

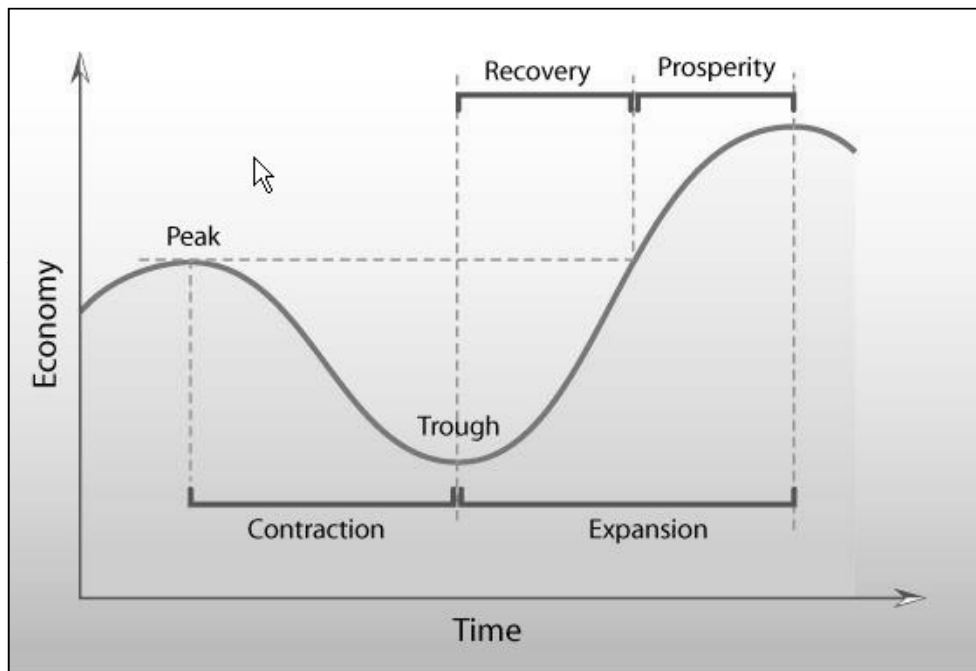


# Overview

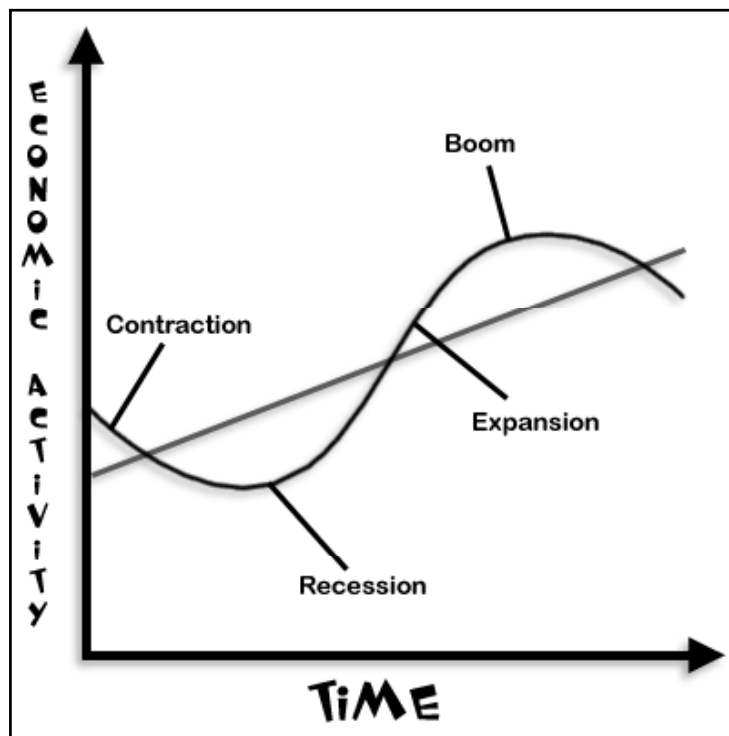
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- Change – past, present, future
- Moving toward a new economy
- Building a new community
- How do we get there?

