



Volume 1 No 14 Feb/Mar 2008

### Editorial

Welcome to a new year, some beautiful sunshine and one step closer to - or further beyond - peak oil, depending on who you listen to (see last page). This issue is marked by a number of articles and links about this as well as some initiatives trying to tackle the issues raised by both this and by climate change. Please take note of the pieces on the work being done at an individual level in the rubbish challenge, at the local level through the Transition Communities group, and nationally through the Be The Change movement. This brings us nicely to a reminder of how in this newsletter different levels of action are identified by the following colours.

**Personal (and Domestic)**

**Local (Neighbourhood level)**

**Town and Around (City and Region wide)**

**National**

**Global**

Sometimes an article covers an issue at more than one scale, in which case the title will be multicoloured.

The SOC Committee is now also finalising its adoption of its first annual plan, within which it is committing to four outcomes:

- Reduction of currently unsustainable levels of **C**onsumption
- Reduction of currently unsustainable levels of **W**aste Production
- Enhancing **B**iodiversity
- Promoting and Building **S**ustainability

In effect the first three can be seen as subsets of the fourth, and the latter covers

any sustainability issues not addressed in the other three. Items in this newsletter will now also be marked with the four letters highlighted above to show how they link to SOC's outcomes.

Submission of articles is welcome from all members to me here at [ian-burn@actrix.co.nz](mailto:ian-burn@actrix.co.nz). If an article is too much for you however, how about a piece of advice or a tip about sustainability, or a joke?

Finally if you do have any feedback on content, or ideas for articles this would be much appreciated.

Ian Burn

### Reminder

If you have not paid your \$15 registration for the 2008 year yet please could you forward this to Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch, PO Box 2216 ChCh 8140

Thank you

### **S** Transition Communities

We have arrived at a point where it is clear that we have ahead of us two somewhat daunting obstacles to overcome. One is commonly referred to as 'Peak Oil'; the other 'Climate Change'. Of the two, Peak Oil is probably the most predictable in terms of effects and timing. But while Climate Change is with us now, and gathering momentum, exactly how this will evolve, and over what periods of time, is uncertain.

There is also a third set of problems that are less frequently referred to. These involve in particular the permanent loss of biodiversity, and the extraction of renewable resources at rates that exceed their ability to renew themselves. This applies, for example, to rain-forests, land suitable for agriculture, water, and food from the oceans. In effect all of these can be regarded, along with oil and gas, as non-renewable resources because sooner or later they will all be exhausted.

As with any problem we can respond in various ways. There is fatalism – something around the corner, like science or technology, will come to our rescue. There is denial – there is no problem. And there is positive action – let's get stuck in and deal with it.

Sustainable Otago Christchurch (SOC) takes the latter view, and goes further. We believe that if we set about responding in the right ways not only can society successfully address the effects of this changing world but it can be done in ways that enrich us, and add greatly to our enjoyment of life. A general term for this response is 'transition' – moving from where we are now to where we wish to be in the future.

The transition movement is arising spontaneously all around the world, and while it assumes many forms a common aim is to make the transition from fossil-fuel dependency to a state of energy independence. This leads to towns and cities becoming increasingly self-reliant, self-sufficient, and socially equitable.

SOC has established a group called 'Transition Communities' which aims to stimulate the formation of localised, participatory, 'transition' initiatives within and around Christchurch. We will do this by offering (amongst many other things) information, practical experience, and connections with others who are heading down the same path both here in NZ and overseas.

SOC is planning to hold a series of topical DVD screenings, public presentations and workshops, and a bus tour of existing initiatives will take place on March 15th. In addition the SOC Transition Communities team would welcome the opportunity to meet with individuals and groups within and around Christchurch to discuss our purpose and objectives.

Roger Buck

For more information contact the SOC secretary at [dave.evans@alliedtelesis.co.nz](mailto:dave.evans@alliedtelesis.co.nz) or see our Transition Communities web page [www.sustainablechristchurch.org.nz/transition](http://www.sustainablechristchurch.org.nz/transition)

[ncommunities](#) for up to date information and links to related resources.

