

A Basque Transition from the perspective of Local Resilience: lessons from Transition Towns Movement



From oil dependency to local resilience

bc³
BASQUE CENTRE
FOR CLIMATE CHANGE
Klima Aldaketa Ikerketan

Klimagune, 2013

Soziologia eta
Gizarte Lagintza Saila



Joseba Azkarraga Etxagibel

Community / Civil Society:



- What is, specifically, the **role** of community?
- What place should we give to **local resilience**?
- How to **build** it?
- How to **organize** the community in order to face systemic challenges?

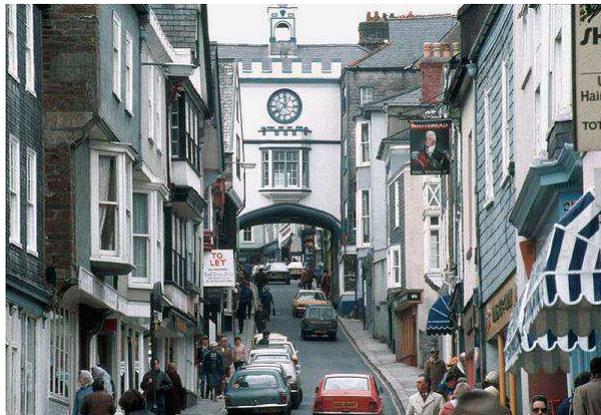


Transition Towns Movement



Participant observation of Transition Movement in:

Totnes (UK)

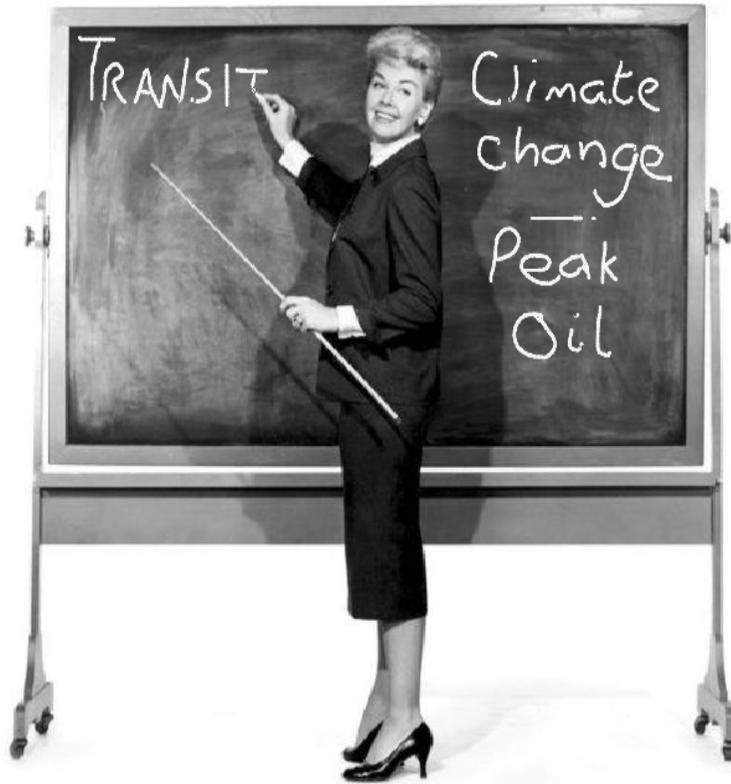


Portland (USA)



Bio-Bio (Chile)





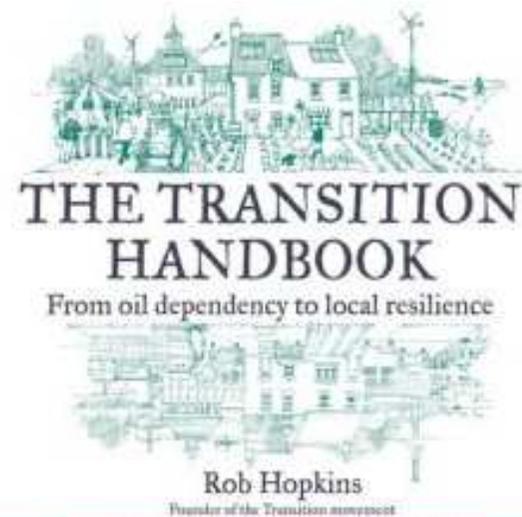
Transition attempts to respond to four challenges:

- Climate Change
- Oil Dependency / Peak Oil
- The domination of big businesses over small ones
- The myth of endless growth

4 assumptions:



1. In the future we will live with **less energy**
2. We have **lost resilience**, and must be recovered
3. We must **act now** and collectively
4. We must free **collective creativity**



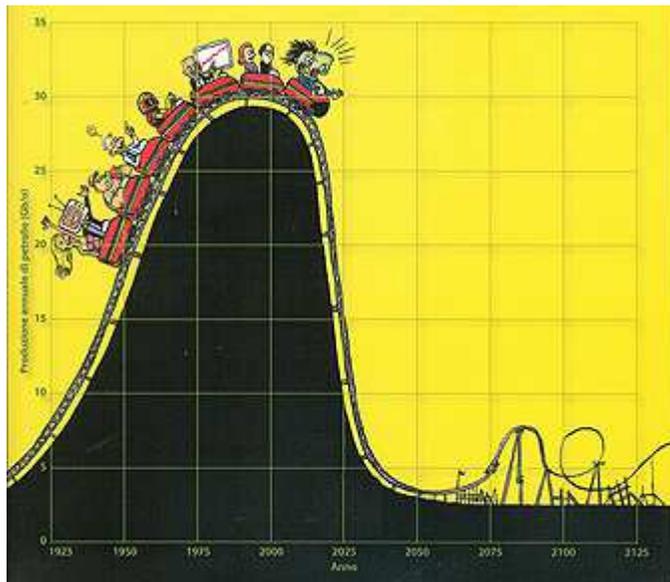
Attitudes:



- Creative **action** (no catastrophism)
- The power of a positive **vision**
- Social change from the heart of our **urban** contexts
- Radical **pragmatism**



Some key elements:



- **Sustainable local food production:** community gardens, gleaning projects, local food enterprises and supply chains
- **Energy:** community clean power projects, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, energy descent action plans
- **Economy:** developing and supporting local, low-carbon businesses; pioneering alternative currencies and economic models
- **Education:** awareness raising and re-skilling, greening schools
- **Community:** building meaningful relationships, village building, placemaking
- **Inner Transition:** shifting personal ecology, awareness, and consciousness

12 steps:



1. Set up a **steering group** and design its demise from the outset
2. Raise **Awareness**
3. Lay the **foundations**
4. Organize a **Great Unleashing**
5. Form **working 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. Honor the **elders**
11. **Let it go** where it wants to go...
12. Create an **Energy Descent Plan**

What about Basque Country?



- Interesting features for a successful application of Transition model
- Beyond Local Agenda 21

theguardian

Basque country's thriving big society

Worker co-ops and *txoko* dinner clubs have helped this once-depressed region weather the slump better than most of Spain