# Good News: The Business Cycle

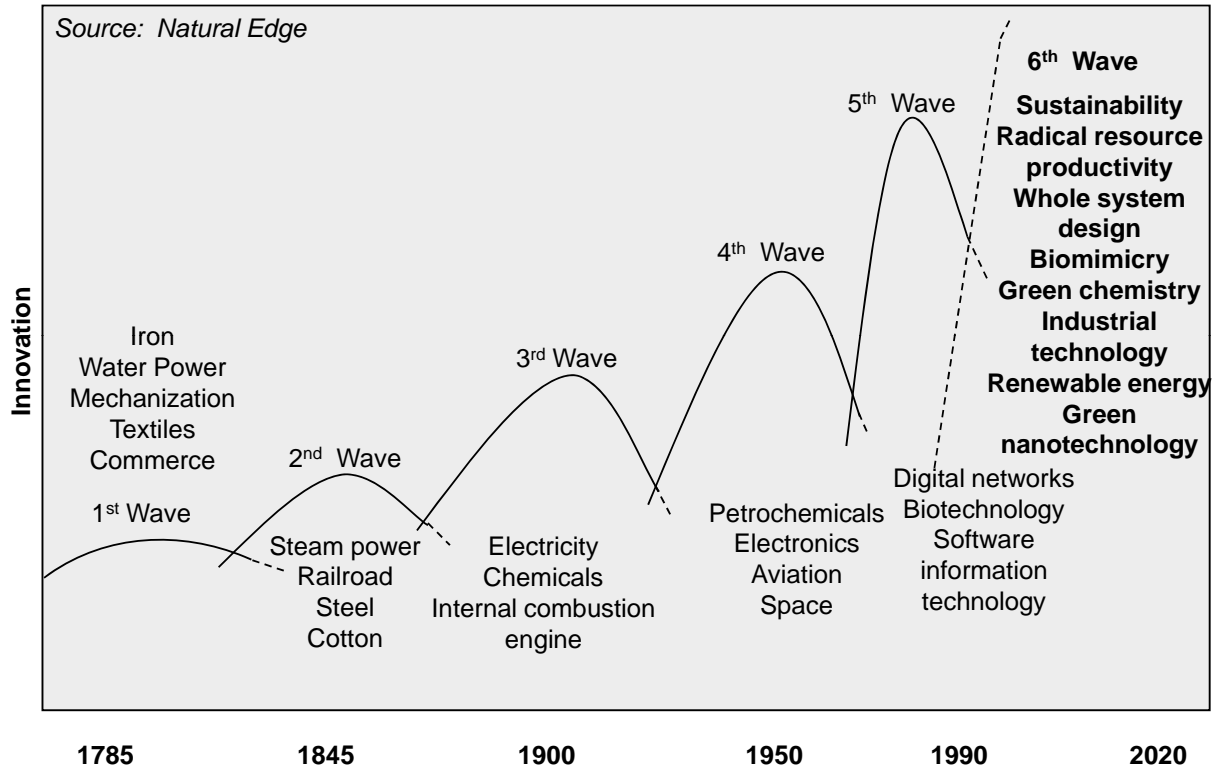


# Bad News: The Business Cycle



# Waves of Innovation

Source: Natural Edge

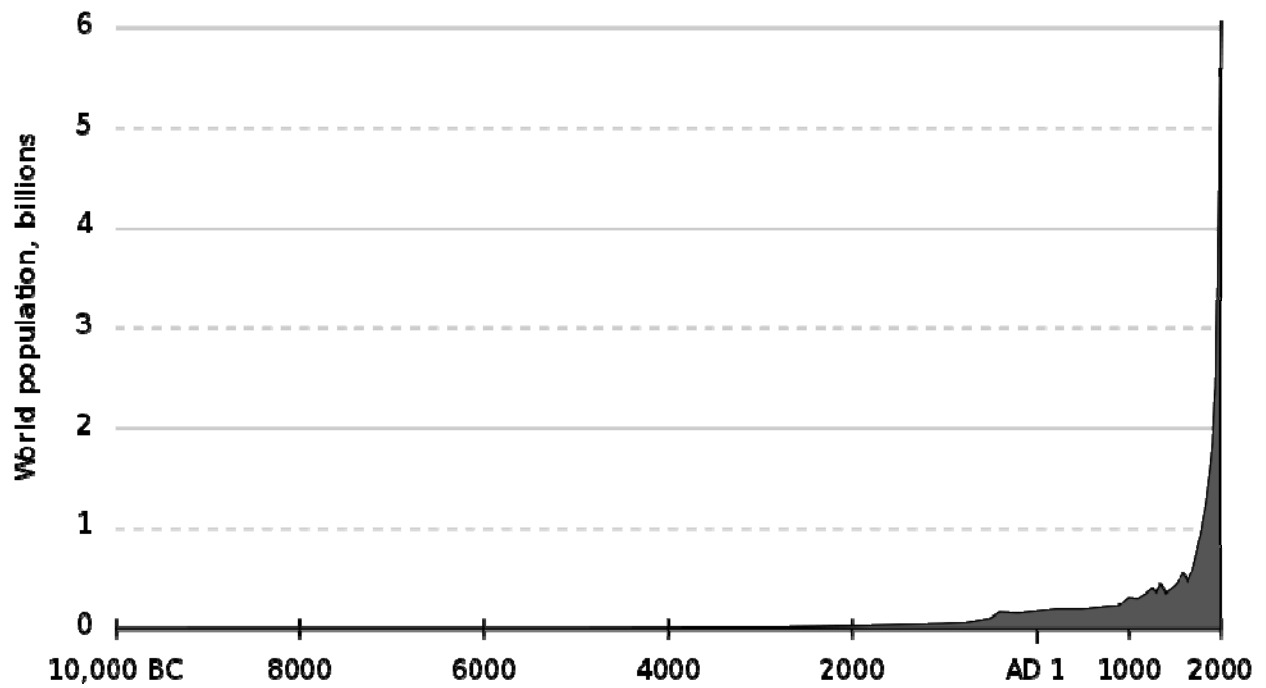