### **S** Be the Change

Similarly, at a nationwide level 'Be the Change' is an initiative spearheaded by Greenpeace, Oxfam and Forest and Bird involving a partially biodiesel powered bus visiting communities around NZ. The aim is to tell the stories of individuals and communities around NZ who are taking action on climate change, in order to inspire others to do the same [www.bethechange.org.nz](http://www.bethechange.org.nz)

### **W** Emissions Trading Scheme Legislation in Pipeline

This legislation that has received support from all political parties except Act, introduces among other measures a tradeable scheme that allows producers of greenhouse gases to buy credits to offset their pollution. The legislation includes a moratorium on building fossil fuelled power stations for the next 10 years. Barry Weeber writing in the magazine of ECO (the umbrella group of Ecological and Conservation organisation in NZ) – has the following criticisms of the bill as it stands:

- that in delaying the introduction of some economic sectors (energy, farming) to the scheme the taxpayer ends up subsidising these sectors
- the bill may result in the felling of indigenous species to plant introduced ones.
- The bill is unclear as to whether it covers fishing sector emissions.
- The bill exempts methane gas emissions from the coal industry, especially those associated with exports
- Penalties for non-compliance are too low
- Jetfuel is excluded

To view the bill see [www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/legislation/bills](http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/legislation/bills) and do a keyword search for 'emissions trading'. The criticisms noted by Barry Weeber can be found at:

[http://www.eco.org.nz/news\\_item.asp?SID=121](http://www.eco.org.nz/news_item.asp?SID=121)

Submissions on the Bill are due by 29 February.

### B Best Fish Guide 0708

Forest and Bird has produced its 0708 guide ranking the sustainability of NZs commercial fisheries by type of fish. Best choice is Kina and Anchovy, worst is Orange Roughy.

See

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/bestfishguide/index.asp> or call 0800 200 064 for a free wallet guide.

### S Council opinion on Central Plains Water changes

**The controversial Central Plains Water scheme has caused a greater split among Christchurch City councilors since the October elections.**

Newly elected councilors Chrissie Williams, Yani Johanson, Mike Wall and Ngaire Button have shifted the balance of opinion on the council against the scheme.

The new power balance was demonstrated this week when councillors voted in a largely symbolic move to not receive annual and quarterly reports from the Central Plains Water Trust and to reject a council staff report addressing concerns of the Malvern Hills Protection Society.

Councillors voted eight to five to reject the staff report as they felt it did not adequately address concerns raised by the society last month over the council's involvement in the scheme.

Crs Norm Withers, Barry Corbett, Helen Broughton, Button, Johanson, Wall, Williams, and Sally Buck and voted against receiving the report, with the latter four voting in line with their commitment in line with the SOC pre-election survey, despite Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker calling for unity.

Source: adapted from Charlie Gates - The Press, Saturday, 15 December 2007

S The World Watch Institute annually puts out its 'State of the World' report, which is a standard reference on issues of sustainability. See

<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5554> for a summary of its contents and a nice slideshow of positive things happening in regard to sustainability globally.

### S Ten Ways to Prepare for a Post-Oil Society

1. Expand your view beyond the question of how we will run all the cars by means other than gasoline. Cars are not part of the, they are at the heart of the problem.

Start thinking beyond the car. We have to make other arrangements for virtually all the common activities of daily life.

2. We have to produce food differently. As oil and gas deplete, we will be left with sterile soils and farming organized at an unworkable scale. Many lives will depend on our ability to fix this. Farming will soon return much closer to the center of economic life. It will necessarily have to be done more locally, at a smaller and finer scale, and will require more human labour. This situation presents excellent business and vocational opportunities for young people. It also presents huge problems in land-use reform, not to mention the fact that the knowledge and skill for doing these things has to be painstakingly retrieved from the dumpster of history.

3. We have to inhabit the terrain differently. We'll have to return to traditional human ecologies at a smaller scale: villages, towns, and cities (along with a productive rural landscape). Our small towns are waiting to be re-inhabited. Our cities will have to contract. Cities that are composed proportionately more of suburban fabric will pose especially tough problems. The loss of monetary value in suburban property will have far-reaching ramifications.

The stuff we build in the decades ahead will have to be made of regional materials found in nature, and at a more modest scale. This whole process will entail enormous demographic shifts and is liable to be turbulent. Like farming, it will require the retrieval of skill-sets and methodologies that have been forsaken.

