



Saturday, April 14, 9:00 am - 5 pm

## Breakout Session Notes

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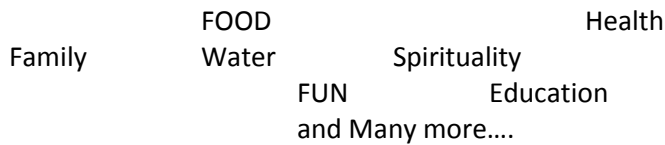
# Community

**Question: How can we engage our community more creatively to empower transition?**

**Some Themes:**

- Making partnerships happen
- Culture of Cooperation / Sharing / Participation
- Engaging the political sphere more fully
- Creating healthy individuals/ communities through the foundational needs of people (nutrition, community, movement/physical play, artistic expression, nature, etc.)
- Work synergistically / effectively within groups: SYNERGY

**Where do people overlap?**



**Concepts:**

Time Banks/ Local Economy  
Awakening the Inner Villager: Work Party Culture  
Through overall health we can find more strength in ourselves and serve our community on a deeper level.

**Questions Created**

How can we use our talents more effectively and efficiently in way that is sustainable?  
How do we wake up ourselves, friends, communities to welcome the world around us as part of us?  
How do we empower each other through service?

**Possible Project**

How do we engage people in a conversation that is beyond ideology? Recognizing strengths and commonalities.  
Create a Discussion group on bridging beyond the bubble?

**Project**

Community Asset mapping in Neighborhoods (for emergency situations as a strategy to build community) Invites Resource Sharing  
\*Strength in appealing to a diverse range of people, and has sense of urgency that invites participation.

**Project:**

Time Banks/ Local Economy  
Sound Hours is being revitalized...

**Project:**

Awakening the Inner Villager: Work Party Culture  
A Work Party info Hub. Being organized by Joseph Becker of EcoBuilders' Guild and ION Ecobuilding

**Project**

**Challenge:** There is so much going on, but can feel fragmented with listserves, networks  
**Possible solution:** A Local, open-source online Social Network, Integrated with Local currency, Resource sharing, social, political, neighborhood orgs, with space for forums and community calendar. A networking hub and conversation space.

## Energy

### **Solarize Thurston** <http://solarizethurston.org/>

*Solarize Thurston- "Homeowner(s)" or other community groups buying/installing at economies of scale. Requires a leader/core and some sort of decision-making body. Financing available at 3% until at least June 30, 2012 | Fed Treasury 30% tax credit | Cost Recovery Payments through utility | - similar to Solarize Magnolia (SEA)*

- Solar panels over storm water ponds, gas stations as source for electric chargers, carports, biomass "algae at LOTT or wood" as a solution to the intermittency of solar power

### **Reduce Consumption**

- Thermal envelope study using Thurston Energy audit data (600 homes) to determine retrofit needs and solutions to increase production and reduce load  
*Conservation and efficiency in combination with renewable energy production (reduce demand by 50%).  
Insulation | sealing | heat pump | rebates for lighting/appliances  
Creates jobs for energy audits, construction, sales for retrofits  
Monitoring energy loads at home and comparing to neighborhood in order to affect usage.*

### **Idea**

- Centralized versus distributed power  
*Sovereign Power! Resilience. Less transmission loss.*
- Educating consumers about solar installation process  
*Visibility and personal experience of new installs increases education. Turning consumers into producers.*

### **PUD v. PSE**

- Local control of our energy  
*Signature gathering for ballot measure is taking place now | 12k signatures needed by July, need gatherers | May 1<sup>st</sup> "May Day" in Sylvester Park*
- Thurston PUD taking control from PSE  
*PSE is owned by Australian interests – 10% of profits go out of country. Thurston County has second highest utility rates in WA.  
Local response to emergencies, local contractors,  
Already have a PUD for water.*

### **Biodiesel**

Make a more central location & easier production

*Mike Pelly & his partner have offered their expertise and a processor for use in a cooperative environment. **Contact:** 360.866.4268*

***Things needed:** Local Feed Stock (restaurant/fish oil, algae, triglycerides, scotch broom, soylent green),  
Money, Production & Distribution Location*

## Food Security & Land Use

### Community Garden

- Description  
Building a community garden in South Bay Rd. Area  
Contact: Molly Gibbs