# **Other Upward Trends**

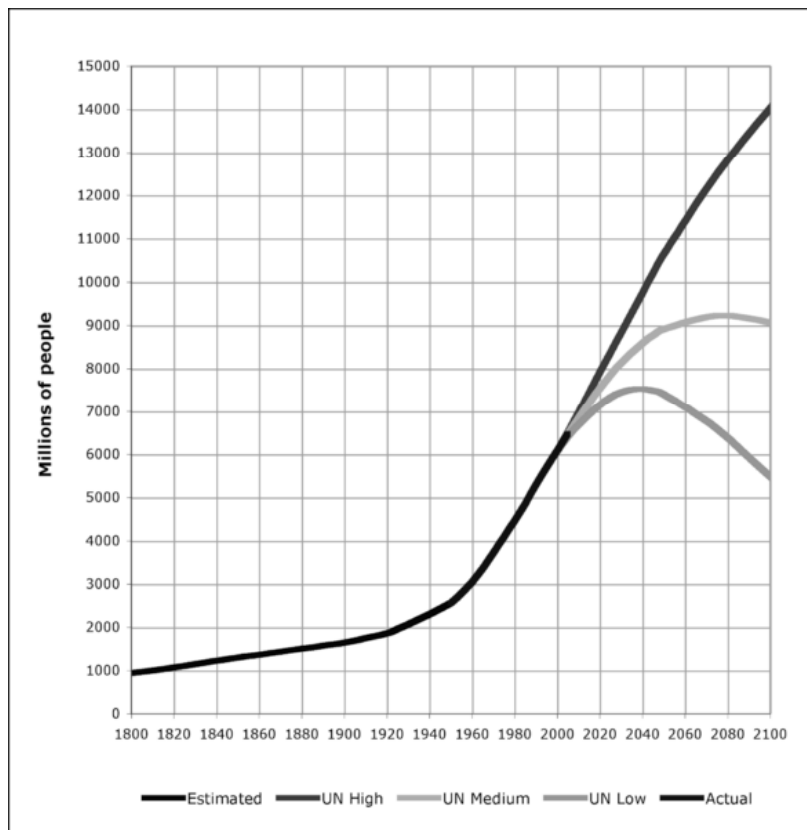
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**Considering the  
Implications of  
Growth**

