts peacocks in noise row
• Couple offer epilepsy dietician
• News feeds

MOST POPULAR STORIES NOW

Issued by Transition Town Totnes


ONE Totnes Pound

Redeemable for goods and services at designated businesses. See www.transitiontowns.org/Totnes for details, or look for the "Totnes Pound accepted here" signs.

SWITCH ON TO...

MIDSUMMER ENERGY

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE

GREEN'S WINDMILL, SNEINTON - 11AM - 4PM



LOTS MORE...

FREE

COME AND EXPLORE ENERGY GENERATION IN ALL OF ITS FORMS

WWW.TRANSITIONNOTTINGHAM.ORG.UK/MIDSUMMERENERGY

Supported by The Nottingham Energy Partnership



Step 8: Facilitate the Great Reskilling

Skilling Up for Powerdown.

Peak Oil / Climate Change,
Permaculture Principles, Food, Energy,
Building and Housing, Woodlands,
Water, Waste, Economics, The
Psychology of Change, Energy Descent
Planning...

Skills Cascade in Nottingham

Transition Town Totnes presents:

Skilling Up for Powerdown

A 10 week evening class taught by
Rob Hopkins



TOTNES



Skilling up for Powerdown is a new evening class on responses to peak oil and climate change, exploring permaculture, localisation, food, energy, waste, water, economy and much more. An inspirational, informative and fun way to spend your Monday evenings, the course explores what peak oil will mean for us as individuals and communities, and what skills and thinking tools we will need in order to embrace it as a positive transition.

Based on permaculture principles, the 10 weeks will explore our relationship with cheap oil, and what the various elements of a lower energy society might look like. How might we design a local food system, or build houses using local materials?

The course is taught by **Rob Hopkins**, who has taught permaculture, natural building and creative teaching methods for over 10 years. He set up the world's first 2 year full-time permaculture course at Kinross Further Education College in Ireland, as well as teaching at universities and colleges. He is the founder of the Transition Town Totnes initiative, and runs www.transitionculture.org.

Places need to be booked in advance (limited to 30 places).
Cost £150 (aged), £120 concessions.
A limited number of bursaries are available for people under 22.
Contact 01803 866266 or email rob@hopkins@gmail.com for details.

Begins Monday September 18th 7.00-10.00pm.
Wednesday, 18th-22nd, Totnes.

www.transitiontowns.org/Totnes
www.transitionculture.org



Transition Nottingham presents



URBAN HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 27th September
Green's Windmill, Sneinton 11 - 4pm

Come and celebrate local food production:

Bring your
apples



Apple pressing
is back!

Preserving
workshops



jam, chutney

City foraging



Around the
park

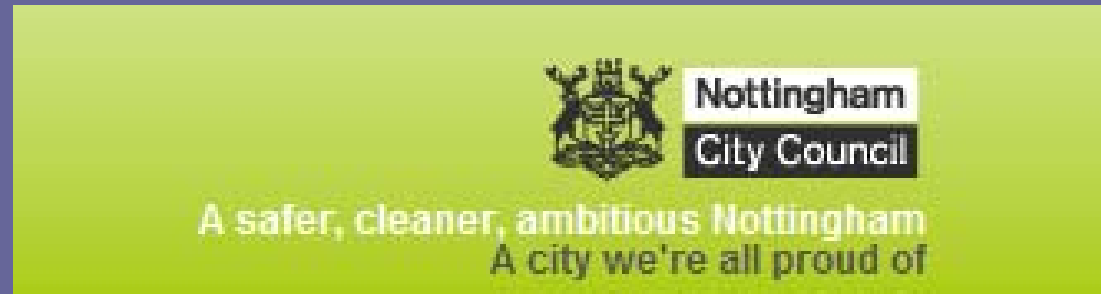
Baking
workshop



make bread



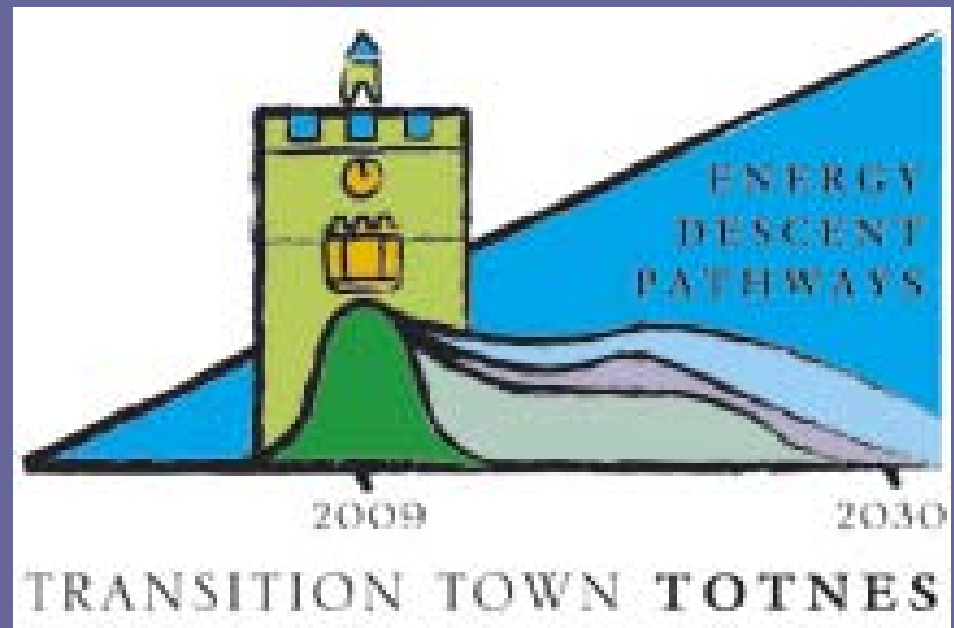
Step 9: Build a Bridge to Local Government



- **Motion on Peak Oil - December 2008**
- This Council [Nottingham City] acknowledges the forthcoming impact of peak oil. The Council therefore needs to respond, and help the citizens it serves respond, to the likelihood of shrinking oil supply but in a way which will nevertheless maintains the City's prosperity. It acknowledges that actions taken to adapt to and mitigate against climate change also help us adapt issues around peak oil.

Step 12: Create an Energy Descent Action Plan.

An energy descent action plan is a description of how Nottingham will manage the process of energy descent over the next twenty years, making a virtue out of a necessity to become a resilient community where people are happier and healthier



Benefits of Bottom-up

- Community Resilience
- Awareness Raising
- Ownership of Issues
- Eco-Citizenship
- Tackling Consumerism
- Greater Participation

Policy Implications

- We need a New Green Deal – particularly a different kind of economic structure
- But we also need to tackle
 - Rampant consumerism
 - Values and Lifestyles which are un-sustainable
 - De-coupling happiness from income
 - Valuing un-paid work – boosting social economy
 - is unemployment the absence of paid work or loss of status derived from work