

How to Support Economic Alternatives

As **Individuals** we can:

1. Use mutual, co-operative, small local green businesses and social enterprises for as many of our purchases/money transactions as possible.
2. Join Move Your Money movement and move your account to a co-operative or mutual financial institution (such as Co-op Bank, Triodos, Nationwide, Ecology Building Society and many other mutual building societies).
3. Support Positive Money movement. Watch their short videos for clear information.
4. Show “Money as Debt” to a group and get someone to lead a discussion. (The Economics Sustainability and Peace committee can provide one if you don't have a handy person locally).
5. Join Green Party (as the only political party that has shown any recognition that perpetual growth is not possible); or
6. Campaign within a party of which you are already a member for this recognition.
7. Campaign for an economy that doesn't promote GDP. Eg Start a citizens' petition to get a debate in parliament on a steady-state or dynamic equilibrium economy.
8. Write or talk to your MP about the need to promote Well-being, green jobs, sustainability, not GDP, (a dynamic equilibrium economy).
9. Support New Economics Foundation with specific funds for Great Transition research.
10. Join CASSE (Centre for the Study of the Steady State Economy), Decroissance.
11. Join a Credit Union.
12. Find local allies to discuss these ideas and perhaps develop an action or project. For example, join local Transition Town movement – some have economics groups, some have a local currency. In any case supporting local resilience helps to counterbalance globalization, whether growing own food, reducing fossil fuel energy requirements...
13. Join a local currency scheme (LETS or Time Bank).
14. Join Tax Justice Network.
15. Buy Fairtrade, or direct from producer, wherever possible.

As **Groups, Meetings and Communities** we can:

1. Publicize and promote education about all the above
2. Develop local resilience – local food, energy generation, sustainable transport, group skills, consensus building etc
3. Set up social enterprises and co-ops to carry out local functions
4. Involve local elected representatives in discussions, debates, speaker meetings etc. Talk to your local councillor about what is important to you. Listen to them too – treat them like a person. Find out how it all works. Stand as a councillor – you can change the agenda even without winning, though of course this helps.
5. Councils, schools and health authorities could favour procuring local produce, or buying from social enterprises.

Some ideas for economic alternatives for a more sustainable world.

Changes which are feasible with present government	Changes which are feasible with a change in government	Changes which would require a complete paradigm shift
Separation of retail from investment banking	Serious regulation of bank activities to prevent exotic financial instruments; Robin Hood tax on financial transactions; capital controls; re-introduction of regulation of mortgage market, credit cards and other loans.	Only democratic governments (national or local) can benefit from issuing money; socially useless financial transactions banned
Increase use of social enterprises/mutual societies/co-ops/local small companies with ethical policies	Requirement of companies to publish triple-bottom line accounts	All companies have increasing proportion of workers and community represented on board. Not just responsible to shareholders; and management held properly accountable for triple bottom line performance.
Change emphasis to bring well-being into the equation on policy decisions	Put well-being at centre of decision-making	Downgrade GDP to a by-product, policy driven by inclusive decision-making
Better pricing of CO2	More allocation according to need of fuel; carbon taxation	Carbon rationing
	Tax other bads (land hoarding, pollution, speculative trading) as a policy	All externalities possible adequately costed.
Consistent incentives for insulation, small-scale green energy production etc.	Plan energy sector with a view to serious reductions in CO2 emissions	All UK housing close to zero-carbon; 100% renewable energy policy
	Integrate town planning with transport planning to reduce transport demand	
	Introduce fair trade mark for ecologically sound small farmers	
	Regulation of interest rates charged to borrowers	Ending usury ie Average real interest rates are zero
Country-by-country reporting of company profits	Closure of numerous tax loopholes that allow shifting of profits to low-tax environments	Ending of tax havens
	Shorter working week to share out employment	All increasing productivity taken as greater leisure
	Greater recognition of value of public services and civil service	
	Use taxation system to bring greater equality of post-tax income and wealth	Consider a Citizen wage to allow all to do what is valuable to them without further pay if necessary

Resources for further study

Briefing on Steady-state economy by QPSW: <http://www.quaker.org.uk/steady-state-economics-introduction>

CASSE: www.steadystate.org

[Prosperity without Growth](#) – Sustainable Development Commission. Executive summary is online

Degrowth movement <http://www.degrowth.eu>

Economics for Equity and the Environment: <http://www.e3network.org/>

Equality Trust <http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/why/evidence>

Ethical Consumer <http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/> and
(a recent issue has a comparison of ethical policies of financial institutions)
<http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/home/bankingspecialreport.aspx>

Green Economics Institute : www.greeneconomics.org.uk

New Economics Foundation:

http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/m1_i1_aboutushome.aspx

see especially the executive summary of 'The Great Transition'

Positive Money: www.positivemoney.org.uk

Quakernomics blog: <http://www.quakerweb.org.uk/blog/>

Molly Scott Cato's website: <http://www.greeneconomist.org>

University of Maryland Democracy Collaborative, whose goal is “to provide you with the web's most comprehensive and up-to-date information resource on state-of-the-art strategies for democratic, community-based economic development”. <http://www.community-wealth.org/>

A project to develop a new way to improve social policy by involving practitioners and the public, led by Dr Michael Harris <http://newthinktank.org/>