# World Population, 10,000 BC to Present

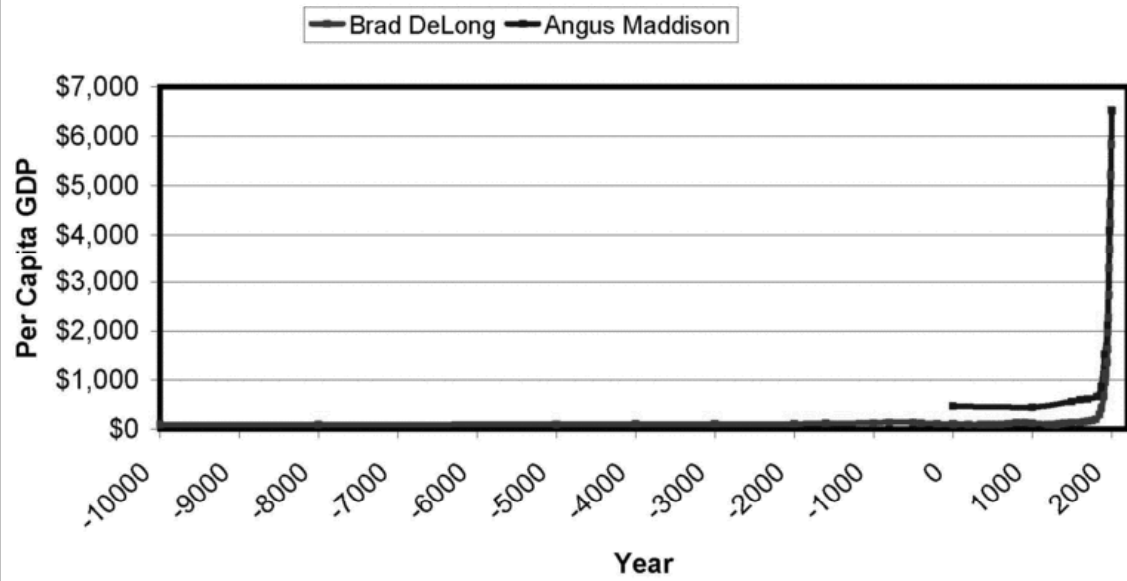


# World Population Projections



World population from 1800 to 2100, based on UN 2004 projections and US Census Bureau historical estimates

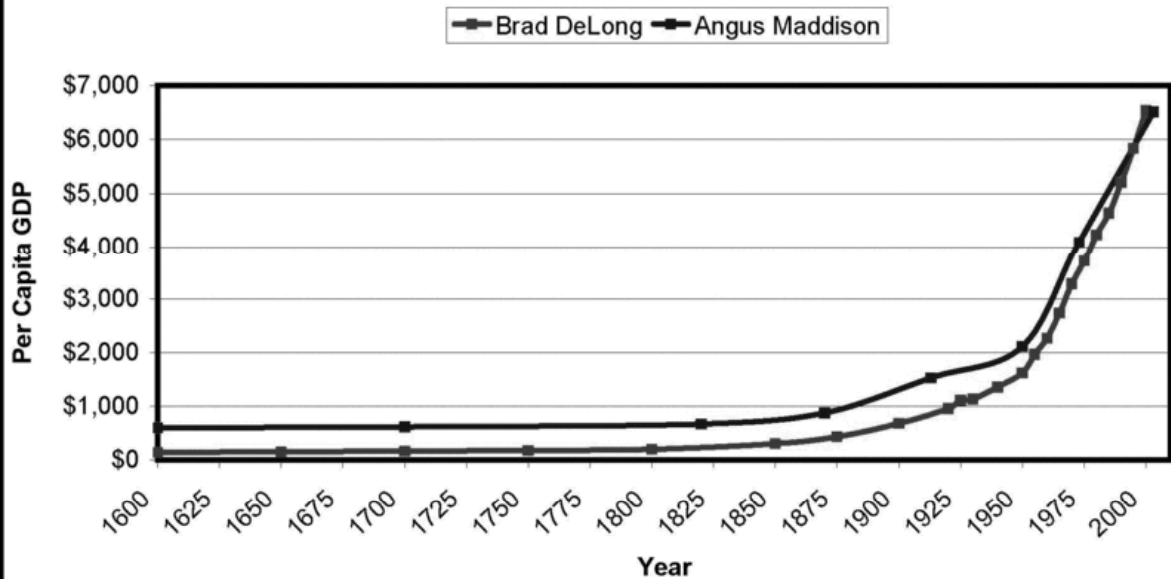
### World Per Capita GDP 10,000 BCE - 2003 CE (1990 Int'l. Dollars)



Source: J. Bradford DeLong, "Estimating World GDP, One Million B.C. - Present" [http://www.j-bradford-delong.net/TCEH/1998\\_DraftWorld\\_GDP/Estimating\\_World\\_GDP.html](http://www.j-bradford-delong.net/TCEH/1998_DraftWorld_GDP/Estimating_World_GDP.html). Accessed Mar 5, 2008; Angus Maddison, "Contours of the World Economy, 1-2030 AD: Essays in Macro-Economic History." New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. 382.