### Food not Bombs

- Description  
Take food that would otherwise be wasted and give it to people who would otherwise not have it  
Need new kitchen space  
Cooks on Saturdays at Media Island served at 4:30 at the downtown library  
Want to expand to different times and locations like parks  
Can also take food donations  
Need bicycle trailers (important!)  
Contact: My'Kel [olyfoodnotbombs@riseup.net](mailto:olyfoodnotbombs@riseup.net)
- Future Plans  
Need for community kitchen,  
Cold storage would help FNB receive more donated food to store for later prep. IDEAS: old milk house style  
Getting traveling/street kids involved with gardening and cooking for each other. Opening resources of food, growing, prep  
Two churches that may be able to share kitchen space: First Christian, United Methodist and one by Armory (?)

### GRuB

- Description  
Using the "Fun Run" model to raise funds  
Prize is to decide where a garden will go  
Kitchen Garden Leadership Team  
Working on GruB in the schools initiative, which could use support  
Also want donations  
Contact: Kim Gaffi [kim@goodgrub.org](mailto:kim@goodgrub.org)

### Urban Agricultural Ordinance Update

- Description  
April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at City Hall

### Agro-Tourism Ordinance

- Description  
Getting urban people connected with agriculture  
Visit the farms and wineries that produce for them

### Thursday Potluck

- Potluck group that meets on Thursdays on W Side. Awesome food! Neighborhood building discussions (spawned out of Food Summit).
- Contact: susi o'bryan; [suzobryan@yahoo.com](mailto:suzobryan@yahoo.com)

### **Ag/Food Info Brokering website**

- Contact - Scott Bishop [sbishop@oly-wa.us](mailto:sbishop@oly-wa.us)

### **Other discussion points**

- Native foraging book/blog: [Fat of the Land \(.blogspot\)](#)
- [www.Streetbank.com](http://www.Streetbank.com) - online resource for sharing tools, skills...
- Tim Benedict looking for curriculum ideas on how to transmit info to conventional farmers in Ag programs. He'd appreciate any ideas u may have to include in USDA curriculum. [farmtim@gmail.com](mailto:farmtim@gmail.com)

## Inner Transition

### Idea

- Mini- sustainability summits that target diverse populations, specifically, under-served populations (partner with organizations not yet present) *Heather Kowalewski*

### Idea

- Continue the positive sharing about transition concerns and create “intermediary” groups (not as “politicized”) about local action such as skill sharing, group meditation, etc. *Steve Bakker*

### Idea

- Big group meditation on a weekly basis to build tools for inner resiliency. Possibly create smaller localized groups in neighborhoods for this too. *Karen Gaul*
- Have a group meditation at capitol around a specific intention.

## Local Economy

### Idea

- **Description**
  - Messaging sustainability to people. Helping people to understand the behaviors that support a local economy.
- **Future Plans**
  - A thousand conversations. Rewards card for local buying. All ages field trips.

### Idea

- **Description**
  - A food/community hub
    - Local food distribution, cold storage, commercial kitchen, community meetings, lending library, not just food
- **Future Plans**
  - Intentional meeting about food hubs in town, contact Olympia Local Foods.

### Idea

- **Description**
  - Raising capital for Enterprise for Equity loan fund, micro loan fund, NWDC
- **Future Plans**
  - Community investment
    - Community funded projects, follow up with NWDC

### Idea

- **Description**
  - Economic system based in nature
- **Future plans**
  - Education, community building, barter programs, community awareness

## Materials Management & Product Stewardship

### Idea

- Recycling rate in WA is stuck at 46%, while rates in B.C. & Oregon are much higher.
- Find out what barriers they overcame, how they accomplished more successful recycling. Replicate and improve upon those models in Thurston County

### Idea

- Industrial and Manufacturing waste is going straight to chippers and landfills
- Fund IMEX (Industrial Materials Exchange) so that manufacturers can exchange their waste & redirect the stream to people/companies that will use it.

### Idea

- Too many mixed packaging materials (ie: plastic lining and lid on milk cartons) that prevents recycling and composting.
- Require labeling, require manufacturers to pay more when they create more waste, or have incentives NOT to do this.
- Develop platform at Democratic caucus tomorrow (4/15/2012) to hold manufacturers accountable!

### Idea

- Challenge: we have a concern about despair in the world and community when facing challenges
- Use our community's skills to mobilize! Create a tri-angle of co-operation: Citizens advocacy groups, Paid staff/public officials, Elected officials.