Building codes and zoning laws will

eventually be abandoned and will have to be replaced with vernacular wisdom.

4. We have to move things and people differently. Moving things and people by water and rail is vastly more energy-efficient. Let's start with railroad. We also have to prepare our society for moving people and things much more by water. This implies the rebuilding of infrastructure for our harbours, and also for our inland river systems — including the towns associated with them.

The great harbour towns can no longer devote their waterfronts to condo sites and bikeways. We actually have to put the piers and warehouses back in place (not to mention the sleazy accommodations for sailors). Right now, programs are underway to restore maritime shipping based on wind.

5. We have to transform retail trade. The national chains that have used the high tide of fossil fuels to contrive predatory economies of scale (and kill local economies) — they are going down. They will not be able to run the “warehouses on wheels” of 18-wheel tractor-trailers incessantly circulating along the interstate highways. Their thousands of kilometre of supply lines to the Asian slave-factories are also endangered oil becomes scarcer and competition for it fiercer.

The local networks of commercial interdependency which these chain stores systematically destroyed (with the public's acquiescence) will have to be rebuilt brick by brick and inventory by inventory. This will require rich, fine-grained, multi-layered networks of people who make, distribute, and sell stuff (including the much-maligned “middlemen”).

Don't be fooled into thinking that the Internet will replace local retail economies. Internet shopping is totally dependent now on cheap delivery, and delivery will no longer be cheap. It also is predicated on electric power systems that are completely reliable. That is something we are unlikely to enjoy in the years ahead.

6. We will have to make things again locally. However, we are going to make less stuff. We will have fewer things to buy, fewer choices of things. The curtain is coming down on the endless blue-light-special shopping frenzy that has occupied

the forefront of daily life for decades. But we will still need household goods and things to wear. As a practical matter, we are not going to re-live the 20th century. The factories from the heyday of manufacturing (1900–1970) were all designed for massive inputs of fossil fuel, and many of them have already been demolished. We're going to have to make things on a smaller scale by other means. Perhaps we will have to use more water power. The truth is, we don't know yet how we're going to make anything. This is something that the younger generations can put their minds and muscles into.

7. The age of canned entertainment is coming to an end. It was fun for a while. We liked “Lord of the Rings” and the Beatles. But we're going to have to make our own music and our own drama down the road. We're going to need playhouses and live performance halls. We're going to need violin and banjo players and playwrights and scenery makers, and singers. We'll need theatre managers and stage-hands. The Internet is not going to save canned entertainment. The Internet will not work so well if the electricity is on the fritz half the time (or more).

8. We'll have to reorganize the education system. The centralized secondary school systems based on bus fleets will not survive the coming decades. The huge investments we have made in these facilities will impede the transition out of them, but they will fail anyway. Since we will be a less affluent society, we probably won't be able to replace these centralized facilities with smaller and more equitably distributed schools, at least not right away. Personally, I believe that the next incarnation of education will grow out of the home schooling movement, as home schooling efforts aggregate locally into units of more than one family. God knows what happens beyond secondary ed. Universities may not be salvageable, and the activity of higher ed itself may engender huge resentment by those foreclosed from it. But anyone who learns to do long division and write a coherent paragraph will be at a great advantage — and, in any

case, will probably out-perform today's average college graduate. One thing for sure: teaching children is not liable to become an obsolete line of work, as compared to public relations and marketing. Lots to do here, and lots to think about.

9. We have to reorganize the medical system. We will probably have to return to a model of service much closer to what used to be called "doctoring." Medical training may also have to change as the universities run into trouble functioning. Let's hope that we don't slide so far back that we forget the germ theory of disease, or the need to wash our hands, or the fundamentals of pharmaceutical science. Lots to do here for the unsqueamish.

10. Life will have to become much more local, and virtually all the activities of everyday life will have to be re-scaled. You can state categorically that any enterprise now supersized is likely to fail — everything from the government to big corporations to huge institutions. If you can find a way to do something practical and useful on a smaller scale than it is currently being done, you are likely to have food in your cupboard and people who esteem you.

An entire social infrastructure of voluntary associations, needs to be reconstructed. Local institutions for care of the helpless will have to be organized. Local politics will be much more meaningful as national agencies slide into impotence. Lots of jobs here for local heroes.

