

Issue 3

junkmail

Devon Community Recycling & Community Composting Network News



Devon

This issue:

**Mapping Devon
Flying Food Waste
Devon CAN Network**

Contents

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Features:

- 1 Flying Food Waste
£250,000 composting funding for Devon Schools
- 4 Mapping Devon
Mapping local and environmental groups across Devon
- 5 Schools Awards
Devon recycling/gardening awards
- 6 Centre Page Map
Climate groups in Devon
- 8 Organisations Map
Community composting and Recycling groups in Devon
- 10 MDCR
Business recycling collection halted
- 11 Devon CAN network event
Climate Action Network all day event held in Exeter
- 12 EDAP
Energy descent action plan for waste
- 14 **Book Reviews:**
The Vanishing Face of Gaia by James Lovelock

The Transition Timeline
by Shaun Chamberlain

flying food waste

£250,000 Schools compost funding from sale of Exeter International airport

One hundred Devon schools will be provided with composting equipment over the next two years thanks a £250,000 allocation of funding from the sale of Exeter International Airport.

Schools will be able to compost all their food waste - from canteens and classrooms in special bins and use the resulting compost on their school gardens to grow vegetables and flowers. The project will reduce waste produced by schools as well the cost of waste going to landfill.

Eight secondary schools across the county as well their local primary schools will be taking part and district councils and the local community will help with the implementation of the project. In each of the eight areas approximately 40 tonnes of waste will be saved from landfill per year.



Pupils with Cllr Marsh at the launch of the Big Hanna Composter at Okehampton Community College



Ivybridge is the next Learning Community benefitting from this project.

As well as pupils, teachers, catering and cleaning staff will all learn about the composting process and events will be held inviting parents and local businesses to take up composting at home as well as becoming an educational resource.

A pilot project is currently underway in The Okehampton Learning Community. The project has been delivered by the Okehampton based environmental organisation 'Growing Our Future'. The eleven Primary Schools of the learning community have been given composters and taken part in a two day workshop linking growing food, discovering where our



food comes from and composting, the workshops focused on a creative and experiential hands on approach to learning.

At Okehampton College the students are fortunate to live the "Food Cycle" by harvesting food from the gardens,



delivering to the School kitchen, eating the produce, feeding the Big Hanna Composter, collecting the compost, planting seeds and tending the plants before they are harvested.

The installation of the Big Hanna Composter at Okehampton has contributed to Okehampton College recently receiving the National Specialist Schools & Academies Trust Award for Sustainable Initiatives. Other such projects that are taking place at Okehampton College include the Solar Panel installation and plans to build a locally sourced timber frame building to host the Sustainable Hub. "This is a marvellous opportunity for schools to become more sustainable" said Councillor Roger Croad, Cabinet Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services. "A perfect

example of reducing waste to landfill and reducing the impact of the schools on climate change."

Schools Awarded

The installation of the Big Hanna Composter at Okehampton has contributed to Okehampton College recently receiving the National Specialist Schools & Academies Trust Award for Sustainable Initiatives. Other such projects that are taking place at Okehampton College include the Solar Panel installation and plans to build a locally sourced timber frame building to host the Sustainable Hub.

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Devon is really leading the way with Okehampton Community college winning this very well deserved National award presented by schools minister Ed Balls. Another school which has been leading the way for many years now is Two Moors School in Tiverton thanks to the infectious enthusiasm of its head teacher Roy Kerrigan and his staff and the amazing volunteer efforts of Sarah Vine-Tester who has completely transformed the garden into the award winner it now is.



Pupils at Two Moors School holding their crop of giant parsnips

Schools Awards

Two Moors School

Two Moors school Tiverton has scooped a bumper bouquet of prizes including:

- 1 The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) community award for the best school garden in the South West region**
- 2 The RHS Britain in Bloom neighbourhood - outstanding**
- 3 The Viridor composting award - also Britain in Bloom**
- 4 The Clem Preece memorial cup - outstanding schools effort supporting Britain in Bloom**
- 5 The Tiverton Britain in Bloom school certificate**
- 6 1st prize for the highest sunflower**

Mapping Devon



This issue maps many of the local groups active across Devon, illustrating what an amazing community resource we have – ourselves!

It shows that people care and want to take positive action to tackle the challenges we face. Together, communities can be strong and make a real difference, even more so if they can build successful partnerships with their Parish Councils and Local Authorities.

