

ADDISON COUNTY CONSERVATION CONGRESS
October 25, 2008

Our Community Declaration of Interdependence

Our world is at a crossroads. We have entered what has been called the “Transition,” the “Great Turning”, and “Our Moment of Grace.”

Three clouds now hang over this consumer age: 1) peaking oil supplies and the beginning of the end of the era of ‘cheap’ fossil fuels, 2) rapidly changing climate and the disruption of the earth’s basic support systems and 3) the collapse of our debt-ridden financial system. As this age draws to a close, we must move swiftly to a more just and sustainable world.

We cannot expect to know nor be completely ready for what is coming. However, it is clear from the three clouds that very significant change is coming. This change will require that we become more realistic in our wants and more local in meeting our basic needs. As William McDonough has said, “All sustainability is local.” We must cultivate responsibility at the grassroots level and get back to the basics in our local communities. Many of us will have to learn how to live and work in partnership with nature and to recognize and respect her limits. We will have to live more frugally and to depend upon each other much more. Many of our elders will be a great help here. If we do this work well, life will be richer, healthier, and happier.

‘Community’ means ‘to share our gifts together,’ be they the gifts of nature, our work, our families and friends, or our selves. Addison County has been endowed with a rich inheritance of beautiful farmland and forests, lakes and rivers and mountains. Its citizens are resourceful, intelligent, caring, honest, and hard-working. We celebrate these gifts and are confident that we can and will find our way if we work together.

VISION 2020 is an exploration of our Addison County community in the year 2020. It is a vision of a culture of interdependence, participation and collaboration rooted in ecological sustainability, energy efficiency, resource conservation, and ethics.

VISION 2020 calls for a creative -- and even radical -- redesign of the way we think, work, and live with each other and with nature. We hope you and yours will read it in its entirety and find your way to participate in bringing this collective vision to life. This is our moment of grace. This is our time to manifest a new era. There is much to be done. There is no time to waste.

David Brynn, Vermont Family Forests
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November 14, 2008

VISION 2020

Summary Reports from the 10 Rooms

1) FOOD AND FARMING:

A) VISION 2020: In 2020, food will be at the center of family, community and social life. Many of us will be involved in producing food. We'll work cooperatively at our schools and in our towns to grow, process, distribute and store our food-- sharing labor, deepening our knowledge, and celebrating food together. Farms will be more diversified, more collaborative and cooperative, more dependent on renewable energy, and more accessible to young farmers.

B) TOP IDEAS:

1) **FOOD IS COOPERATIVELY GROWN, HARVESTED, AND PROCESSED.** Local slaughterhouses and community kitchens make this possible. From there, food is distributed to those in need or stored in community storage facilities.

2) **SCHOOLS ARE CENTERS** of this cooperative community effort, hosting community gardens, greenhousing and composting, shop classes to build worm bins, outreach to the elderly, educating about herbs, about farming and cooking to kids.

3) **FARMERS RECEIVE FAIR VALUE FOR THEIR WORK:** Farmers receive fair payment for the real cost of producing food. Also the community ensures that farmers get the financial and technical support they need.

4) **MOST FOOD AND FIBER IS PRODUCED WITHIN THE COUNTY:** The majority of households are involved in gardening and home food production.

5) **FARM COOPERATIVES.** There are cooperatives for sharing labor, energy, equipment and repair.

6) **EDUCATE** this and the next generation on the importance of sustainability and building healthy soils, how to farm, how to eat local, how to cook and put by.

7) **FOOD IS THE CENTER** of family and social life.

8) **RENEWABLE ENERGY** is the primary source of energy for work, transport and storage on farms.

9) **GREATER DIVERSITY** in what's raised for food, fiber and energy.

10) **TOWNS ARE CENTERS FOR COMMUNITY'S FOOD NEEDS:** Buying clubs, farms raise food for the town, town as distribution center, town farmers' market.

C) NEXT ACTIONS:

1) HOUSEHOLD:

- * Elect legislators who support local food production.
- * Get to know your neighbors and grow/buy food together.
- * Preserve 50% of your own food
- * Have friends over for dinner once a week

2) TOWN:

- * Include food and farming in town plans.
- * Network with your local growers.
- * Use local foods in community dinners.
- * Devise a school curriculum that supports gardening/farming year-round

3) COUNTY:

- * Continue community dialogues and ways for farmers to share expertise
- * Develop centers for food processing, distribution and storage
- * Educate and encourage local food retailers to post “food miles” on pricing tags
- * Rework local tax system. Tax nonlocal food; don't tax young farmers
- * Develop a countywide composting system

2) HOUSING AND SHELTER:

A) VISION 2020: All residential and commercial buildings have been audited and 50% have been upgraded to reduce the average energy use by 40%.