So, that's the task list for now. The best way to feel hopeful about the future is to get off your ass and demonstrate to yourself that you are a capable, competent individual resolutely able to face new circumstances.

Source: adapted from James Howard  
Kunstler, American Social Commentator  
The Canadian, 19 January 2008  
[www.agoracosmopolitan.com/home/Frontpage/2008/01/12/02127.html](http://www.agoracosmopolitan.com/home/Frontpage/2008/01/12/02127.html)

## **S** Peak Oil

The article 'Peak oil: Why is it so difficult to explain/understand?' by Martin Payne could from my perspective also have had

the title 'Everything you wanted to know about Peak Oil but were afraid to ask'. If this is you see:

<http://www.energybulletin.net/39308.html>

More useful info on this subject can be found at

<http://www.howtoboilafrog.com/peakoil.html>

'Peak Oil - How Will You Ride the Slide?' is also funny (in a sobering kind of way) but you'll need broadband:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ulx1ie-vEY>

There is also a graph summarizing the latest predictions from 'The Oil Drum' re Peak Oil, a site dedicated to these issues, on the last page of this newsletter

## **CW** A months free bike trailer

In order to get more people convinced of the wonders of bike trailers Steve Muir has built up a couple of light weight load carrying trailers that you can trial for a month or so, to give you a chance to see how they perform. Take them shopping, fruit picking, surfing, carrying supplies for kids rides, camping etc. If you'd like to give a donation at the end of the month to cover the wear and tear on tyres, that would be nice, but not essential. There is a small bracket to set up on your bike and then the trailer attaches with a wingnut. They are set up to take two recycling crates or a deck for carrying loads. Contact Steve at [thepope@cyclingchurch.org](mailto:thepope@cyclingchurch.org) ph 3658238.

## **S** But if you absolutely have to buy a car.

Land Transport NZ has launched a website allowing comparisons between 2300 new and used cars on everything from fuel efficiency to carbon dioxide emissions.

[www.rightcar.govt.nz](http://www.rightcar.govt.nz)

## **S** NZ Transport Strategy - 'Sustainable Transport'

has been launched but the Ministry of Transport (aka 'Cars r Us') as an update of the current NZ Transport Strategy.

You can make your views heard by downloading the submission form and the full document or a summary from <http://www.transport.govt.nz/update-of-the-new-zealand-transport-strategy-2/> or your local library. Submissions close Friday 29 February. Email address for

submissions is  
[sustainabletransport@transport.govt.nz](mailto:sustainabletransport@transport.govt.nz).

**S** **Lincoln Envirotown Sustainability Caravan** is open 5:30 – 6:30 each Wednesday next to the Lincoln Community Hall on Gerald Street. For more information on this organisation see <http://www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz/>

**S** **New research into the carbon footprint of international visitors flying here could impact New Zealand's tourism industry.**

Research showing greenhouse gas emissions from air travel are higher than first thought could hurt the tourist market. International tourism earns NZ \$8.3 billion in the year ended March 2006. "Our calculations show that in 2005, the CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions from the 2.4 million international visitors' return air flights was nearly 7.9 million tonnes - roughly the same as the emissions from all the country's coal, gas and oil-fired power generation" say Otago researchers. That equates to 10 per cent of the country's Kyoto-liable greenhouse gas emissions for 2005 - much higher than the usually quoted world average of 3.5 per cent. Regenerating 26,000 square kilometres of bush would offset emissions, but would require an area the size of 15 Stewart Islands. And balancing the air travel by cutting use of land transport would mean taking almost two-thirds of all New Zealand's vehicles off the road.

Source: Climatekiwi / Scoop  
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/4343976a7693.html>

**S** **Global temperature 2008: Another top-ten year.**

2008 is set to be cooler globally than recent years say Met Office and University of East Anglia climate scientists, but is still forecast to be one of the top-ten warmest years. Each January the Met Office, in conjunction with the University of East Anglia, issues a forecast of the global surface temperature for the coming year. Over the eight years, 2000-2007, since the Met Office has issued forecasts of annual global temperature, the mean value of the forecast error was just 0.07 °C.