The DCRN/DCCN Conference presents a unique opportunity for people from different walks of life and working in different sectors to brainstorm ideas and gain new perspectives from each other – think outside their ‘box’ – many of us rarely get the space to do that. It’s really helpful for community activists to understand Local Authority Councillors and Officers perspectives and vice-versa, to network and make new connections. It’s the stuff that oils the wheels of good cross sector working partnerships.

The conference, held in June in Crediton, was a resounding success, attended by around 60 people. It thrashed out some key issues on

how our communities can tackle waste, climate change, community finance and other issues we all face. The keynote speaker, Mark Shayler, who brought business perspectives, life cycle analysis and eco-design expertise, delivered a powerful talk on ‘peak everything’ – not just oil, but resource use, water, chemical exposure. He underlined the urgency of the situation and critical point we are at.

Round table discussion groups moved people around so everyone got to discuss and build on different aspects of climate change, recycling, reuse, and composting.

For climate change there seemed to be agreement that cutting across all the issues the biggest need now was raising awareness and education so that people are willing to make the changes and start changing behaviour. Mostly those changes have already been defined, the question is how

we make them, individually and collectively, bottom up, top down and joined up. Cross sector strategies are needed. How do we finance them, make them happen, and enforce them? Recycling is still trying to get 10-20% of people to participate – the same difficulties will be faced with other changes. Waste prevention remains a big challenge

If ‘Don’t let Devon go to Waste’ cost £1m for starters and WRAPs ‘Recycle Now’ campaign cost even more, then a massive awareness campaign on an unprecedented scale costing many £m’s is needed to help people understand the problems and start making the changes required. On the resources side, consensus agreed that at least a whole LA department for local action combined with central Government initiatives is needed – unfortunately the future will more likely bring us cuts with the recession. DCC has at least 16 people in the waste management team + administration. Districts combined have similar amounts. Are authorities really thinking ahead properly and envisioning resources on a sufficient scale?

Significant money at community level is needed to help communities make changes – and be empowered. How

individuals use their own money to deliver changes in their communities is in many ways a missing piece of the jigsaw – but organisations like Wessex are coming up with structures to enable us to make different choices with money.

On the action front, practical projects such as car free zones, transport solutions, waste prevention and local food should be prioritised so that people can see tangible steps are being taken on various fronts.

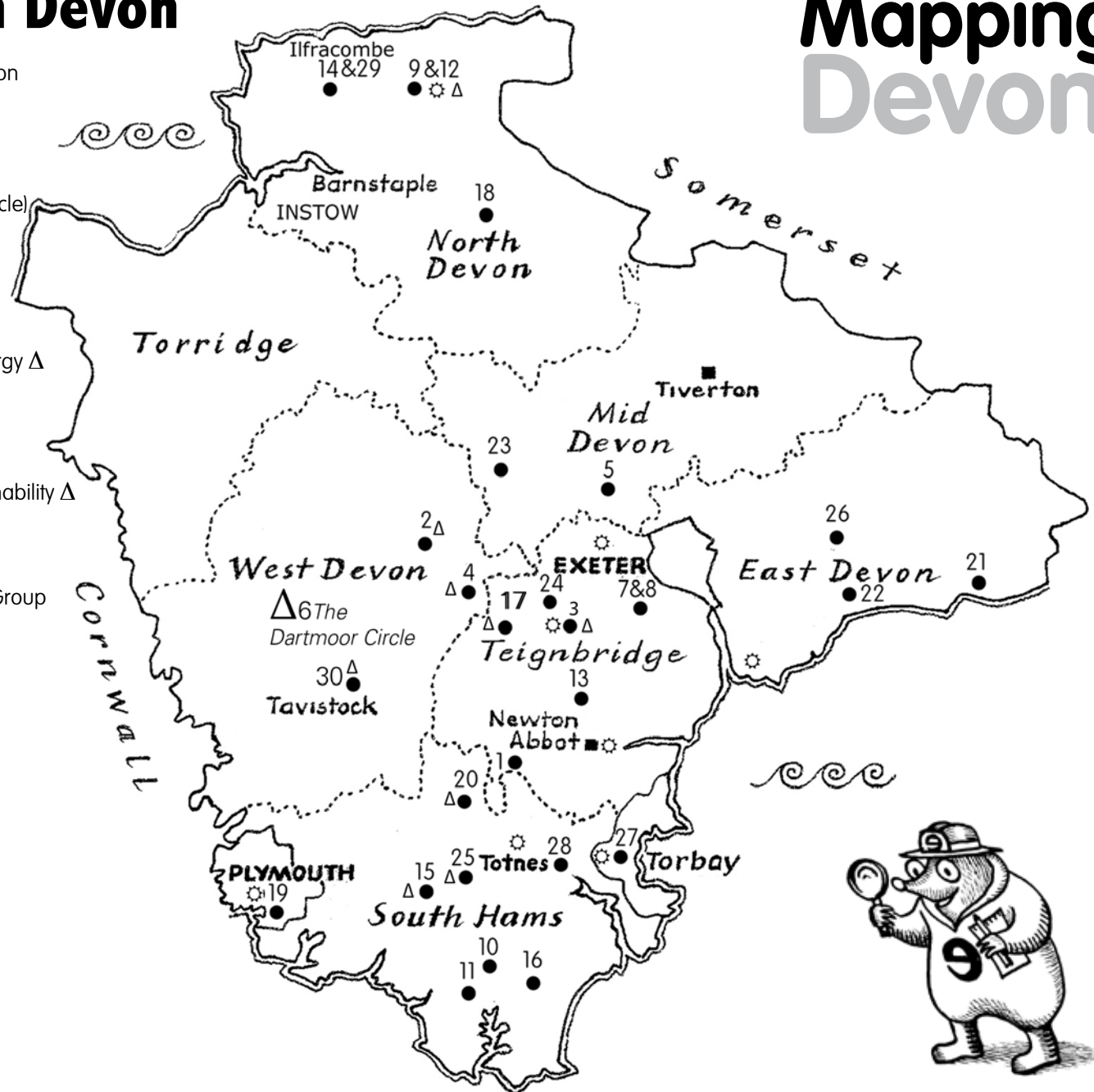
Findings from the reuse group supported more education and better co-ordination perhaps with an Education Resources co-ordinator and a working party to establish problems, solutions, and strategies to encourage more reuse: such as repair credits, more community facilities, a Business Freecycle for Devon – perhaps through NISP (National Industrial Symbiosis Programme).