We are working towards the goal of auditing and assessing ALL our housing stock in the county. Then we intend to affordably and sustainably retrofit these buildings by insulating, weatherizing and upgrading heating and energy systems. We are working to realize the significant opportunities for local job creation and community building.

We will work to improve our local zoning regulations, state regulations, building codes and standards in order to enhance the sustainability of our homes and our communities.

B) TOP IDEAS:

1) COMMUNITY RESOURCES PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL:

Low and middle-income households use low-interest community, bank and state funds to improve affordability, sustainability and access to housing. Volunteers, youth and local building experts are organized into work parties (Habitat for Humanity) to retrofit homes.

Home performance, efficiency upgrades and solar hot water systems are financed by utilities and paid down by energy savings or financed as part of mortgage with positive cash flows.

2) **DEVELOP AND EXPAND TRAINING IN WEATHERIZATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** Refine our methods for the affordable retrofitting and insulation of houses, trailers and apartments and upgrading of heating/energy systems. Train home performance contractors, builders and workers to achieve these ends.

3) **BUILDING REGULATIONS AND CODES REFLECT HIGHER STANDARDS FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY:** Work with banks and regulators to improve our local and state building codes so that new construction, re-modeling and improvements are carried out at a very high standard and rewarded. Research question: How much can you save by rolling energy efficiency improvements into your mortgage?

4) **LOCAL HEAT + POWER + BUILDING MATERIALS = JOBS:** By increasing the production of local heating fuels like wood/grass pellets/cordwood/biofuels and low-emission boilers/stoves, we enhance sustainability and create local jobs. Net metering allows households, business and industry to become net producers of electricity. Encourage the creation of local solutions like locally produced super efficient trailers and local building materials like hempcrete, insulation etc.

5) **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Expand networks for biking, car pooling and bus or vans. Improve public transport to better serve all our hamlets, trailer parks and towns. School buses are used for adult/public transportation as well as for students.

6) **CONSOLIDATION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND MULTI-GENERATIONAL CO-HOUSING:** Many people have reassessed and changed their living arrangements. Group housing reduces isolation and costs, improves the security of our elders and re-invigorates our communities. The concept of individual space is now seen in terms of redefining actual needs and balances the benefits of living in community. New tax advantages for multi-generation family groups in shared housing.

7) **LAND USE:** To the greatest degree possible, concentrate new construction and development to preserve our agricultural resources and to bolster the density of our towns and villages. Whenever possible, encourage renovation and reuse rather than new construction. Expand sewage to existing town centers that do not have it to protect our watersheds.

C) NEXT ACTIONS:

1) **TOWN:**

* Get Hannaford Career Center to raise the sustainability standards of their building projects.

* Create volunteer brigades that assist energy coordinators in each town to address low income and elderly households' needs.

2) COUNTY:

* Manufacture our own locally produced highly efficient trailer homes.

* Develop A Time of Sale Energy Standard for New Mortgages

- Require minimum efficiency by X after closing
- Buyer could finance in mortgage or seller could improve before sale using loan fund.
- Job creation for home performance.

* Develop A Time of Sale Energy Disclosure

- Awareness of energy deficiencies will drive improvements
- Rating or audit for energy home as it changes hands.

* Launch the Addison County Housing Improvement Loan Fund

- For energy improvements
- Local investors for local projects (supplemented by grants?)
- Guaranteed rate of return

3) HEAT AND POWER:

A) VISION 2020: The overall use of energy has been drastically reduced. For sources of energy, our priority is now those that have been shown to be local, ecologically sustainable, energy efficient, and renewable.

B) TOP IDEAS:

1) **ENERGY CONSERVATION:** All homes and businesses have been carefully weatherized to make the most efficient use of energy. Regulations requiring thorough weatherization in all new construction have been adopted and certified. Every home has auto-set electric box which shows energy use of all electrical appliances in the household. Residents share ownership of equipment such as lawn mowers, tractors, log forwarders, wood splitters, and portable sawmills and even of woodlots.

2) **COMMUNITY WIND POWER:** The Middlebury College wind project at the Snow Bowl is operational as is net-metering of small and medium size wind turbines on ridges. Additional sites have been inventoried and conserved. A new aesthetic regarding the beauty of local windmill power has been cultivated.

3) **INCENTIVES AND DISINCENTIVES:** The use of all types of energy has decreased significantly (except atmospheric electricity or "cosmic" energy). Incentives have been implemented including tax credits for fuel efficient vehicles, solar domestic hot water, wind power, and methane digesters on homesteads.

There are neighborhood-based firewood CSAs, community-based energy centers, and shared tool ownership throughout the county. Disincentives are in place including higher prices for higher rates of use and the imposition of carbon taxes with some proceeds being used to reduce property and income taxes. 'Food miles' are taxed.

