

the unconference

content, style, process and funding

Content: Transition Culture and Stories of Change

An explosion of Transition Culture!

Local Organic Food, Moving Film, Deep Dialogue, Music with a Message, and Conscious Cabaret on the theme of Transition Towns, Relocalization and The Great Turning from Empire to Earth Community.

- Transition Network: <http://transitiontowns.org/>
- Relocalization Network: <http://relocalize.net>
- The Great Turning: <http://thegreatturning.net>

Stories to change our world:

“We humans live by stories. The key to making a choice for Earth Community is recognizing that the foundation of Empire’s power does not lie in its instruments of physical violence. It lies in Empire’s ability to control the stories by which we define ourselves and our possibilities in order to perpetuate the myths on which the legitimacy of the dominator relations of Empire depend. To change the human future, we must change our defining stories.” – David Korten

Participants of the unconference will produce, remix and share stories of change to help:

1. Create a tipping point of **awareness** about the interwoven issues of peak oil, climate change, land, money and media, thus
2. Inspiring and empowering collective **action** to address these issues, and
3. Stimulating peer **investment** into the shared infrastructure needed to build community resilience and reduce our ecological footprint (e.g. local food and energy systems)

Style: Sustainable Everything

The unconference will demonstrate how, by harnessing the collective wealth and intelligence of the networks involved, it is possible to have a high impact, low footprint event. Systems will need to be put in place that help measure our progress against the 10 principles of One Planet Living and/or other metrics suggested by participants:

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1. Zero carbon
2. Zero waste
3. Sustainable transport
4. Sustainable materials
5. Local and sustainable food
6. Sustainable water
7. Natural habitats and wildlife
8. Culture and heritage
9. Equity and fair trade
10. Health and happiness

See <http://www.oneplanetliving.org/10principles.html> for more details.

Process: Peer Production

A truly successful unconference will only emerge from an open collaborative process that empowers participants to shape the content, style and financing of the event. Therefore everything written here is subject to change and has been kept brief.

As noted in the wanted ad, the collaborative process should ideally start long before the event itself and continue long after, with participants able to access and use a Web 2.0 platform to submit and vote ideas for the unconference.

The event itself will no doubt involve dotmocracy participative decision-making workshops, open space technology and world cafe, since I've found all of these tools to be of great value. Other similar tools I would personally like to experience and experiment with include Deep Democracy and Forum Theatre.

To get help designing and implementing these on-line and off-line processes I would engage initially with friends in my network with relevant knowledge and experience (Maria Glauser, Sofia Bustamante, Leslie Williams <http://www.the-hub.net> / <http://pioneersofchange.net/> , David Wilcox <http://partnerships.typepad.com/civic/> and Saul Albert <http://the-ps.net> and, of course, my colleagues at United Diversity <http://uniteddiversity.com/who> who are busy building The Hub's technology)

Funding: Peer Investment

Participants and partners will be invited to invest in the infrastructure needed to make the unconference self-sustaining and regular event. Starting with £10,000 already in the pot is a great start, and together we have everything!

We may decide to pilot a mutual credit system, or a community currency back by GBP, like Findhorn's Eko, or the Totnes Pound, or the Lime currency created during for WSFII conference <http://wsfii.org> in Limehouse Town Hall <http://www.wsfii.org/wiki/TheLime> .