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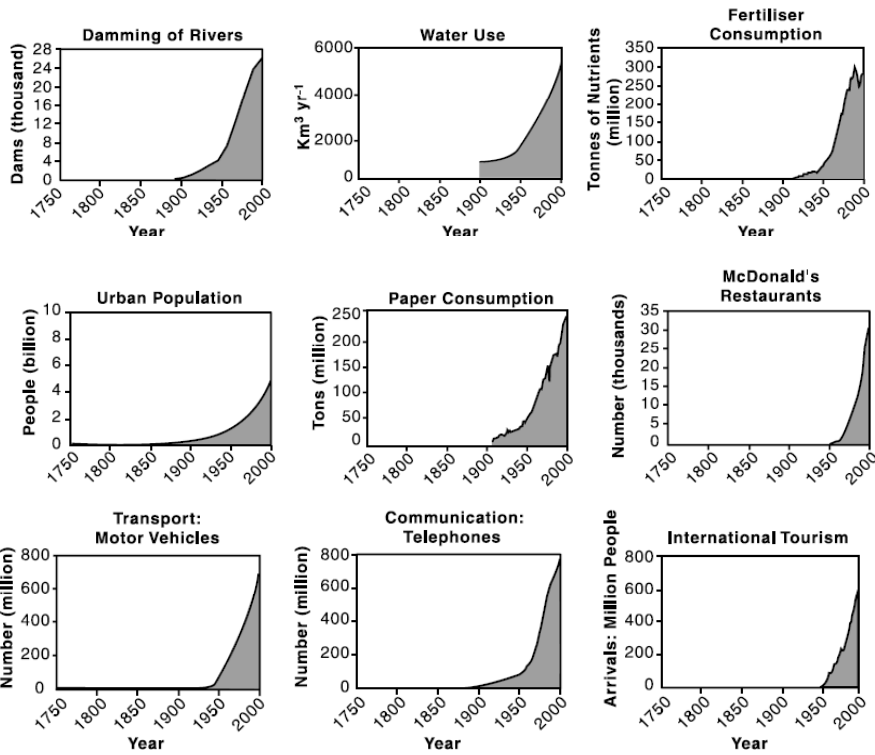
### World Per Capita GDP 1600 - 2003 (1990 Int'l Dollars)



Source: J. Bradford DeLong, "Estimating World GDP, One Million B.C. - Present" [http://www.j-bradford-delong.net/TCEH/1998\\_Draft/World\\_GDP/Estimating\\_World\\_GDP.html](http://www.j-bradford-delong.net/TCEH/1998_Draft/World_GDP/Estimating_World_GDP.html). Accessed Mar 5, 2008; Angus Maddison, "Contours of the World Economy, 1-2030 AD: Essays in Macro-Economic History." New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. 382.

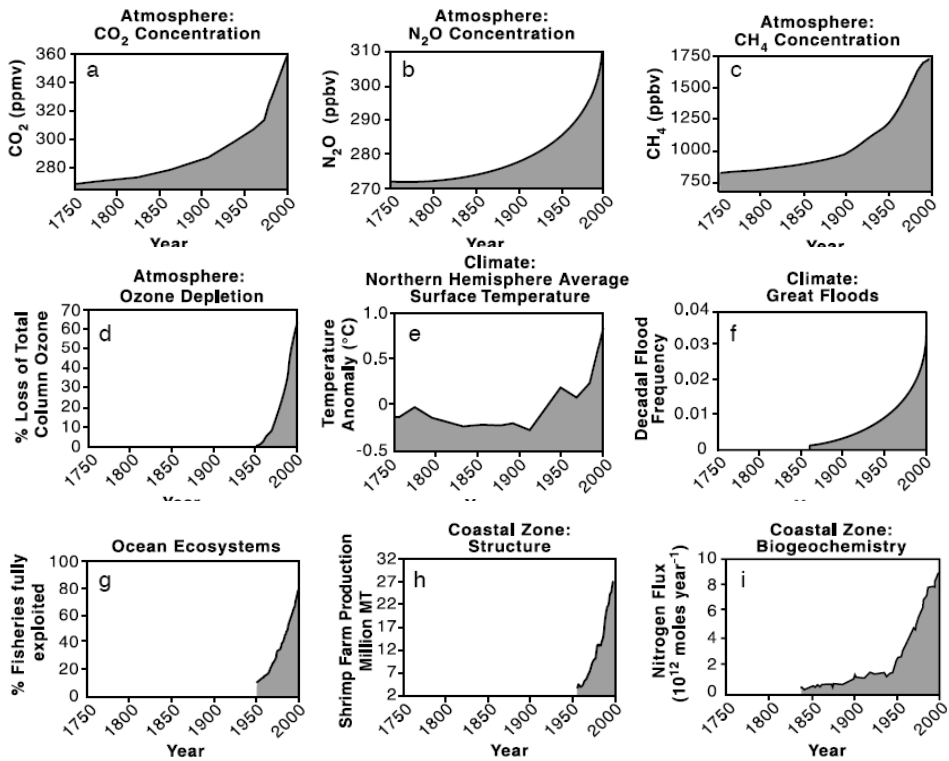
© 2008, Michael W. Kruse

# Societal Pressure on Earth Systems



Source:  
International  
Geosphere-  
Biosphere  
Programme,  
2004

# Societal Pressure on Earth Systems



Source:  
International  
Geosphere-  
Biosphere  
Programme,  
2004

## **Conceptual Reform in Economics: Seven Big Ideas**

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- Adjust economic scale
- Shift from growth to development
- Make prices tell the ecological truth
- Account for nature's contributions
- Apply the precautionary principle
- Revitalize commons management
- Value women

Source: Gardner, Gary, and Prugh, Thomas, Project Directors. *State of the World 2008: Innovations for a Sustainable Economy*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2008.