4) LIQUID AND SOLID BIOFUEL PRODUCTION: There are a wide variety of carefully designed liquid and solid biofuel production centers across the landscape including mobile and centrally-located facilities. Products include: heating fuel oil derived from seed crops such as canola and sunflower; biodiesel from algal oils; switch grass pellets; and a variety of wood fuels from local, ecologically sustainable sources. There is a GIS based atlas of renewable energy resources showing agricultural land, forest land, potential grass land and potential sites for small hydro. Forestland and agricultural land holders are: practicing sustainable management for food, fuel, fiber, and feed; utilizing state-of-the art technology; and receiving fair compensation for their crops.

5) METRICS OF SUSTAINABILITY: Clear metrics have been identified and implemented to monitor energy use and sustainability. Energy use is carefully monitored at the home, town and county levels using full life cycle assessments. Metrics are used to monitor and to assess ecological sustainability, efficiency, and equity of locally-produced energy.

6) RESIDENTIAL SOLAR: All homes have solar hot water and heat.

7) RESIDENTIAL ENERGY AND EFFICIENCY COURSES: Special courses for solar and boiler installation and weatherization are readily available through the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Efficiency Vermont, and area schools. Local schools are involved in research projects. There are renewable energy and efficiency courses and curricula in all 9-12 grades and state colleges. Two key *ACRES U.S.A.* magazine articles -- Biofuels (September 2008) and Farming the Atmosphere (June 1997) -- have been widely read and applied. There is a training center for 'green collar' jobs.

8) AWARENESS AND GRATITUDE FOR RESOURCES: There is recognition of and gratitude for the gifts of electricity, heat, and transportation fuels. People recognize that these gifts are precious and should be used mindfully. Folks are wearing more layers of clothing rather than turning up the thermostat and using fewer watts to light rooms. The population is clamoring to harness cosmic energy (atmospheric electricity).

9) MAKE RENEWABLE ENERGY MORE AFFORDABLE: A system is in place that allows property taxes to be paid in cordwood. There is a wood bank in every town to help low income residents get through the winter. There are volunteer programs to help elderly and challenged citizens to heat with wood and to weatherize their homes. There are subsidized shares for those unable to afford heat. There are community-supported firewood programs in place that promote sustainable production, efficient use, and fair allocation of fuelwood.

10) **FOSSIL FUEL FREE TRANSPORTATION:** There is a well-developed system of bike paths. There are zip cars in every town. Cellulosic (not corn-based) ethanol is widely used in transportation, while we transition to more electric-based mobility. Long-term sources of fuel will include fuels cells, and plug-in hybrid transportation with energy derived from solar, wind, hydro, atmospheric electricity and advanced biofuels. Rail lines are used widely in the north-south corridors of the state.

C) NEXT ACTIONS:

1) **HOUSEHOLD:**

* Conduct energy audits and implement weatherization.

2) **TOWN:**

* Identify community wind sites.

3) **COUNTY:**

* Initiate the sustainable production of local biofuels by identifying appropriate lands for growing feedstocks and sites with potential for a production facility.

4) HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

A) VISION 2020: There will be a thorough rebalancing of our local healthcare system in terms of fiscal management, delivery of care, and philosophy of cure. This will entail four distinct areas of focus: 1) an increased reliance on the various layers of social and community support, 2) a greater priority given to general health education and the role of prevention, 3) a broader and more integrated approach to primary care, and 4) the empowerment of the concept of wellness.

B) TOP IDEAS:

1) **GROW, PROMOTE AND DISTRIBUTE HEALTHY LOCAL FOODS:** Access to nutritious foods through school and community gardens.

2) **RESTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE:** All citizens will have equal access to healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay for it. The cost of healthcare will be less overall because of a greater reliance on preventive care and integrated modalities. A Federally Qualified Health Center will be built in Addison County to offer affordable care for the more marginal and uninsured populations. People will have much more power in defining the care they need. Employment and healthcare will be decoupled. Complementary health practices will be covered by some sort of a locally-generated insurance cooperative.

3) **PROMOTE PREVENTION THROUGH COMMUNITY EDUCATION:** Schools teach practical classes on “My body: the way it works.” Instruction in yoga, meditation, relaxation and fitness to encourage practical, healthy life habits. Health and wellness classes in schools. Mentoring, internships with healthcare practitioners. Schools grow gardens of local medicinal plants and demonstrate simple homemade treatments. Community herbal pharmacy. Encourage a 2-child only policy.

4) **ESTABLISH COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTERS:** Community-driven healthcare rather than corporate, insurance-driven healthcare. Models include Open Door clinics and 5-town Health Alliance. Care offers ‘specialist’ access when needed (cardiac or ob-gyn care). Sliding scale fees. Create a barter system for payment options. Payment flexibility for reduced contribution from the chronically ill.