For 2008, the development of a strong La Niña in the tropical Pacific Ocean will limit the warming trend of the global climate. During La Niña, cold waters upwell to cool large areas of the ocean and land surface temperatures. The forecast includes for the first time a new decadal forecast using a climate model. This indicates that the current La Niña event will weaken only slowly through 2008, disappearing by the end of the year.

Source Climatekiwi / UK Met Office  
<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/2008/pr20080103.html>

**W** **Waste Reduction as seen on Reality TV!**  
 Both TV3 and Prime are now running Reality TV programmes based on getting families to reduce the amount of waste they produce.

- TV3: WASTED (NZ Based) – Tuesdays 8pm [www.wastedtv.co.nz](http://www.wastedtv.co.nz)
- Prime: No Waste Like Home (UK based) – Sunday 7pm  
<http://www.primetv.co.nz/default.asp?a=25&t=25&View=FullStory&newsID=145>

**CW** **Utility Cycles**

Christchurch resident Alan Preston is carrying out a nationwide campaign to introduce New Zealanders to the specifically urban-appropriate utility-style bicycles and associated Technologies. These are prevalent in the European 'cycletopias' ( Copenhagen, Amsterdam et al ) to help make cycling practicable, practical and preferable to a much broader demographic than that to which it is currently limited.

The main focus of his campaign is to convince Local and Regional Councils and other organisations) to consider acquiring these styles of bicycles for use by their staff so as to provide working models of these technologies thereby to promote cycling as a viable form of transport to sections of society who are presently poorly represented among 'cyclists'. E.g. middle aged women and elderly people.

Please contact Alan if you know of any organisations that are running fleets of

bicycles for use around town by their staff and visitors.

For more information please see <http://urbanbicycles.googlepages.com/cycleactivecouncils> or call Alan on 338-2730

**S** Prime Minister's Statement to Parliament on Sustainability

This statement released recently was part of the PM's general statement at the opening of parliament. I noted the need for NZ 'to be part of the solutions to the world's biggest problems – and certainly not a reluctant last mover', and saw it being particularly important to make moves in regard to 'our land-based industries which will continue to be major growth engines for our economy.'

The PM stated that the government's priorities in terms of sustainability this year would be:

- passage of the **emissions trading** scheme legislation..
- passage of the **Biofuels** Bill which mandates the Biofuels Sales Obligation
- updating the New Zealand Transport Strategy to sharpen its focus on sustainability with the aim of having effective **carbon neutrality in the transport sector** by 2040.
- implementing the policies signalled in the Energy and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies, especially those promoting investment in renewables and energy-saving measures. This will mean that the country will be effectively **carbon neutral in the electricity sector by 2025**.
- Rolling out the \$175 million Plan of Action on Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change which will assist **land based industries** in adapting to climate change
- working towards a National Policy Statement on **fresh water management**.

- finalising and passing the **Waste Minimisation Bill**
- leading by example in the public sector
- playing a full part in the international negotiations for a comprehensive, post **2012 agreement on climate change**..

**For the full text see**

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/statement-to-parliament+2008>

Green Party comment on the above statement asked how NZ could be the world's first sustainable nation while the Government's own companies were ripping out forest to establish dairy farming, and ramping up coal mining to sell to China and India while berating them for their increasing emissions.'

It noted also the contradiction between sustainability aims and the government \$2billion investment in NZ's largest and most expensive transport project in the form of the new motorway tunnel in Auckland, so that 'all the people who were starting to think about using public transport now that it is gradually improving are sent back to their cars.'

For further Green Party comment on this and related matters see:

<http://www.greens.org.nz/searchdocs/PR11569.html>

**S** Hope, Faith and Sustainability

In late January Soc member Dr. John Peet was a guest speaker at the **Wanaka Summer School of the Aspiring Faith Community : "Living Hopefully: Ecology, Ethics and Spirit on a Planet in Peril"**. **Dr. Peet spoke on the relationship between** sustainability and sustainable development and national, regional and local policy making. The conference as a whole focussed on developing a lifestyle that preserves the balance of the ecosystem, writing strategic plans and implementing community sustainability, using the NZ Local Government legislation and valuing relationships and interconnectedness in all things along with the wisdom of tangata whenua around ecology, conservation and sustainability. Please contact

[brown.hawea@actrix.co.nz](mailto:brown.hawea@actrix.co.nz) for more information.