There was excellent feedback and calls for more frequent conferences by the end.

The next pages map the climate change groups and community reuse, recycle and compost groups in Devon (please let us know if you are not included.)

Climate Groups in Devon

- 1 Ashburton Futures / Transition Town Ashburton
- 2 Belstone Green Village Δ
- 3 Bovey Climate Action Δ
- 4 Chagford Action for Sustainable Energy Δ
- 5 Crediton Climate Action
- 6 The Dartmoor Circle Δ (All Δ included in circle)
- 7 Exeter Climate Action
- 8 Exeter Friends of the Earth
- 9 Exmoor Renewable Energy Group (EREG)
- 10 Friends of the Earth, South Hams
- 11 Grassroots, Kingsbridge
- 12 Greater Exmoor Network for Renewable Energy Δ
- 13 Greener Teign
- 14 Ilfracombe & District Green Alliance
- 15 Ivybridge Environment Action Group Δ
- 16 Land Matters' co-operative, South Devon
- 17 Moretonhampstead Action Group for Sustainability Δ
- 18 North Devon Climate Change Group
- 19 PL21
- 20 SEARCH Holne and Scorriton Δ
- 21 Seaton Sustainable Living and Environment Group
- 22 Sidmouth Vision Group
- 23 South West Energy and Environment Group
- 24 Sustain Dunsford
- 25 Sustainable South Brent Δ
- 26 Sustainable Ottery / Transition Town Ottery
- 27 Torbay Friends of the Earth
- 28 Totnes & District Sustainability Group
- 29 Trans-Send
- 30 WestDen Δ
- ☼ Transition Exeter
- ☼ Transition Exmouth
- ☼ Transition Town Moretonhampstead
- ☼ Transition Town Newton Abbot
- ☼ Transition Plymouth
- ☼ Transition Town Torbay
- ☼ Transition Town Totnes





Re-use/Recycle & Compost Groups in Devon

Exeter Play Scrapstores - 3

Exeter Play Training and Resource Centre (Scrapstore)	Exeter
SPARC - South Devon Play Resource Centre	Totnes
Plymouth Play & scrapstore	Plymouth