5) **BRING MOBILE HEALTHCARE TO THE PEOPLE:** A ‘clinic’ bus to bring healthcare to the isolated. Provide house-calls.

6) **EMPOWER PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Empowering personal health responsibility through increasing awareness and education about healthy habits and low-cost complementary modalities. Reward good health (‘health allowance’ credits). Promote healthy local foods diets and use of medicinal plants.

7) **MOBILIZE COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR SUPPORT:** Mandatory youth corps focused on healthcare: working in elder care, child care, maintenance of community gardens etc. Community support for changing family dynamics due to aging or illness. Network homes with elders with support services. Create social opportunities for volunteers that are multigenerational and economically diverse to reconnect members of the community. Restore the place of elders in the community. Daily meditations, songs and chanting, movement arts at community centers. Integrate the ‘arts’ in the healing arts- voice, movement, music etc.

8) **SHARE AND COLLABORATE ON GOOD IDEAS TO CREATE A NEW MODEL OF INTEGRATIVE HEALTHCARE:** The vision is to create one-stop shopping for health and wellness: combining the best of complementary care and allopathic and emergency care. Documenting workable models through manuals and protocols to determine best practices and to spread their use.

9) **EXPAND AWARENESS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SELF AND WHOLE**

C) NEXT ACTIONS:

1) **TOWN:**

- * Implement health education through community groups.
- * Write letters to county newspapers presenting lower-cost alternatives to current healthcare delivery system.
- * Expand farmers’ markets.

2) COUNTY:

- * Support the 5-Town Health Alliance in the building of a new Community Health Center in Addison County.
- * Develop a broadly integrated network for healthcare practitioners.

5) BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE:

A) VISION 2020: In 2020, Addison County will have a thriving and innovative enterprise sector consisting primarily of small businesses. It will be supported by new local and regional markets, by incubators and mentors for new enterprises, strategic planning for enterprise zones, and an advanced telecommunications infrastructure. Businesses will have significantly reduced indirect enterprise costs to help them become more competitive and more able to promote the quality of life of their employees.

B) TOP IDEAS:

1) **CLUSTERING OF BUSINESSES:** Businesses are geographically dispersed in enterprise zones throughout the county and clustered to take advantage of similar resources, infrastructure and transportation needs. Strategic planning, technical assistance and community funding are readily available to develop enterprise zones.

2) **NEW NEEDS, NEW BUSINESSES, NEW JOBS:** New products and new markets have emerged for local energy production; new crops; value-added foods and processing; plant medicines; fiber (hemp and wool) and leather; clothing and footwear; insulation; green retrofitting; glazing; ceramics; cookware; packaging; building materials; forest products, woodworking and metal fabrication; recycling; electric motors; information technology, social networking and sustainable computing; smart/green/intermediate technologies; machinery and tools for local industry, construction, forestry, farming and gardening; composting; permaculture; equipment rental/cooperatives; regional eco/skillshare/arts tourism.

3) **NEW DESIGN AND METRICS FOR MANAGEMENT:** Businesses are managed for the long-term according to a new set of metrics. These are rooted in promoting ecological sustainability (zero waste/externalities, cradle-to-cradle life-cycle costing, technical and biological nutrient streams), conservation and efficiency, and building a culture of transparency, innovation and collaboration.

4) **UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS:** High-speed internet and wireless service are universally available throughout the county to encourage telecommuting, elearning and teleconferencing. This infrastructure is key to facilitate start-ups of new enterprises.

5) **UNIVERSAL COVERAGE OF HEALTHCARE AND CHILDCARE:** These indirect “social” costs are borne by the entire community.

6) PUBLIC TRANSIT: A new affordable public transit network (light rail?) links towns and counties.

7) FAMILY LIFE IS HIGHLY VALUED: Work is much more integrated with the needs of families. Businesses offer flexible time and pay and encourage telecommuting.

8) REVOLVING COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDS: Local banks and community investment funds have developed pools of long-term capital to facilitate access to and ownership of housing, to launch start-ups, and to fund infrastructure.

9) TRADE AND IMPORTS: Local is good but trade continues to be a vital part of the county's economy.

10) SCHOOLS ARE INCUBATORS OF NEW IDEAS: High school students spend one day a week at an internship, apprenticeship or community service project. Schools incubate new start-ups and provide mentoring programs for young entrepreneurs.

11) SECTOR ASSOCIATIONS ENCOURAGE COOPERATION: Representatives from each stage of the economic food chain in a particular sector (from the providers of raw materials, to processors, distributors, and customers) are members of associations that periodically meet to coordinate local supply and demand and identify problems and opportunities.

C) NEXT ACTIONS:

1) HOUSEHOLD:

* Take the bus. Carpool.