**S** SOC's Local Body Sustainability Survey 3. What did the successful Regional Councillors say?

This is the third in a series of pieces arising from the local body survey that SOC with support from Living Streets Aotearoa and Spokes conducted prior to the election last year. This article looks at the responses of the new Canterbury Regional Councillors (Ecan). The information below gives percentages in regard to both the 8 successful candidates who responded to the survey, and also the total 14 Councillors.

- How important to you is Sustainability (as defined in the survey): Very important  
Respondents: 100% Councillors 50%

- Do you think the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy sufficiently integrates a sustainable development approach to long term urban planning for Greater Christchurch as opposed to just managing urban growth?

	Yes	No	No Response Unsure
Respondents:	57.7	42.9	0
Councillors	28.6	21.4	50

- If elected, will you support the Central Plains Water Scheme?

	Yes	No	No Response Unsure
Respondents:	14.3	57.1	28.6
Councillors	2.0	28.6	64.3

- If elected, will you support the increased expenditure (or greater) recommended for cycling, walking, public transport, and travel planning in the Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Statement (the 20-year statement of direction for Christchurch's transport system approved by the City Council in 2003)?

Yes No No Response

Unsure

Respondents:	88.9	0	11.1
Councillors	57.1	0	42.9

- Do you support no road through the Christchurch City Mall?

	Yes	No	No Response Unsure
Respondents:	55.6	22.2	22.2
Councillors	35.7	14.3	50.0

- Do you want more pedestrian-only areas in central Christchurch?

	Yes	No	No Response Unsure
Respondents:	55.6	0	44.4
Councillors	28.6	0	71.4

Respondents were also asked to prioritise 1-5 a list of topics to take action on. The following scores out of 100 were calculated by imputing 5 points to priority 1 down to 1 point for priority 5 and making calculations relative to a possible maximum score of 35 (5 x 7 Councillors) for each topic.

Drinking Water	85.7
Freshwater Ecosystems	71.4
Transport	68.6
Biodiversity	54.3
Air Pollution	48.6
Te Tiriti	42.9
Income Inequality	40.0
Public Participation	37.1
Reuse / Recycle	34.3
Peak Oil	31.4

There are some differences between the rankings given by the responding Regional Councillors and those given by the responding City Councillors reported on in the last edition of this newsletter, ([www.sustainablechristchurch.org.nz/newsletter](http://www.sustainablechristchurch.org.nz/newsletter)) some of these differences will reflect the areas of focus of the different Councils. Drinking Water is the primary concern for both groups and concerns about Transport, Biodiversity and Freshwater Ecosystems are all in the top 5. For the Regional Council but not the City Council, Income Inequality, Reuse/Recycle and Peak Oil (just) make the top 10, while Urban Development, Energy Efficiency and Renewables and Housing

make the top 10 for the City Council responders but not their Regional counterparts.

Further detail on all of the above can be found at:

<http://www.sustainablechristchurch.org.nz/resources/surveyresponses>

#### **S** Global CEOs attitudes to Climate Change

A survey's of CEOs from across the entire globe at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland found that Climate change, was cited as a concern by only 34% (down from 40% last year), while the remainder said they did not feel this was a threat to their business. Only 37% said their organisation was investing significant resources to address the risks and opportunities presented by climate change. However, in marked contrast to their fear of over-regulation, four-fifths of CEOs, called for an increase in government action to reduce emissions. Support for increased government intervention was highest among CEOs in Asia Pacific, at 90%, and lowest in North America, 64%. CEOs also favoured collaborative efforts to mitigate climate change.

Source Green Party.

<http://blog.greens.org.nz/index.php?p=2075>

#### **W** Rubbish Challenge

Matthew and Waveney, a Christchurch couple, have challenged themselves to live for a year from 1 February without producing domestic rubbish. See

<http://www.rubbishfreeyear.co.nz/>

Their site also has a lot of useful ideas for not creating rubbish often associated with specific items, from toothpaste to laundry liquid. The government's [www.reducerubbish.govt.nz](http://www.reducerubbish.govt.nz) is also useful, as is the recently launched [www.sustainability.govt.nz](http://www.sustainability.govt.nz) on household sustainability in general.

