

BACKGROUND FOR MODEL "C"

The vast majority of Americans do not believe that we are headed into a catastrophic period of energy decline. Intellectually, they understand there may be problems in the future, but they cannot act beyond the economic model we currently live with in this country. The truth is, the energy decline could take from one to fifty years or longer, and that is too long for most people to dwell on options that are so depressing for so long, especially when they can currently buy fuel for under \$3.00 per gallon.

What's more, unless oil measurably depletes relatively quickly, most of the people who are doing the groundwork for Transition Towns will be dead or very old by the time this issue becomes pressing for the masses. You could equate this with Silent Spring or The Population Bomb which are still out there to be read, but are no longer on most people's best seller list.

The need to power down in a continuous, consistent, and meaningful way must impact people's everyday lives if they are to accept a significant change in their life. An example of a significant change would be ½ of the gas stations close due to no product, or the price of fuel goes to \$25.00 a gallon, and a gallon of milk is \$20.00.

Showing films, giving speeches, and any other form of nagging will no more change enough people's minds in relation to powering down than any of those techniques work on cigarette smoking, alcohol, or any other addiction, and we are addicted to our energy.

The best we can hope to do is to strengthen our individual communities with activities that will build local resilience and motivate enough people to pass that baton on to the next generation. We have discovered that activities and projects that are fun, address needs (such as food) rather than wants, and the forming of partnerships with business, schools, government and community groups is the best way to achieve Transition Goals 6 through 12 in the Blaine community over time. We are not interested in power conversations about the end of oil, radium, coal, or natural gas. We don't care about Republicans, Democrats, Liberals, or Conservatives. We stick to projects that cross all isms, beliefs, and stereotypes.

"Our mission" in the Blaine community is to engage the people in partnerships and ongoing projects, which can fall into place when the need arrives. You might say we are in a practice. (Please see the current list of activities, many of which have been in place for over 6 years, and are growing.)

"Our vision" is to be a resilient community when powering down is needed, and accepted as a need by the community. (You must have both needs before community action will take place.)

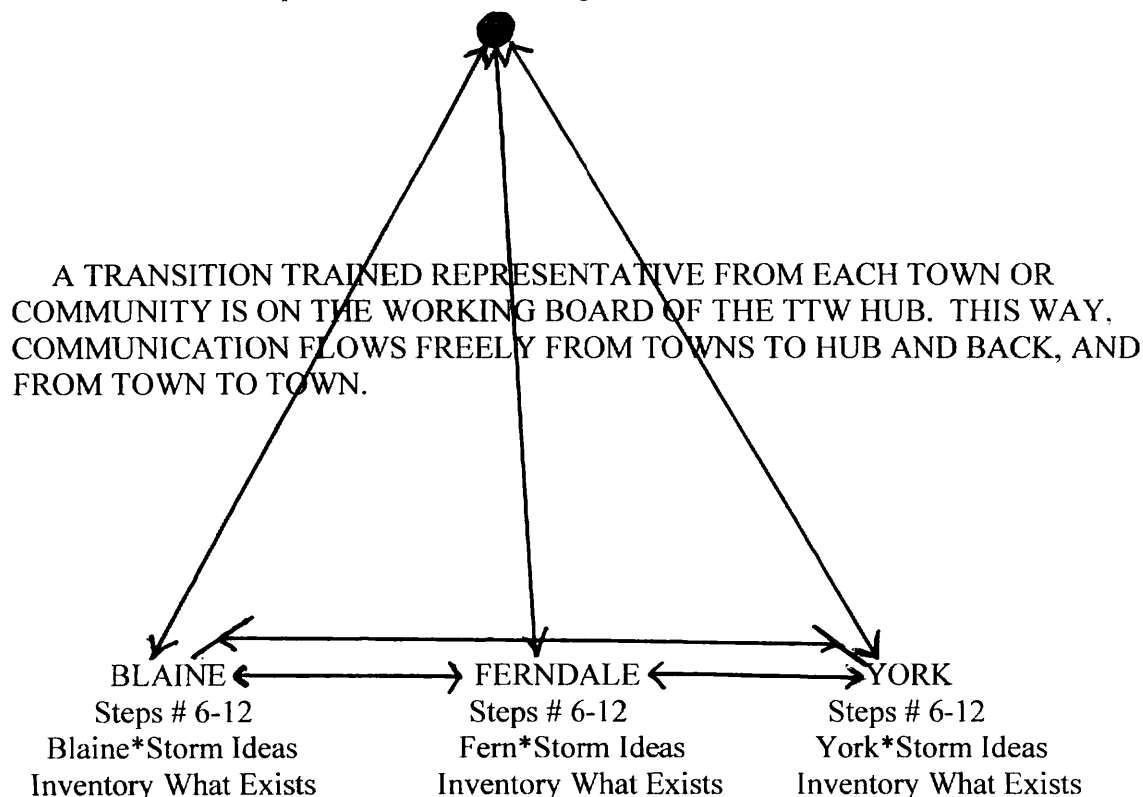
The following is a model that would work in Western Whatcom County.

MODEL "C"

TTW

The HUB is the keeper of Transition Town Steps # 1-5

This way, towns and communities are free to get on with the work of building resilience without reinventing the Transition bureaucracy in every community. If a community wants to do all 12 steps, that would not be a problem.



1. ALL OF THE TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN WHATCOM COUNTY WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSITION TOWN PROCESS ARE ORBITING THE HUB.
2. ALL OF THE ORBITING COMMUNITIES ARE IN SUPPORT OF EACH OTHER AS A RESOURCE AND A PARTNER IN PROJECTS THAT ASSIST THEIR COMMUNITY'S RESILIENCE.
3. ALL OF THE ORBITING COMMUNITIES ARE IN SUPPORT OF THE HUB IN ITS EFFORTS TO DISCOVER RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE SATELLITE TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES.

Epilogue:

We are not survivalists.

However, many of us in Blaine who have been working on Transition and powering down “through the backdoor”, know and understand that there are three million people north of us and just as many south of us who are doing very little to power down. In a push comes to shove world that could come about when the real need for powering down becomes evident, towns like Blaine could become overwhelmed. Therefore the more neighbors who are prepared to be self sufficient and resilient to change, the more likely we are all going to survive as individuals, families, and as a community called Western Whatcom County. We are each the buffer for the other. Spread the word.