2) TOWN:

* YEAR 1: Create a "rideshare network" in every town for car and bus pooling.

* YEARS 2-3: Focus development in three zones of radiating concentric circles:

a) town core and residential, b) industrial/enterprise and c) farming and forestry.

* YEARS 3-5: Build out new physical infrastructure needs (water, sewage, energy) through bonding. Towns build community cold storage and warehouses for food distribution.

3) COUNTY:

* YEAR 1: Extend high-speed internet/wireless coverage across the county.

* YEARS 2-3: Identify the collective infrastructure needs of business community.

* YEARS 3-5: Develop a collaborative model for childcare.

6) TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A) VISION 2020: Ecologically-sensitive and convenient public transportation systems are expanded to enable residents to live with significantly fewer cars. This sustainably-funded system will encourage village-centered development.

Open-source communications systems are publicly-owned and operated making access universal and affordable. This system will encourage low-environmental-impact economic development of our rural community.

B) TOP IDEAS:

1) **EXTEND FREQUENCY, HOURS OF SERVICE AND COVERAGE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO INCREASE USE:** Public transportation (small shuttles) runs more frequently (15 min. in town, 30 min. between tri-towns and hourly in rural areas). Increase service to run from early morning until midnight seven days per week. Connections to ALL village centers. Direct Bristol–Burlington route. Service several days a week: am/pm trips with late return available. Connections to wider regional system. Public transportation system used to make local deliveries of goods.

2) **ENCOURAGE VILLAGE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT:** Encourage density in village cores to promote walking, riding and public transportation.

3) **FIND AND IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Educate citizens about the long-term savings that could be realized by our communities if we invested in a user-friendly public transportation system. Greater use of communication technology and public transport decreases wear and tear on roads and bridges, extending their life and lowering maintenance cost.

Supplement revenue from fares with a new funding mechanism that will capture 10% (or more) of current money spent on private transportation. Devise a carbon tax to internalize environmental costs of transportation. Collect user fees like a gas tax and toll roads from cars and trucks to raise funds for maintenance of roads. Use the income tax to expand public transport for the benefit of the many. Create a Vermont Department of Sustainability.

4) **DEVELOP A MORE ECOLOGICALLY-SENSITIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK:** Increase county network of bike paths. Paint bike lanes on roads. Build bicycle awareness (share the road signs) and education to increase safety for cyclists and drivers. Electronic community rideboards. Develop local search engines for ridesharing (30-minute turnaround time).

Electrification of transport. More battery-operated and vehicle-to-grid (V2G) cars. Solar chargers and storage in every home. Utilities and homeowners (tax rebates) are incentivized to accelerate adoption. Assistance to low-income households to trade-in. Solar cell charging stations developed in town centers to charge plug-in electric vehicles.

Electric rail/buses. Biofuels still important in fueling agricultural and industrial machinery and commercial transport. Compressed air, Zip cars and trucks.

Increase emissions and fuel efficiency standards and remove older, dirtier, inefficient cars and trucks with incentives. Mule carts permitted on roads for family transportation and shopping trips. Freight moves by rail rather than road, reducing road maintenance. More reliance on waterways to move goods.

5) **CREATE INCENTIVES TO REDUCE CAR AND TRUCK USE:** Employers offer employee incentives for those who carpool, use public transportation, or walk or bike. Showers at work so people don't worry about sweating while cycling/walking.

6) **PROVIDE UNIVERSAL AND AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO BROADBAND:** Affordable broadband allows residents to work and live in the county while exporting their skills. Local needs bulletin boards (foods, services, hours etc.) like Front Porch Forum serve as clearinghouses for exchanges of all sorts.

Communication technology now allows common medical diagnoses to occur via video exam. VOIP and ISP services at the town level. Since town centers are relatively close to each other, WIFI could be used for inter/intra town communication. Increase wireless communications capability to better manage public transportation. Install more cell towers (after existing structures are full) to offer universal cell phone coverage.

7) **SWITCH TO OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE:** Promote adoption by businesses, schools, governments, and individuals of open source software and hardware (saves money, time, reduces waste). Make communication devices simple and affordable for all. Tax credits for employers to offer flex time/telecommuting.

8) **BROADBAND IS PUBLICLY-OWNED AND OPERATED:** Infrastructure for broadband is publicly owned and operated as a utility.

9) **BUILD LIGHT RAIL FOR PASSENGER SERVICE ALONG ROUTE 7 CORRIDOR:** Electrify rail. Regional trains run 4 times/day (early, late morning, afternoon, evening).