## **Moving Toward a New Economy**

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Green economy

Green collar economy

Sustainable economy

Clean economy

Post-carbon (or carbon neutral) economy

Circular (recycling) economy

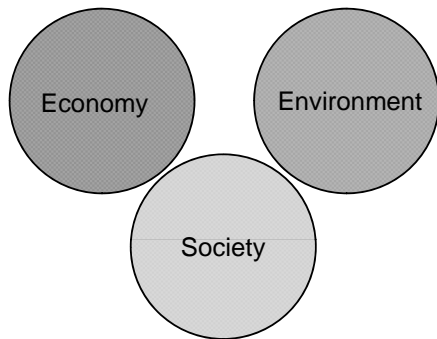
Steady-state economy

Human-scale economy

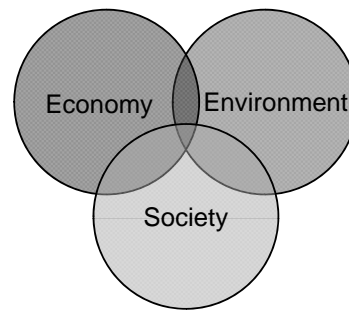
Local living economy

# Evolving Views of the Community

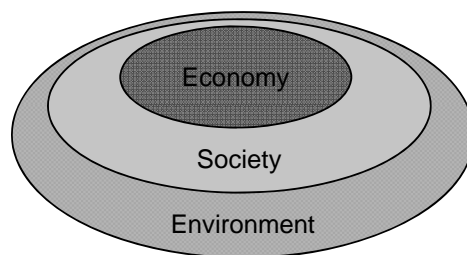
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Unconnected or silos view



Interconnected or linkages view



Interdependent, nested, or systems view

# Systems Thinking

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- Systems consist of **individual but interrelated parts**.
- Systems depend on the **relationships** among the parts as much as the parts themselves.
- These relationships make the **whole greater than the sum of its parts**.
- When you **dissect** the system, you destroy the pattern of relationships.

