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Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 1:20 AM
To: Jenna Kay; Amy Koski; Ben Duncan; Nicole Metildi; Sylvia Ciborowski; tlunsford@parametrix.com; Harrison Husting; Dana Hellman
Subject: Overarching Climate Resiliency Policies #2

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#16

"Poverty Blind" Reality Roundtable #7

Stephanie Hoopes, Peter Kilde, Marc Perry, Dalitso Sulamoyo

1 hour 23 minute video

https://youtu.be/359aiDUDHRo?si=YVxJwL_mc6uoYMJ5

Here is a concise qualitative summary of the key points:

This discussion focused on poverty in the United States. Over 40% of households struggle financially even while working due to high costs of living and low wages. Stephanie Hoopes discussed the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) metric which more accurately captures households barely making ends meet above the outdated federal poverty level.

Community leaders discussed their first-hand experiences assisting families struggling with basic needs. Declining engagement and opportunity were highlighted as particular issues for communities of color. Natural disasters like Katrina revealed the outsized impacts on low-income groups. Persistent regulations were seen as barriers to flexible assistance.

Looking to the future, climate change and economic decline threaten to exacerbate poverty risks. Local resilience through social networks and supportive policies were suggested as positive paths forward. Empowering youth and accurate information sharing were also seen as important to address misunderstandings and build necessary cooperation across societies.

The discussion illuminated poverty as a widespread and worsening systemic issue requiring multifaceted solutions. With open and informed discussion, communities were seen as well-positioned to advance strategies empowering all residents to meet basic needs and participate fully in society.

#17

Luther Krueger: "Goldilocks Tech? A Solar Oven Overview" | The Great Simplification

1 hour 11 minute video

<https://youtu.be/AaLHkRRbbT4?si=xikYtthtUyBqX1KNg>

Here is a concise qualitative summary of the key ideas in the discussion about solar cooking:

Solar cooking offers a sustainable and affordable way to cook food using only the sun's energy. Various solar thermal cookers have been invented that work on the principles of concentrating sunlight inside insulated boxes or with parabolic reflectors. Devices range from simple homemade models to commercial ovens.

Solar cooking can help address issues like deforestation for fuel in places that rely on burning wood for cooking. It also saves money on energy bills compared to using gas or electric stoves. Specific examples highlighted successes in refugee camps in Nepal where solar parabolic cookers halted forest loss. A community solar kitchen in India and a restaurant in France also demonstrated its industrial applications.

While adoption has faced cultural barriers, effectiveness depends on location and weather. Hybrid models with backup heaters address this. Costs can be as low as DIY models or \$50-\$600 for manufactured ovens.

#18

Geoffrey West: "Metabolism and the Hidden Laws of Biology" | The Great Simplification

1 hour 41 minute video

<https://youtu.be/my9a9Ftr7ek?si=kB-iRUneJj5E9YO>

Here is a 296-word summary of the key points:

This discussion between Nate Hagens and physicist Geoffrey West covers important topics around human metabolism, cities, and sustainability. Geoffrey West has extensively researched scaling laws that govern biological and social systems. He explains Kleiber's law - that an animal's metabolism scales sub-linearly with its mass, to the $3/4$ power. This law surprisingly applies across the animal kingdom due to transport networks supplying energy and resources to cells.

When applying these principles to humans, our basal metabolism is about 100 watts but expands to 10,000 watts through tools, transportation, infrastructure, etc. Scaling this social metabolism shows each American acts metabolically like 10-12 elephants. Cities also scale super linearly, with attributes like wages and patents increasing 1.15 times per population doubling. This positive feedback arises from social interactions generating ideas and wealth.

However, continual growth poses existential risks. Alternatives must address sociopolitical dynamics. While renewables could untether from fossil fuels, social aspirations of competition and individualism may still drive unsustainable scaling. Leadership is needed to cultivate collective identity and care for nature.

The conversation explores if decentralized organization could help. While cities provide efficiencies, smaller communities may cut environmental impacts if scaled properly. Overall, gleaning insights from

metabolic scaling laws offers a scientific perspective on humans' immense resource use. Understanding our integral relationship with the biosphere may guide more harmonious and durable social systems.