C) NEXT ACTIONS:

1) HOUSEHOLD:

- * If you have a bike and are physically able, ride your bike to work.
- * Try to match your schedule to the ACTR schedule on as many days as possible.
- * Use Link for travel to Burlington when possible.
- * Use ACTR for travel (errands, work, appointments etc.) in Middlebury, Vergennes and Bristol.
- * Mail/distribute via email or web, instructions on how to efficiently use communications services and transition to open source.

2) TOWN:

- * Support ACTR funding requests.
- * Convince taxpayers that public transportation is part of infrastructure (like roads, bridges, fire, police).
- * Structure property tax system to encourage village-centered development.

3) COUNTY:

- * Build support for municipal and/or county-wide broadband service.
- * Lengthen hours of bus service.
- * Do cost-benefit analysis of open-source vs. proprietary.

7) MONEY AND BANKING:

A) VISION 2020: By 2020, we have developed a viable, community-based financial system that works for everybody. It funds the new ideas generated by the Congress in the service of a healthy community, ecology and economy.

B) TOP IDEAS:

1) **LOCAL CURRENCY:** Fiat or natural-resource backed complementary currency (timber/food/energy) owned by the community encourages local investment, production and consumption, insulates the local economy and savings from the global financial system and provides a long-term store of value and purchasing power. A vehicle might be an electronic Addison County smart card and payments system.

2) **COMMUNITY MICRO-FINANCE:** Small loans are available to community members and non-profit enterprises not currently served by banks (ref. Grameen Bank).

3) **TIME BANK/FRONT PORCH FORUM/BARTER:** Electronic exchanges bring individuals and non-profits together to exchange labor (hours) as well as barter goods and services in non-financial transactions. Time banks credit hours worked and trade credits.

4) **LABOR/MACHINERY COOPERATIVES:** Friends and neighbors come together and pool their labor, machinery and materials to meet a neighborhood need (build homes, weatherize and retrofit houses, erect solar greenhouses etc.)

5) **VENTURE PHILANTHROPY:** Local pools of capital are raised through non-profit partnerships and invested in social entrepreneurs.

6) **LOW-INTEREST/INTEREST-FREE FARM MORTGAGES:** Capital is mobilized to provide mortgages to the 20% of the population needed to farm on individually or cooperatively-owned land. These farms are the key to food security and employment.

7) **SOCIAL/CONSCIOUS BANKING:** Banks are transparent agents connecting depositors and borrowers. Borrowers provide the details of the projects needing financing and post the interest rate and term they require. Depositors consciously select the projects they want to support (ie. 0% interest for schools, 7% for a business). Loans are guaranteed by people not property.

8) **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS:** Local pools of capital are raised to finance key long-term infrastructure needs (food, energy, transport etc.) of the new economy. Local investment funds/banks offer strategic planning and technical assistance to identify projects and mobilize funding. Living returns (slow money) insure that money also sustains the human and ecological life-supports of our local economy.

C) NEXT ACTIONS:

1) HOUSEHOLD:

- * Transfer savings to local banks and credit unions.
- * Get more informed about time banks.

2) TOWN:

- * Organize community meetings of banks, credit unions, towns and young people to identify barriers to home ownership and access to farmland.

3) COUNTY:

- *Set up a strategic study and planning group to promote and implement our vision. Models to study are Berkshares, natural-resource-backed currency and savings, TimeBank, mutual credit systems, living money and social banking, microcredit schemes and Mondragon community finance.
- * Create a resource library list of books, websites etc.

8) SCHOOLS AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING:

A) VISION 2020: We envision schools that are much more directly connected to the life and needs of the community. They are centered in respectful relations, both among people and between people and the planet and they are models for sustainable living. Our schools are small and governed collaboratively by community councils of teachers, teachers, administrators, parents, students, and the wider community. Schools have rigorous, hands-on curricula that include place-based studies, service learning, and stewardship skills. The arts are emphasized, both discretely and integrated across the curriculum.

B) TOP IDEAS:

1) **SMALLER, MORE INTIMATE SCHOOLS:** Student/adult ratio of 12:1 Focus is on supporting the growth of the whole child (head, heart and hands) and to 'drawing out' and developing the unique gifts of the individual. Restore warmth, play, nature, and wonder to the life of children. Pre-service training for all teachers.

2) **BREAK DOWN THE WALLS: COMMUNITY IS SCHOOL:** Design real-world application of 'standards' throughout the curriculum. Get out in the world and problem solve, use critical thinking and questioning, serve the community. Students learn and practice civic skills in facilitation, conflict resolution and mediation. Parents and community members teach real-life skills like money and household finances, starting a family, starting a business, living healthy, building a home etc. Students directly contribute to supporting the community's needs (gardens, composting, kitchens, elder care, building and maintenance etc.). Incubate new initiatives.

