

The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies, By Richard Heinberg, New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island Canada, 2nd Edition, 2005

Introduction

Chapter 1: Energy, Nature and Society

Chapter 2: Party Time: The Historic Interval of Cheap, Abundant Energy

Chapter 3: Lights Out: Approaching the Historic Interval's End

Chapter 4: Non-Petroleum Energy Sources: Can the Party Continue?

Chapter 5: A Banquet of Consequences

Chapter 6: Managing the Collapse: Strategies and Recommendations

Afterword to the Revised Edition

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See the synopsis of the book, separately titled "Oil Depletion and the Fate of the World" (2004) (available at http://www.postcarbon.org/files/EndOfOilBooklet_0.pdf) for contents of chapters 1 through 5.

Chapter 6: Managing the Collapse: Strategies and Recommendations

"We are all addicts of fossil fuels in a state of denial, about to face cold turkey. And like so many addicts about to face cold turkey, our leaders are now committing violent crimes to get what little is left of what we're hooked on." Kurt Vonnegut

"We must face the prospect of changing our basic ways of living. This change will either be made on our own initiative in a planned way, or forced on us with chaos and suffering by the inexorable laws of nature." Jimmy Carter (1976)

Managed collapse ("collapse" = substantial reduction in social complexity)

Hartmut Bossel: Earth at a Crossroads: Paths to a Sustainable Future (1998): "A sustainable society will have to allow development without physical growth (of material and energy flow and population). Its

population must eventually remain below a certain limit that is probably less than today's global population. The per capita use of energy and materials must be less than what it is now in industrialized countries of the North. All energy must be renewable, all materials recyclable. These limited throughputs of resources must support a system that maintains an unlimited potential for non-material cultural, social, and individual growth."

You, Your Home, and Your Family

Gradually and deliberately reduce your non-essential energy usage

Direct most of your effort where energy usage is greatest; for most, that will be more heated

Try to hook into alternative energy: Viridian sells wind power; investigate solar-PV; investigate solar heating of water

If altering the home or building new, considered ecological design principles: straw bale, rammed earth, etc.

Reduce your financial debt; substitute being a consumer with striving for personal and planetary survival; strive for voluntary simplicity

Begin replacing household tools which use energy to operate and which required energy to be manufactured with simpler tools which operate on human energy

Develop your skills for repairing items

As relates to Health Care: learn about healing herbs and basic medical procedures

Grow as much of your own food as you can; save seeds with your neighbors; look for alternatives to chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides; compost kitchen waste and yard waste; keep a few chickens; learn methods of food preservation; try using a solar oven

Consider the possibility of living car-free

Your Community

"The strategy of individualist survivalism will likely offer only temporary and uncertain refuge during the energy downslope. True individual and family security will come only with community solidarity and interdependence."

Find people in your community interested in voluntary simplicity and self-reliance; form friendships and habits of mutual aid; find your use of common interest related to food, water, and energy

Check out: <http://www.postcarbon.org/>

Promote local food systems such as CSA's and community gardening

Access to water: "Because water treatment plants and pumping stations use energy, communities will need to conserve water and find new ways to distribute water and prevent water pollution as energy resources become more precious."; ultra low-flush toilets, low-flow showerheads and energy conservation; promote natural wastewater treatment facilities (i.e., marsh systems)

Restore local economies – book stores, restaurants, grocery stores, clothing stores, and product manufacturers; promote local currency

Promote local public power (municipal utility districts); help make decisions about power generation sources (nuclear, wind, etc.)

Promote community designs which exclude cars, promote bicycling, include essential services, etc.;
Move to such an area

Get involved in local government

Consider living in an intentional community (e.g. EgoVillage in Ithaca New York)