# Sustainable Community Development

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## Drivers

- Sustainable development and systems thinking

## Goal

- Sustainability

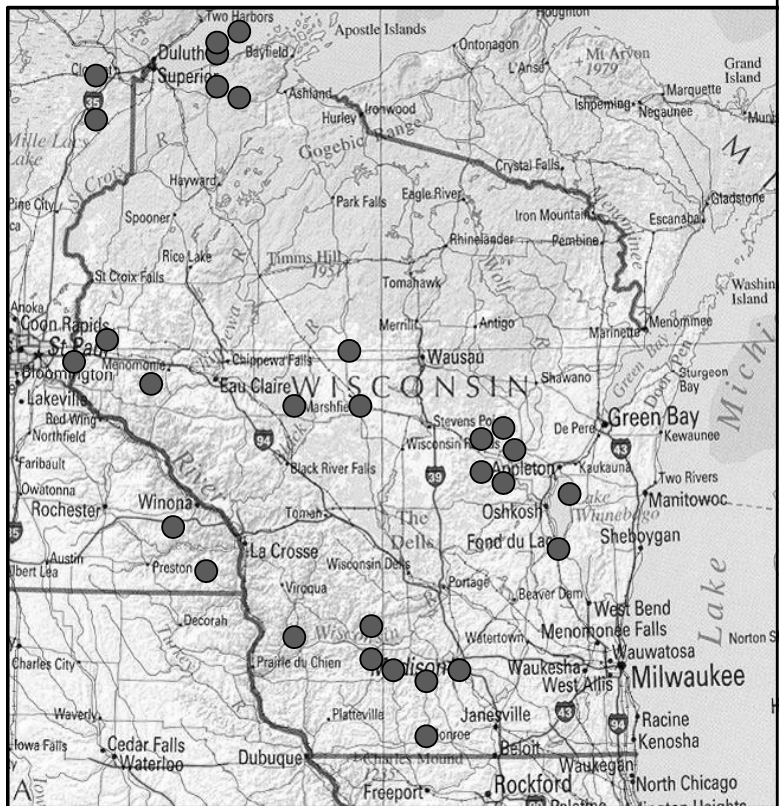
## Emerging Strategies

- Green collar jobs
- Alternative and renewable energy sources

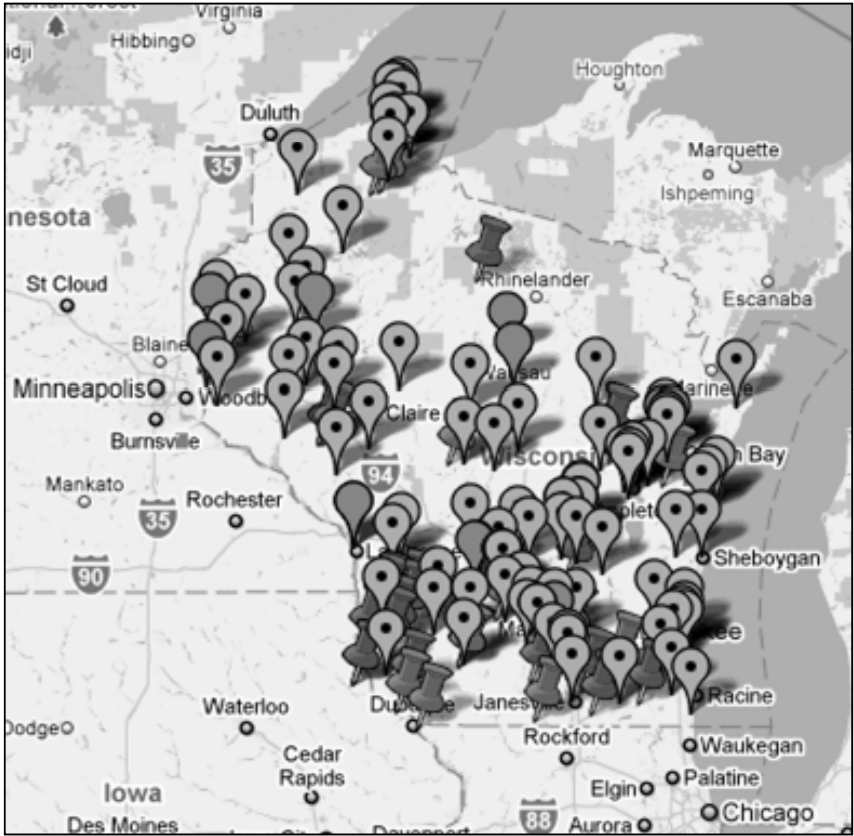
- Local food systems
- Sustainable (eco) tourism
- Triple bottom line business
- Industrial ecology
- Valuing ecosystem services
- Precautionary principle
- Eco-municipality movement (The Natural Step)
- Transition Towns

# Wisconsin Eco-municipalities

- Town of La Pointe
- City of Washburn
- City of Ashland
- City of Madison
- City of Bayfield
- Town of Bayfield
- Douglas County
- Village of Johnson Creek
- City of Marshfield
- City of Manitowoc
- City of Neenah
- City of Menasha
- Town of Menasha
- City of Eau Claire
- Town of Cottage Grove
- City of La Crosse
- La Crosse County
- City of Stevens Point
- City of Wausau
- City of Beloit
- City of Baraboo
- City of Sheboygan
- Dunn County
- Village of Spring Green
- Village of Colfax
- Town of Greenville
- Village of Shorewood



# Energy Independent Communities



# Four Sustainability Principles

In a sustainable society, nature is not subject to **systematically increasing**...



**...concentrations of substances extracted from the Earth's crust,**



**...concentrations of substances produced by society,**



**...degradation by physical means,**

and, in that society...



**...people are not subject to conditions that systematically undermine their capacity to meet their needs.**

# Fundamental Human Needs

Subsistence

Protection

Participation



Idleness

Affection

Understanding



Creativity

Identity

Freedom



# Transition Model

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“ . . . a positive, solutions-focused way of gathering those around you together to start exploring community-scale responses to peak oil and climate change.”

Rob Hopkins. *The Transition Handbook*, 2008.

## Transition: Guiding Principles

- Inner and Outer Transition
- Positive Visioning
- Inclusion and Openness
- Enable Sharing and Networking
- Build Resilience
- Self-organization and decision making at the appropriate level



# Three Basic Policy Goals

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- Sustainable scale
- Just distribution
- Efficient allocation

Source: Daly, Herman. *Ecological Economics*. Island Press, 2004.