## Transportation & Land use

### Idea

- Look at ways to remove barriers to converting large single family homes to house 3-4 families – maybe co-housing.
- Look at zoning & regulations, work with home owner associations

### Idea

- Protect farm lands
  - Create farm districts (public entities like Port districts);
  - Support farm trusts;
  - create programs/legislation to transfer development rights for farms
  - Keep urban growth in urban areas
  - Equalize impact fees to remove incentives to building outside urban areas

### Idea

- Resistance in established neighborhoods to development that may be beneficial (safe, active, intergenerational)
  - Increase dialogue between developers, government, businesses and people
  - Educate people how to get involved early in development/planning so that plans reflect community goals
  - Create codes/plans that are easy to understand with focus on design and interaction with community space

### Idea

- Our “multi-modal” transportation network does not work well for all modes. For example, even with wide shoulders, a 60 mph road may not be comfortable for walkers and bikers
- In our design, we assume that people will exceed the speed limit when traveling in vehicles, and we accommodate
- Make infrastructure investment fit the existing community: context sensitive design
- Reexamine how our infrastructure investments support our community visions
- Look for opportunities to narrow streets or otherwise slow traffic by design

### Idea

- When looking to the future be flexible
- Don't base plans on a specific number of people moving here – examine what would happen if less came – and what would happen if more came (i.e., Climate refugees)

### Idea

- Public understanding is needed on many issues, including density and transportation/land use connections and implications
- Try to increase a broader understanding of how everything weaves together – create ownership manual for home choices (energy star), including life cycle costs of transportation, energy, accessibility, health, etc.
- Help bring people together who have different viewpoints – and seek common ground
- Use public spaces to get information to people – postering/kiosks/art installations
- Policymakers need to know that there is a market for a variety of housing choices (small houses, close-in, co-housing)

# Water

## Ideas

- Kim - WA Extension Service
- Storm water issues
- Working with engineers
- Mimicking natural forest in our systems
- Low impact development – rain gardens, permeable pavement, roof systems, cisterns
- Permaculture conference at TESC
- Integration on policy level, regional level
- Nadine - Rain garden workshops – brochure
- Paying people to perforate their lawns with spiked shoes
- Free workshops in community
- Pat – composting toilets
- Grey water – waste water gardens
- Ohio – Nature’s Head – made in USA, composting toilet that separates solids from liquids (\$895) [natureshead.net](http://natureshead.net)
- LOTT rebates only on certified systems (this is not – it is Coast Guard approved)
- We need program where we could test systems (moisture & E.Coli)
- Sam – we’re running out of water
- What can we as homeowners do?
- Dual flush toilets, recirc pumps, purple pipe (processed from waste stream to use for irrigation)
- Want LOTT at the table
- Low cost recirc pumps (LOTT?)
- On demand hot water systems
- Robin – solutions that solve multiple problems
- Bio sand water filters
- Low technology/appropriate technology
- Being used in developing nations
- Collect and treat your own water on site

## Making It Happen

- Collaborating with LOTT
- Homeowner opportunities – rain gardens, roof catchment, grey water, permeable surfaces, composting toilets, dual flush toilets, recirc pumps
- Composting toilets
- BioSand filters – 30 year technology, made from local resources
- Rain gardens – plants for filtration
- Dealing with biofouling (filtration that gets clogged)
- Combining technology to deal with grey water and storm water
- Andrew - Importance of salmon runs
- Linda – transition technologies, cisterns, rain barrels
- Compost Era – Swedish system of composting toilet
- Composting toilets at rest areas in US
- Portland area portable solar toilets
- Demonstration project that integrates “all these things” so people can see that it’s possible
- Doctor’s prescription for GRuB garden – what else could they prescribe
- Tactile conference as next stage; do installations, mini-examples; expo of what’s available, what’s working

- Demo site, grant funded, much like Dirt Works; or participants in neighborhood get together and everyone contributes \$3 - \$5
- American workers on 4 day workweek; sacred time; time to volunteer; time to create sustainability at home – paradigm shift
- Sacred economy – job share; care for ourselves and our communities
- Holistic approach to the topic of water – we let it flow ;^)
- Robin challenged in her Time Bank group to do 3 things in community – build rain garden as #1