#19

Policy Proposal: Transitioning to a Local, Sustainable, and Equitable Economic Model

Problem: Our current economic model is reliant on global supply chains, non-renewable energy sources, greenhouse gas emissions, and unsustainable levels of resource consumption and waste production. This puts strain on ecological systems and contributes to climate change. It also concentrates wealth and does not provide livelihoods or a sense of purpose for all members of the community.

Solution: Transition to a more localized, circulatory, low-carbon economic model that distributes opportunities and benefits more equitably.

Key Elements:

- Develop local food, energy and manufacturing systems to meet basic needs sustainably using distributed renewable resources (e.g. community agriculture, soil regeneration, renewable energy generation, cooperative maker spaces).
- Guarantee meaningful jobs through public works programs focused on stewardship, community infrastructure and local sustainability projects (e.g. reforestation, green space maintenance, renewable technology installation and maintenance, public transit).
- Provide training, education and second chances to participate in the new economy through programs that upskill the workforce for local sustainable industries and remove barriers to employment.
- Develop community-led facilities and distribution networks to process and use local renewable resources (e.g. hemp refinement, geothermal/solar energy generation and distribution, transparent solar infrastructure).
- Implement pricing reforms to incentivize sustainable local production and consumption over long-distance imports and resource-intensive goods.
- Foster collaboration, sharing of knowledge and distributed production through community hubs and spaces.

The overall aim is to build self-reliance, distribute economic benefits more evenly, and align our economic activity within ecological boundaries, ensuring prosperous communities for future generations.

#20

Here is a draft overarching climate policy proposal for the agriculture sector:

Agriculture Climate Policy

Goal: Transition the agricultural sector to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience to climate impacts by 2050.

Emissions Reduction

- Establish a carbon pricing mechanism for agricultural emissions (e.g. cap and trade system) to incentivize reductions.
- Provide tax credits and subsidies for farmers adopting regenerative and climate-smart practices such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, silvopasture, agroforestry, etc.
- Invest in research and development of emerging technologies that reduce emissions like anaerobic digesters, nitrification inhibitors.
- Phase out subsidies for industrial livestock operations and redirect support to pasture-based grazing systems.
- Incorporate climate considerations into agricultural subsidies and promote planting of climate-resilient crops.

Sequestration and Mitigation

- Incentivize conservation of grasslands and wetlands through payments for ecosystem services programs.
- Provide grants and technical assistance for soil carbon farming techniques like biochar application and composting.
- Protect and restore riparian buffers and expand reforestation efforts on agricultural lands.
- Develop financial mechanisms to compensate farmers for carbon stored in soil, biomass, and forestry.

Resilience and Adaptation

- Improve weather forecasting, develop drought/flood early warning systems, and provide insurance programs.
- Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure like irrigation systems, culverts, fencing.
- Fund research on heat/drought-tolerant crops and livestock breeds matched to future conditions.
- Promote diversified, regenerative farms better able to withstand climate disasters.
- Facilitate cross-sector collaborations (ag-water-energy nexus) to build integrated solutions.

Governance

- Establish oversight body to coordinate policy implementation across levels of government.
- Mandate inventory and reporting of on-farm GHG sources and carbon storage to track progress.
- Conduct regular assessments and updates to policies based on latest climate science and technology.
- Prioritize environmental justice - support small and disadvantaged farmers in the transition.

#21

Here is a draft climate policy centered around developing bamboo farms in Vancouver, WA to produce sustainable bamboo products:

Policy Name: Vancouver Bamboo Initiative

Goal: Establish bamboo farms in Vancouver, WA to produce sustainable bamboo products as part of our climate action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote carbon sequestration.

Rationale:

- Bamboo is one of the fastest growing plants on Earth and can sequester significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere during growth. Bamboo farms will help mitigate climate change.

- Bamboo is an eco-friendly, sustainable material that can replace less sustainable materials like wood, plastic and other carbon-intensive materials in many products. Expanding bamboo production supports the transition to a low-carbon economy.

- Vancouver's climate is suitable for growing certain bamboo varieties, providing an opportunity to develop a local bamboo industry supply chain for sustainable products.