#### **S** New Zealand's environment more 'khaki' than green – report.

New Zealand must tackle rising greenhouse gas emissions and worsening water quality if the nation is to live up to its 'clean green' image, an environment report said on Thursday. While New Zealand's record is still better than most, it has become more

"khaki" than pure green, the Environment New Zealand 2007 report, said, prompting activists to call for the issue to top the political agenda before elections this year. One of the biggest concerns was the environmental fall-out from agriculture. The key economic sector accounts for half of all New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions. For the full report see:

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/ser/enzo7-dec07/index.html>

Source:

<http://www.climatekiwi.blogspot.com/>

#### **S** Geekosystems

The Physics Room, a contemporary art project space is presenting an exhibition on Geekosystems. A Geekosystem is a collection of interconnected recycled devices constructed, contributed and connected by visitors to the gallery. More information about the project initiated by Adam Hyde and Julian Priest can be found at:

<http://www.physicsroom.org.nz/gallery/2008/ageekosystem/>

#### **Events & Deadlines**

- ***A History of Christchurch Home Gardening – Dr. Matt Morris***  
Starts **19 February**, 1.30-3pm, 5pm  
Tuesdays, \$24 at the WEA, Gloucester St.  
<[weaprogramme@xtra.co.nz](mailto:weaprogramme@xtra.co.nz)>

- **The Christchurch Cycling advocacy group SPOKES** is looking for a Rides Coordinator and a Website Content Manager. Position descriptions are available online at <http://spokes.org.nz/article/helping-spokes>. If you are interested, please contact Paul de Spa: [p.despa@paradise.net.nz](mailto:p.despa@paradise.net.nz) or phone 942-2939.

#### - ***Don't Buy Petrol Day Feb 22***

It has been calculated that if everyone in NZ did not purchase a drop of petrol for one day, the oil companies would choke on their stockpiles. At the same time it would hit the entire industry with a net loss of over \$4.6 Billion

- *Peak Oil & other Global Issues* – a free 5 week series facilitated by Kate Henry starting 21 February, 6-8pm, WEA, 59 Gloucester Street. To register, or for further information phone 366 0285, cwea@xtra.co.nz

- Prof. Michael Northcott will be speaking and participating in discussion on '*A moral climate: the ethics of global warming*' at Knox Church, cnr Victoria St and Bealey Ave at 7.30 pm on Sunday 24 February, and on Wednesday 27 February at 12 noon The speaker is Professor of Ethics at the University of Edinburgh, an internationally renowned writer, speaker and researcher on such issues as bioethics, the ethics of food, aquaculture, genetic modification, fair trade, globalisation, the sociology of religion and urbanism. For more info contact Geoff King 379 2456, minister@knoxchurch.co.nz

- The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Australasia is hosting a facilitated discussion lead by Dr Geoff Fagan, of the University of Strathclyde. Geoff's interests lie in *democratic renewal, engagement as a core sustainability issue, engaging local people to make their communities more sustainable and local research as empowerment*. Wednesday 27 February 2008, 4.30-6.30pm, Council Chambers, Christchurch City Council Civic Offices, 163 - 173 Tuam Street

- *Bikewise* week is coming up shortly [www.bikewise.co.nz](http://www.bikewise.co.nz). This year consists of 3 main events:

- Go By Bike Day CPIT plaza on the Madras / St Asaph corner, from 7.30am on Wednesday 27 February. Prizes, giveaways, free breakfast, entertainment. A Go by Bike Day breakfast is also on at University of Canterbury, C-block lawn, 8-10 am.
- Bike Wise Battle (Mon 18 February to Sun 2 March)

- *The Changing Climate in Canterbury* The Southern Environmental Trust's 2008 free Forum will be held 12th March at 6.30pm in the Limes Room, Town Hall, Christchurch. The speakers will be:

- Hon David Parker, Minister responsible for Climate Change Issues - Government policy and perspective on managing climate change in NZ.

- Dr David Wratt, General Manager Climate Change, NIWA - the scientific view of what Canterbury and NZ will be like in the future due to climate change.

- Peter Townsend, CEO, Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce - the social and economic impact in Canterbury of the changing climate.

For more information see [www.climatechange.govt.nz/](http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/)

- *Earth Hour* is 8-9 pm Saturday March 29. Christchurch is joining with Chicago, Tel Aviv, Copenhagen and Brisbane, Melbourne, Toronto and Manila in turning off the lights to reduce power use and the size of their carbon footprints.