Community Networks & support -5

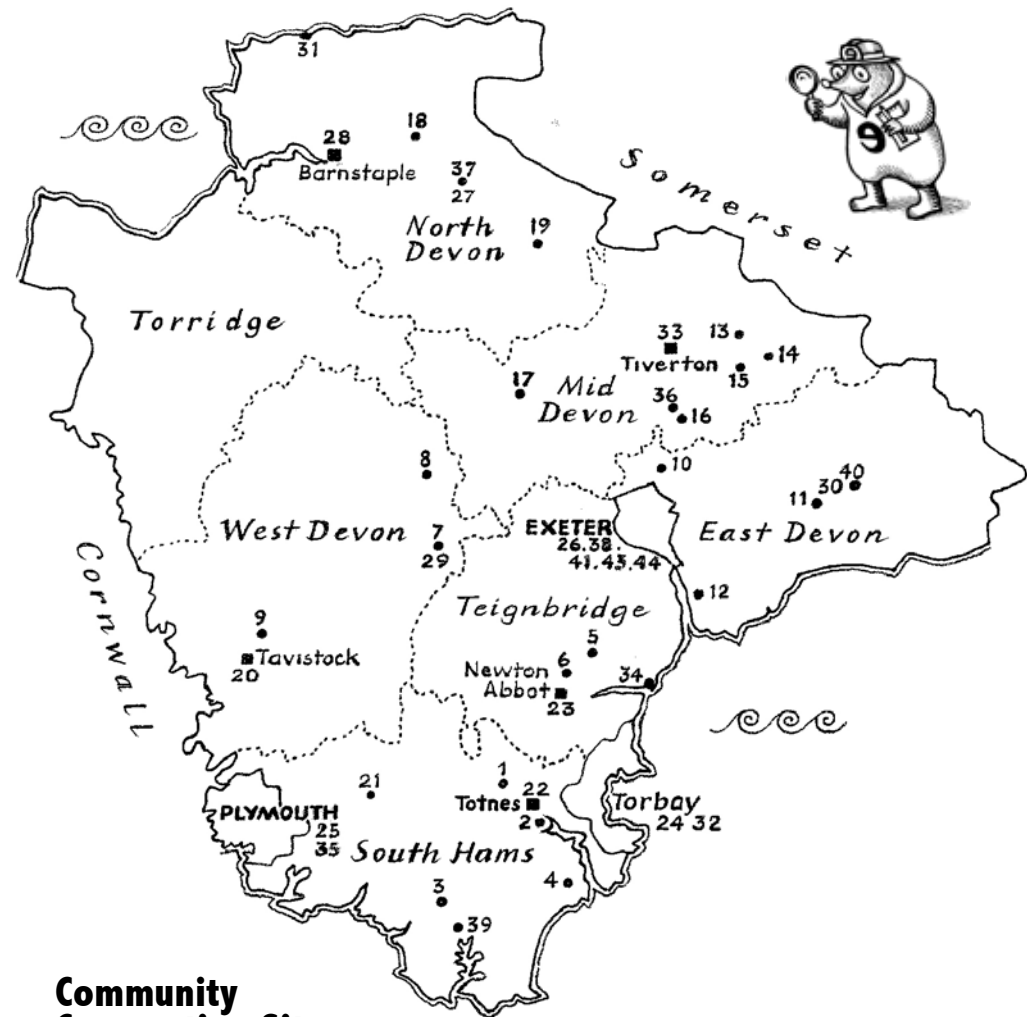
Devon Community Recycling Network	Chagford
Devon Community Composting Network	Chagford
DCL	Dartmoor
DCAN	Devon
Groundwork	Devon
West DEN	
Weee Recycling Network	Tavistock

Furniture and other reuse - 13

20 Refurnish West Devon (DFF)	Tavistock
21 Refurnish Sth Devon	Bittaford
22 Totnes ReFurnish (DFF)	Totnes
23 Refurnish Newton Abbot	Newton Abbot
24 Refurnish Torbay	Paignton
25 Plymouth Resettlement Agency	Plymouth
26 Turntable Furniture	Exeter
27 Phoenix reuse SMR	sth Molton
28 Jigsaw Barnstaple	Barnstaple
29 Proper Job	Chagford
30 Recycling in Ottery (RIO)	Ottery St Mary
31 TLC Community Benefits Ilfracombe	Ilfracombe
32 MASH furniture reuse project	Torbay
33 St Georges Tiverton	Tiverton
34 Busyworms	Teignmouth

Community Recycling services - 7

35 Lamp Recycling Services Ltd - Recycle World	Plymouth
36 Mid Devon Community Recycling Ltd	mid Devon
37 South Molton Recycle	sth Molton
38 Paperchain	Exeter
39 ROPE	Kingsbridge
40 Otter rotters (timber recycling)	honiton
41 A1 Positive Recycling- toner cartridge + IT	Exeter
42 Transend Trust	nth Devon
43 Coffee Break	Ide, Exeter
44 Wessex Remade	Exeter