3) **SCHOOLS MODEL SUSTAINABLE LIVING:** Curricula include sustainability skills, crafts, service learning, mentorship, and place-based studies. Example: ALL students spend one month (20 days) every year working at a local farm. Practical, hands-on skills classes by community members on renewable energy, organic farming and forestry, hunting and fishing, foraging, gardening, medicinal herbs, whole foods cooking and food storage. Encourage ecological, systems and wholistic thinking. Spend time in wilderness and experience nature. Offer classes in green building and permaculture (Yestermorrow).

Start community study groups at libraries and public schools for adults to re-educate themselves in practical skills like gardening, canning, animal husbandry. Mentoring/teaching each other to raise consciousness about stewardship (VEI). 'Cooking for Life' classes for parents. Community gardens. Community vision quests.

4) **THE ARTS:** The arts are a powerful and wholistic medium for learning and are integrated across the curriculum. Art everyday. Community arts and festivals. Community gallery to display student art. The 'Last Hour'- all-school participation in Friday afternoon assemblies to conclude the school week for PLEASURE (artistic/storytelling/music/dance)

5) **MANY WAYS TO LEARN:** Rigorous and meaningful curricula that honors a broad spectrum of learners and learning styles. Teaching by example. Restore importance and dignity to our bodies and to physical work. New focus on experiential learning: knowledge meets action through practice: apprenticeships, mentoring, and internships. Our capacity to create the future we want is emphasized and practiced. Encourage individual and group vision and goal-setting, self-reflection and self-assessment.

Students learn how to connect within and experience silence, inner peace and self-acceptance. They learn to experience and listen to their bodies through yoga, movement.

Schools model cooperation and community service. Example: ALL students work in rotations growing, composting, harvesting, preparing, cooking and serving food and cleaning dishes and cafeteria.

6) **COLLABORATIVE AND PARTICIPATORY CULTURE:** Respectful dialogue, compassion and collaboration among all school and community members. Curriculum, budgets and staffing decisions are made by community councils which include members of the entire learning community. Students are valued by what they can do and give back to their community. Their sense of themselves grows as they participate, take on responsibility and successfully complete tasks. Teachers guide and facilitate student-generated learning and problem-solving. Parents share their skills and passions with the learning community through internships, mentorships etc. Administrators serve as facilitators who support the leadership of the community council.

C) NEXT ACTIONS:

1) HOUSEHOLD:

- * Mentor a class or child in a skill you can share.
- * Cook and eat meals as a family.
- * Turn off screens and do something with a young person or a family member.
- * Even if you have no children there – visit your local school!

2) TOWN:

- * Publicize current place-based learning programs like the Walden project.
- * Volunteer to film school events for community television Channel 16.
- * Invite teachers, administrators and board members to visit teacher-governed schools.

3) COUNTY:

- * Offer county-wide teacher/ adult training on place-based curricula and sustainable living skills.
- * Teach how to cook produce from school garden.
- * Plant a garden at each school.

9) GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SAFETY:

A) VISION 2020: Local and regional governance structures need to rethink appropriate laws and consequences to meet new challenges. We envision our community governed under sustainable principles recognizing natural laws and global realities. We support transparent communication and cooperative governance structures. Schools, neighborhoods, and intentional communities governed by community councils are natural focal points for decentralized community and political involvement in an increasingly digitally connected world.

B) TOP IDEAS:

1) ADOPT GLOBAL FOOTPRINT MODELS AND METRICS INTO DECISION-MAKING.

2) DECENTRALIZE COMMUNITY-LEVEL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE GRASSROOTS .

3) DEMOCRATICALLY-RUN SCHOOLS BECOME THE FOCAL POINT OF COMMUNITY INTERACTION: Set up community councils in every high school in the county. Curriculum includes lessons on governance and how to effectively participate in the democratic process by being involved, analyzing options and questioning. Town meetings have role for student representatives.

4) NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR DIGITAL INTERACTIVE DEMOCRACY: Interactive broadband will increase access and foster dialogue about community issues. 50% higher participation of the internet generation through email/blogs/facebook/skype/youtube. Civic engagement increased through issue blogging and polling via keypad voting.

Addison County 'net' generation planning project: Organize an information and feedback project that would reach out to households, towns and regional organizations using Internet, cell phones and telephones – for formulating questions for public polling that would be useful for moving individual and group actions toward sustainability.

5) COMMUNITY PROBLEM-SOLVING: Accept and mobilize community and regional responsibility for 'drug' crisis. Create a community response to the "war on drugs" very different than today's paradigm. Prescription and drug advertisements are banned from media.

6) SET UP NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY COUNCILS: These councils run neighborhoods or intentional communities and send representatives to town government.

7) COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY: Our responsibility as a community will be to quickly intervene as trouble arises, prescribe consequences for negative actions and on-going rehabilitation. Consequences should be immediate, consistent, and not necessarily severe. Foster community intervention models. Youth in trouble will have 'community service' mentors who will counsel and review - plan with troubled youth and watch for follow-through.