- A free *Sustainable Partnerships forum* is being sponsored by local bodies, Ministry for the Environment, the Chamber of Commerce and the Sustainable Business network. It will be held Wednesday 2 April at the Christchurch Convention Centre.

"This forum is for people on the edge of the sustainability circle looking for a way in - and for those who are already doing great things. See

<http://www.ecan.govt.nz/livinghereforum/> to register your interest

Two International speakers at the WEA: A workshop with Miguel Hirota (Japan) on 10 April: "*Create and use currencies to develop and grow your local community*" 2.00pm – 5.00pm Room 2, WEA, 59 Gloucester St, Limited to 12 people. \$20 AND Don Northcott from South Africa "*Sustainable Economics: learning from international examples and experience*" 7.30 pm – 9.00pm Hall, WEA 59 Gloucester St, Gold coin koha

#### **Committee Actions**

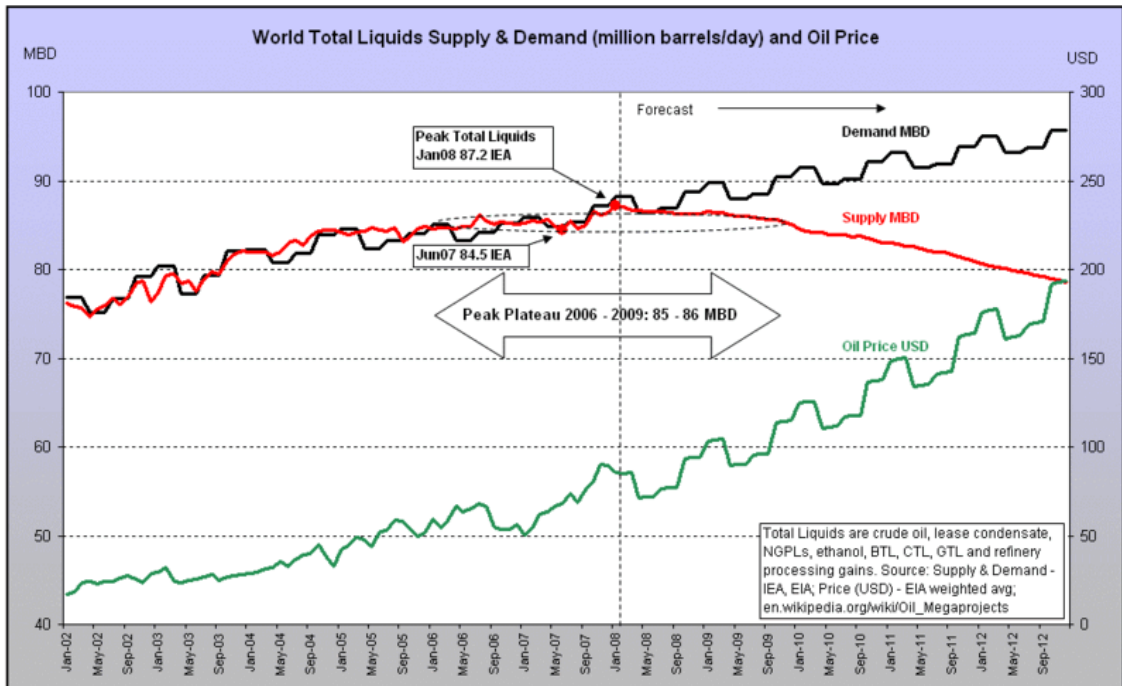
##### *Completed*

- **S** Commented on the **Christchurch City Council's Sustainability Policy**
- **S** Responded to **Regional Land Transport Strategy**

- **S** Establishment of **Transition Communities** group and associated work (see earlier article).

*In Process*

- **S** **SOC Action Plan**  
nearly complete  
<http://soc.onlinegroups.net/r/file/706806-2007-10-31T061146Z>
- **S** Work on relationship between Te Tirit based development and Sustainable Development
- **W** Waste Minimisation Fund Project
- **S** Responding to issues around the Healthy Cities Conference
- **S** Preparing for Peak Oil Presentation to City Council



<http://www.theoilrum.com/node/3623#more>