Community Composting Sites *numbered on Map*

South Hams DC	W.Devon DC	Mid Devon DC	N. Devon DC
1 Dartington	7 Chagford	13 Sampford	18 Bratton
2 Ashprington	8 N.Tawton	Peverell	Fleming
3 Aveton Gifford	9 Mary Tavy	14 Uffculme	19 Witheridge
4 Stoke Fleming		15 Willand	
	E. Devon DC	16 Hele	
	10 Stoke Canon	17 Marchard	
Teignbridge DC	11 Otter Rotters	Bishop	
5 Chudleigh	12 Lympstone		
6 Go Green			

15 years of community recycling

Shock waves rocked Devon's recycling world when social enterprise Mid Devon Community Recycling abruptly ceased recycling collections from around 700 small businesses across Mid and East Devon and Exeter in August.

Mid Devon District Council have now announced that the kerbside recycling service for households will be brought back 'in house' from January 2010. The council has insisted that householders will not be affected by the change.

Councillor Ray Radford said: "MDCR have done an excellent job in the setting up and running of recycling collections in the district. They did the hard work of persuading people to recycle and think about their waste back before it was fashionable to do so."

The reason given for the setbacks is the impact of the recession and other adverse pressures. The market value of materials sent for recycling dropped alongside reduced amounts collected for recycling as businesses and households cut costs. Several recycling businesses have been hit - Quaywaste in Teignbridge, TQ Recycling in South Hams, and now MDCR. The reality for small recycling businesses is that margins are low, competition is fierce, operating costs and material volumes are high, leaving them vulnerable to market price drops and cost cutting pressures.

MDCR and other groups arose from

the wave of concern among Devon communities about waste in the early 1990's. Local groups pioneered community reuse, recycling and composting. Volunteers started collecting recyclables with vans and trailers, and stored materials in garages, sheds and back gardens for want of anywhere else. Devon was named 'Recycling County' by Friends of the Earth. South Molton Recycle, Refurnish, Resettlement, Recycling in Ottery, Uffculme Compost Magic, Proper Job, DCRN, DCCN and others were established. The challenge for these groups was to build viable financially self sustaining businesses from volunteer bases while delivering community services and benefits.

Now there is a new wave of concern about climate change and peak oil motivating people to set up action groups in their communities. A key role is to raise awareness and generate support on the ground. This will help Authorities implement changes. One difference now is that issues are more visibly joined up – waste & resources, compost & food, energy descent, transport, fair trade, sustainable communities etc. Volunteers are on the frontline showing initiative and leadership. Transition Towns, Devon Climate Action Network, and Dartmoor Circle have been set up. To achieve bigger impacts, however, significant sources of income must be found to support activities and new partnerships forged. Groups must generate income beyond grants, for example through community owned renewable energy. Investment of 'local' money in our own communities is a critical piece of the jigsaw, even more so since the financial crisis of 2008-09.

DEVON CAN NETWORK EVENT

Devon CAN held a very successful Networking Event at The Belmont Centre in Exeter on Saturday 21st November. Climate Action, Transition and Sustainable Groups and individuals from all over Devon attended this all day event which was the first get together of Devon CAN groups since the launch of the Network at Embercombe Sustainable Community in March 2009.

The function of the day was for groups and individual members to meet, share ideas and help identify priority areas for Devon CAN to address over the next year.

Niall MacLeod, Chair, explained how the interim steering group had spent the last 7 months doing the important bureaucratic bit of giving Devon CAN a constitution, a financial base and initiating contact with local government. He said that having put down these important and necessary bureaucratic roots, the time was now ripe for DevonCAN to start doing what it was created to do- to connect, support, and represent groups

interested in climate action, transition and sustainable living across Devon.

A large part of the day was given to an open space event where a wide range of topics suggested by those who attended were discussed with the task of suggesting how Devon CAN could best help in these areas. How can working together help better achieve the suggested goal?

A new Steering Group was formed from members attending the event, although non attendees who wish to offer their services are welcome to do so and be co-opted onto the group.

The Event finished on a high with the belief that Devon CAN's role was even more important now, given that evidence showed climate change was advancing more rapidly than thought, a funding stream for a new website and administrative support seemed to have been found, and that Local Government seemed to be keen to enter into dialogue in the near future.

Full details of the day will be posted on this website in the next week or two.

If you have any queries in the meanwhile please do not hesitate to contact the Steering Group on admin.devoncan@googlemail.com

There is now an excellent map on the Devon CAN website showing even more groups than we have listed here.

devoncan.org
admin.devoncan@googlemail.com

Have you seen an EDAP lately?