8) INCREASE PARTICIPATION: Create effective incentives to promote community service and political involvement. Every registered voter signs up for overt action groups that can be accomplished 'on-line' and 'in person.' Adults who are already registered to vote, mentor youth and bring them to meetings.

C) NEXT ACTIONS:

1) HOUSEHOLD:

- * Get Community Council representatives meeting during advisories bi-monthly.
- * Study model of governance in the home.
- * Talk with the children about democracy.
- * Celebrate the more in life. Let go of the having more.
- * Start a blog/facebook site for school community council.
- * Think less, feel more. Talk less, listen more. Know less, imagine more.
- * Make my garden larger to share more greatly with my neighbors.
- * Post-Wall Street survival awareness training.

2) TOWN:

- * Link schools to local food sources.
- * List and map resources in town.
- * Change rules regarding executive sessions to insure transparency and democratic process.
- * Public polling for feedback via e-media.

COUNTY:

- * Improve and expand mapping of resources in the county.
- * Propose legislation to allow school and community councils to send representatives to town selectboard meetings, and to present at town meetings.
- * Rework penal system so that the penalty for infractions is just and mitigation is an opportunity to create a positive outcome.

10) FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY:

A) VISION 2020: We have moved beyond the old paradigm of consumption and the destruction of humanity and the planet. We are consciously co-creating a new worldview that acknowledges our shared responsibility for and the sacredness of all life. Therefore, consideration of spiritual values is included in all of the practical matters of community life.

B) TOP IDEAS:

1) **OUR WORLDVIEW IS SHIFTING:** Our consciousness is in the midst of a sea-change from a worldview based on separation, fear and the need to dominate to one of integration, compassion and the need to collaborate and partner with each other and with nature for healing, for wholeness.

2) WE ARE CO-CREATORS OF OUR FUTURE: We are not consumers or spectators but PARTICIPANTS co-creating a new way of being together. We are called to re-pattern and redesign every major field and function of human society by joining with each other in conscious evolution. The future is not what happens to us but rather what we create.

3) NEW EARTH AWARENESS: Growing global consciousness of the challenges we face as a species: ecologically, economically and ethically. We are one planet, one family, one destiny. Growing collaboration between faiths and spiritual traditions to serve the emerging collective consciousness of humanity.

The Earth is a living being. Nature is sacred, alive and conscious. She is our guide in the journey back to wholeness.

4) ACCEPTANCE AND GRATITUDE: In this time of very rapid changes, we need to accept all that IS. We must be PRESENT. Most simply, we need to accept ourselves just as we are. Self-compassion. Find the wholeness, the peace, in ourselves. Only then, can we accept others as they are. Gratitude for all the blessings in our life.

5) FREEDOM AND DIVERSITY: As a community, we celebrate the freedom of individuals to follow their own faith, spiritual path or practice. We create safe and peaceful sanctuaries where everyone can practice their way.

All life is sacred and is a unique expression of the whole – its phenomenal diversity, both human and natural, deserves our love and respect.

6) COMMUNITY WELLTH: We share life in community together and are responsible for each other, including the well-being of those in greatest need. Our community fosters intergenerational harmony and unity. Develop a spiritual healthcare network.

7) PEACE AND SUSTAINABILITY: Cultivate a culture of peace that is rooted in the deep peace within us. Support people of all ages to find that connection. Our outer world is a reflection of our inner world.

Cultivate a culture of sustainability which is grounded in the laws of nature, in the innerconnectedness and mutual interdependence of all life. A sustainable civilization is only possible when we humans can limit and discipline our needs and wants in service of the health of the whole that is life.

C) NEXT ACTIONS:

1) HOUSEHOLD:

- * Vision the world we would like to be living in.
- * Cultivate and practice peace.
- * Conserve, garden, recycle, compost, use renewable energy, buy local.

- * Create a presentation on ‘Spirituality in the Post-Oil World’ for churches
- * Offer “Spiritual Support Groups” to help people connect to the Silence within.
- * Share Mayan calendar information with family and community.
- * Create a place in our home to host a stranger.
- * Give thanks individually and as a family for the blessings we receive.
- * Host a meeting of neighbors.
- * Express the vision statement in word, thought and deed at town/county meetings.

2) TOWN:

- * Share use of commonly-used tools/equipment that use fossil fuels (tractors, chainsaws, mowers).
- * Encourage student participation in decision-making.
- * Advocate for community actions that nurture and sustain families and citizens.

3) COUNTY:

- * Provide healthcare to all.
- * Create a county council of spiritual groups and teachers. Set a meeting place and time.
- * Audit and quantify home-heating needs in the community. Create a strategy to meet those needs.