# **Building a New Community**

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Durable

Sturdy

Stable

Hardy

Robust

Resilient

Human scale

Self-reliant

Localized

# Community Engagement

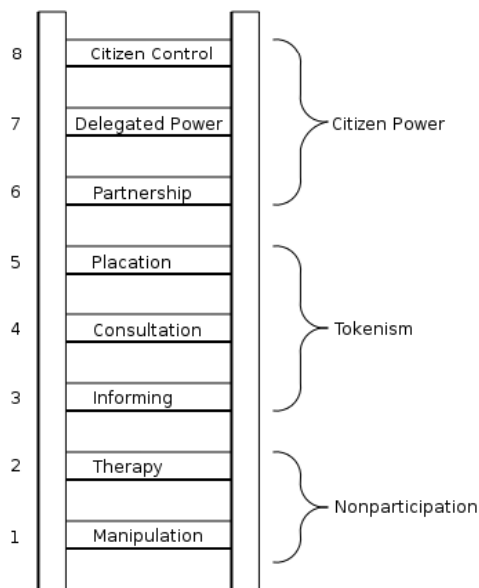
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Participatory  
Inclusive  
Decentralized  
Self-organizing  
Horizontal  
Open  
Collective  
Fair and just  
Empowering

## How do we get there?

- The sustainability-participation connection
  - Ecosystems are about connectedness and interdependence
  - Relationships are more important than parts
  - Wisdom is about understanding interdependence
  - Understanding of others can only occur through interaction with them
  - Interacting requires participation of everyone

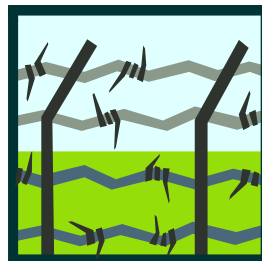
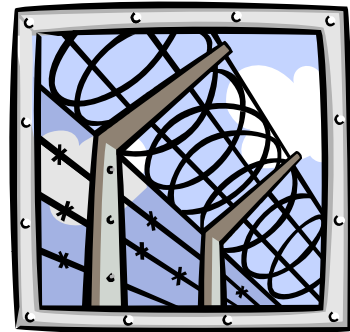
# Ladder of Participation



*Arnstein, Sherry R. "A Ladder of Citizen Participation," JAIP, Vol. 35, No. 4, July 1969, pp. 216-224*

## Who doesn't Participate--the Excluded

- People with lower income
- People with less education
- People of color
- People with disabilities
- Single parents
- Immigrants



## How to Prevent the Excluded from Participating

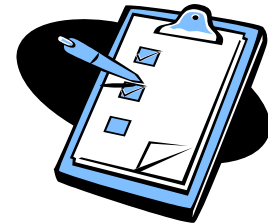
- Meetings during working hours
- Meetings without child care
- Mealtime meetings without food
- Inaccessible meetings
- No translation at meetings
- No public transport to meetings



## How to Discourage the Excluded from Participating



- Elites control the agenda
- Plan is worked out before the meeting
- Final decisions will be made by others
- Boring meetings
- Non-interactive meetings
- Results of meeting are ignored



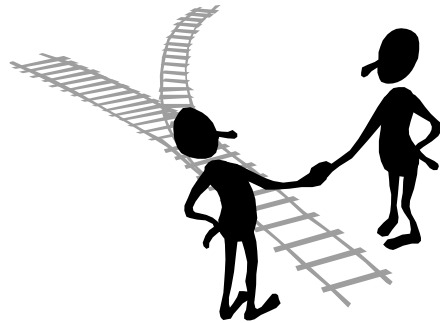
## The Consequences of Exclusion

- NIMBYism
- Disillusionment
- Abstinance from elections
- Distrust of government
- Tax resistance
- Development resistance



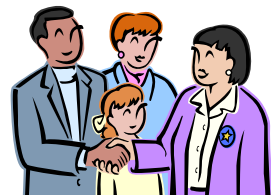
# Changing our Thinking

- Respecting adversarial democracy
- Embracing diversity
- Climbing up the ladder of participation
- Appreciating creativity



# Building the Base for Inclusion

- Building relationships with the excluded (one on ones, small groups, listening projects)
- Building participation skills of the excluded
- Organizing the excluded (from small groups to sustainable organizations)



## Why Consensus Processes May Not Work

- There are contradictory material interests.
- There is not an honest desire among power holders to share power.



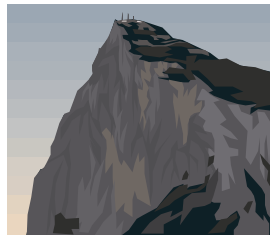
# Adversarial Processes

- Riots
- Protests
- Community organizing



## Professional Challenges for the Community Worker

- Elites like having control
- Elites control the community worker's salary
- Racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, etc.



# Managing the Challenges



- Dividing elites
- Educating elites
- The civic engagement backdoor



# Resources

- The Guide to Effective Participation  
<http://www.partnerships.org.uk/guide/index.htm>
- The Citizen's Handbook <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/citizens-handbook/>
- The Study Circles Resource Center <http://www.studycircles.org/>
- Fond du Lac Diversity Circles  
<http://www.fdl.uwc.edu/diversitycircles/>
- Consensus Organizing Center <http://consensus.sdsu.edu/>
- Organizing <http://www.tenant.net/Organize/>