“One of the main sinks of energy in the ‘developed’ world is the creating of stuff. In its natural life cycle, stuff passes through 3 stages. First, a new-born stuff is displayed in its shiny packaging on a shelf in a shop. At this stage, stuff is called ‘goods’. As soon as the stuff is taken home and sheds its packaging, it undergoes a transformation from ‘goods’ to its second form ‘clutter’. The clutter lives with its owner for a period of months or years. During this period the clutter is largely ignored by its owner, who is off at the shops buying more goods. Eventually by a miracle of modern alchemy, the clutter is transformed into its final form, rubbish.”

Transition Town Totnes have recently produced an Energy Descent Action Plan for Waste, (EDAP) which seeks to portray a timeline of changes in society that need to happen to address the challenges of climate change, peak oil and over-consumption between now and 2030. The plan engaged the local community in a series of events which helped develop a vision of life in 2030, where virtually zero waste has

transformed the way people live, and communities are much more self reliant and resilient. Here are some excerpts

Vision 2030

“By 2030, Totnes and district has achieved almost zero waste and almost 100% resource recovery. Everything is valued and reused and recycled in ways that minimise impact on the environment. Few people have money to spend on luxuries, nor the space to accommodate a lot of clutter, as home space is used for all the tools, materials and books needed being more creative to meet ones own needs, such as cooking, sewing, DIY, gardening. In place of excess money, most people have created more time to live more diverse lives to enable them to provide for more of their own basic needs. Through this change, values around resources and waste have moved on and reflect respect, an ethical approach and prudence, and recognition of the connection between resources and the planet, viewing with astonishment the brief but severe mass-consumerism and the throw away society at the turn of the 21st century.”

A study found that 33% of shoppers surveyed had a “high level of addiction to rash or unnecessary consumption”. Affluenza, n. 1. “The bloated, sluggish and unfulfilled feeling that results from efforts to keep up with the Joneses. 2. An epidemic of stress, overwork, waste and indebtedness caused by the pursuit of the American Dream. 3. An unsustainable addiction to economic growth.”

The rationale that underpins the Transition movement is that:

- a) peak oil and climate change must be addressed together, not as separate issues. We don’t know how fast the peak oil descent will be, but as demand increases so the gap will get wider.
- b) Current ‘business as usual’ and perpetual economic growth is not sustainable nor possible
- c) There will be much less energy available in the future, and it will be much more expensive, so ‘energy descent’ is inevitable. We had better start planning for it (at community level). There is a need to recast energy descent as a positive process that can free people from the dysfunctions of growth economics and consumer culture.

The UK is heading for its own energy crisis: north sea oil and gas is rapidly declining, 30% of the current energy generating capacity is due to close by

2020, ‘desirable’ replacement options are running out, current UK efforts for renewable energy are predicted to reach only 6% of needs by 2020, and higher renewable targets will be missed.

‘The Transition Timeline, for a local, resilient future’ by Shaun Chamberlain and published by Green Books, builds on Rob Hopkins earlier ‘Transition Handbook’. It provides a set of innovative approaches, new narratives and creative thinking tools to help people create energy descent pathways, timelines and EDAPs for their community.

The Transition Movement is creating a transition vision in which we shift our cultural and economic assumptions to fit our circumstances and move to a more fulfilling, lower energy future based on earth stewardship and sustainable and resilient local communities.

www.totnes.transitionnetwork.org

From 2030 looking back
It's strange to think of a time
Of the early part of the century for instance
When we learn that there were these big stores
Full of foods from every country
Brought to us by giant trucks and aeroplanes
Packaged in cardboard and plastic to appeal to tastes
Whole forests were cut down in order to make these presentations
Which were then discarded
And taken away in black sacks
To giant rubbish dumps.
What a crazy way to live!
From Wondermentalist Transition Cabaret

Book Review

Book reviews & climate change scepticism.

With the recent flurry of climate change denial launched by sceptics pre Copenhagen, there are a number of books worth highlighting which may help clarify any doubts and raise awareness.

Firstly, a '**Climate Safety**' booklet by the Public Interest Research Centre charity clearly presents the science, targets, solutions, action and a summary all in a very readable 48 pages. See www.climatesafety.org to download free or £7 for paper copy via Amazon.

The Transition Timeline

by Shaun Chamberlain

Next is 'The Transition Timeline, for a local, resilient future' (Green Books) by Shaun Chamberlain, which builds on Rob Hopkins earlier 'Transition Handbook'. It provides a set of innovative approaches, new narratives and creative thinking tools to help people create energy descent pathways, timelines and action plans for their community. A clear message for positive hope.

Future Scenarios

by David Holmgren

A good understanding of the perspectives behind Transition Town thinking can be gained from 'Future

Scenarios – How communities can adapt to peak oil and climate change' by David Holmgren. It is an excellent, simply explained and unputdownable exploration of different future possible scenarios from 'lifeboats', through 'green tech' to 'earth stewardship'. How these scenarios unfold depends on the rapidity or suddenness of peak oil and climate change. Gripping stuff.

The Vanishing Face of Gaia

by James Lovelock

Then comes 'The Vanishing Face of Gaia' by Devon based James Lovelock, a leading 'lifeboat' scenario thinker. It updates us on his thinking laid out in his earlier book 'The Revenge of Gaia', which was hailed as 'the most important book for decades' by Andrew Marr, but alienated many environmentalists by his nuclear advocacy and opposition to wind energy. His views can be surmised: we will be unable to reduce our energy needs, the earth cannot support the current population level, sustainable development is not possible, so we had better plan for a 'sustainable retreat' in the face of catastrophic climate change as much of the earth becomes uninhabitable.

Lovelock says 'I realised I had said much about the imminent catastrophe but too little about how we could try to ensure our continued presence on the Earth...' The book, then, is a mixture of discussion of problems and solutions, with historical, environmental and Gaian perspectives. There is some good stuff – such

as on understanding Gaia and our separation from nature. Unfortunately his recommendations, whilst thought provoking, compare unfavourably against the analysis in **George Monbiot's book 'Heat – How to stop the Planet burning'**, which remains the best written solutions based book on reducing carbon emissions – you will find more positive evaluations there.

However the 'carrot and stick' approach often works, so do read Lovelock, **Fred Pearce 'The Last Generation'**, and **Mark Lynas '5 degrees'** to disturb yourself into taking urgent action to change your life. For example, the actual measurements of climate change (ice melt, temperature rises and other indicators) are all exceeding the worst case predictions made by the IPCC, so we'd better take serious action pdq.

Lovelock is provocative in his arguments – no bad thing to counter complacency. 'Our wish to continue business as usual will probably prevent us from saving ourselves', so we must adapt as best we can so that enough of us survive to allow a more capable species to evolve from us. Fundamentally the Earth cannot support the current population: it will need to be greatly reduced. As we will be unable to do that voluntarily, catastrophic climate change will ensue, at least 5 degrees hotter with huge desertification. Ergo 'sustainable development' is impossible – too many people - so we should be undertaking a sustainable 'retreat'. This includes

preparing 'lifeboats' for civilisation such as islands like the UK and New Zealand, nuclear power to ensure energy security, laboratory food to ensure food security, and mega cities to support the most people efficiently using the least space and leaving land for food growing & reforestation.

Lovelock seeks to de-bunk what he perceives as misplaced green ideas. He is very anti-wind and pro-nuclear – for example, a 1GW wind farm requires 2 m tonnes of concrete which releases 1 m tonnes of CO₂, and it requires equivalent back-up for when the wind is not blowing. However, he makes omissions, and in my view does not place enough emphasis on the greatest potentials – energy efficiency and solar thermal energy from hot areas and bio-char for carbon sequestration. Solar reflectors heat water to drive steam turbines, with energy stored using 'steam accumulators'. New mains cables carrying up to a million volts would cost \$1m a mile, so it is viable to send energy on a continental scale.

Civilisation may survive the catastrophe albeit in greatly reduced circumstances, and the Earth can find a new natural balance in a much hotter world. Lovelock concludes: 'We exist now because Gaia did the selecting; perhaps we should leave it to her to continue'. 'We could have a future in communion with our living planet'... 'able to counter the disabling impacts that are due'... 'how could anyone be a pessimist and imagine that the global heating crisis is the end for us or even Gaia?

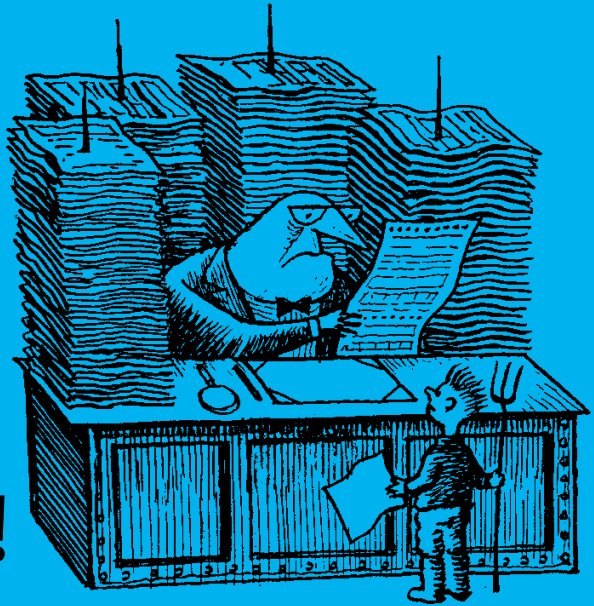
A Possible Future

between 2010-2025

WASTE DESCENT TIMELINE	BETWEEN 2010 - 2025
2010	2015
Waste prevention, reuse, home composting and waste reduction targets adopted – waste arisings reduce by 2%+ per annum.	Waste arising has reduced by 10-15% over 5 yrs and waste reduction rate continues at 3%+ p/a. 'New Deal' on climate and resource responsibility.
Mandatory recycling and composting leads to rise of 2% per annum in recycling/composting rate. New high targets for commercial waste recycling, reuse & composting.	Oil price hits \$150 - \$200 a barrel – cost of haulage & energy mean waste must be dealt with locally & resource recovery maximised.
Waste minimisation & resource efficiency catches on big time in all walks of life, home, business, school, community, supported by awareness campaigns, incentives & rewards.	Waste awareness, resource efficiency & conservation embedded in people's behaviour. Reward and incentive schemes. Reuse rate rises to 10%+
Producer responsibility & right of return of packaging waste to retailer leads to huge drop in waste, eco-design standards, product durability & reuse.	Home grown food revolution has led to home composting in all gardens. Food waste allowed to be fed to pigs and chickens. School pigs & chickens scheme.
Bottle & container reuse, deposit return & refill pouch schemes reduces costs and frees up kerbside recycling for other materials.	Micro and large scale anaerobic digestion of food waste generate clean renewable energy. All schools & many businesses compost in situ.
Free 100% weekly kerbside food waste collections are mandatory alongside pay as you throw fortnightly residual waste collections.	Market for compost and bio- char explodes as peat use stops and fossil fuel fertilisers reduce. Value for carbon Sequestration.

BY CREATORS OF 'JUNK MAIL'	A POSSIBLE FUTURE
2020	2025
Peak oil & energy crisis has revolutionised the way people live, work, travel and consume. The great transition and re-skilling is well under way.	Cross cutting policy approaches to reducing carbon emissions by 80-90% by 2030
Waste arising has reduced by 30%+ from 2010 levels driven by the need to reduce carbon emissions. It falls by 2 %+ per year. Reuse rates at unforeseen levels.	Waste arising has reduced by 50%+ from 2010 levels & continues to fall.
All businesses are maximising resource efficiencies and 'designing out waste' in the race for sustainability. Closed-loop life cycle & zero waste design.	Waste has been virtually designed out of the system in a resource efficient future, where energy is expensive and resources are precious.
More sustainable and resilient communities emerging where more people work locally, travel less, are more self reliant and happier to work less and consume less.	90%+ recycling rate enabled by changes in waste composition, technology improvements, social & behaviour changes.
85%+ recycling rate driven by high participation, changes in waste composition, householder and producer responsibility, comprehensive reuse etc.	Contribution of waste reduction & maximising recycling seen as valuable measure in reducing CO2 emissions.
Local food security needs maximise demand for compost. Lower grade soil conditioners used to grow energy crops on reclaimed land	Individuals and communities now take responsibility in new world of 'earth stewardship'.

DEFRA drops charges!



Defra drops proposed £50 charge to register permitting exemptions

Defra has abandoned plans to introduce a £50 blanket charge for registering all exemptions from environmental permitting as a result of concerns over the impact that the charge could have on small-scale recycling operations and small businesses in the current economic climate.

The Government has decided that in the current economic climate imposing charges for the registration of waste exemptions may discourage the take-up of small-scale recycling.

Defra had originally proposed that all waste operators who needed to register their activities as exempt would have to pay the charge every three years.

The proposals had proved particularly controversial over the impact it could have on small-scale composting activities, and also on farmers' willingness to comply with permitting requirements.

In explaining its decision, the department explained that the "vast majority" of respondents did not support the plans for a charge.

The department had already delayed the introduction of the new exemptions system from its original launch date of October 2009 to April 2010 in a move thought to be linked to its reluctance to be seen to be increasing businesses' administrative and financial burden during the recession.