Key Actions:

1) Identify suitable lands for bamboo farming in Vancouver and surrounding areas through consultation with farmers, Tribes and other stakeholders.

2) Offering only low-interest loans is not sufficient support and will not enable many who want to participate. We need more robust financial assistance:

Provide robust financial assistance packages for farmers interested in starting bamboo plantations, which may include:

- Low/no interest loans
- Grants to cover startup costs like land acquisition, planting materials, equipment
- Living stipends for the initial years until bamboo is established and generating income
- Job training and assistance finding work for family members
- Assistance with applications, paperwork and navigating the process
- Priority given to applicants from underserved communities or those with limited access to capital

The goal is to make bamboo farming a realistic and viable option for more community members, not just those with existing wealth or access to loans. We want this policy to truly help empower people across socioeconomic statuses to be part of sustainable solutions. Please let me know if this updated version captures the intent of fully supporting interested farmers.

3) Work with university researchers to determine optimal bamboo varieties, farming and processing methods suited for the local climate and soils.

4) Develop markets for locally grown bamboo products through partnerships with manufacturers, retailers and public sector procurement initiatives.

5) Implement sustainable farming standards and certification programs to ensure long-term viability and environmental protection.

6) Educate the public about bamboo and its benefits through signage at farms and promotional campaigns highlighting local bamboo products.

7) Conduct ongoing monitoring, research and adaptive management to continuously improve bamboo farming practices.

#23

Climate Resiliency Housing Policy

Goals:

- Develop sustainable, affordable, accessible housing options that reduce environmental impact and build climate resilience.
- Transition away from car-dependent suburban sprawl toward more compact, walkable, mixed-use communities.
- Provide a variety of housing sizes and types to meet diverse needs and promote inclusive, equitable communities.

Strategies:

1. Promote 3D printing and innovative construction methods like Earthships to build durable, disaster-resilient housing at lower costs. Explore options for 3D printing homes onsite as well as constructing modular units that can be transported.
2. Develop eco-villages and tiny home villages with common facilities like community kitchens/gardens. Provide affordable, tiny housing units clustered around shared green spaces to foster community and efficient use of land.
3. Incentivize construction of duplexes, fourplexes, and small apartment buildings to increase density near transit and services. Update zoning to allow a wider range of multi-unit housing types.
4. Support the development of cooperatively owned, permanently affordable housing like that provided by organizations like House Our Neighbors. Pursue models that decommodify housing and meet diverse needs.
5. Plan compact, mixed-use, walkable neighborhoods with integrated renewable energy systems following circular city principles. Rely on public transit, biking and walking rather than personal vehicles to reduce emissions and encourage healthy lifestyles.
6. Integrate nature and agriculture into urban design with rooftop and community gardens as well as protected greenbelts. Incorporate biomimicry and ecological principles to create self-sustaining, regenerative environments.

The goal of these policies is to transition away from unsustainable suburban sprawl towards more equitable, resilient communities suited for a low-carbon future. A variety of housing models at different scales can help meet this goal if planned and built with sustainability, community and climate change adaptation in mind.

#24

Policy Title: Encouraging Sustainable Consumption and Building Community Resilience

Whereas plastic waste is a major contributor to climate change and plastic pollution is threatening our environment and public health;

Whereas creating reusable alternatives to single-use plastic packaging and providing education on sustainable home production methods can meaningfully reduce plastic usage and emissions;

Whereas fostering connections between local businesses and communities promotes economic sustainability and resilience;

We must establish the following program:

Sustainable Refill and Community Hubs Initiative

Clark County shall collaborate with local businesses that commonly use single-use plastic packaging, such as grocery stores, laundromats, and juice/beverage producers, to establish community reuse and education hubs.

These hubs will provide designated spaces where community members can bring their own reusable containers to refill household laundry, food, and hygiene products that would otherwise be packaged in plastic. Participating businesses will stock bulk items and offer refills at competitive prices.

The hubs will also feature educational workshops and demonstration areas on sustainable home production methods such as making laundry detergent, oat milk, and other goods. Informational materials on these topics will be freely available.

The goals of this initiative are to meaningfully reduce plastic waste by creating reusable alternatives, encourage more sustainable consumption patterns, strengthen local economic relationships, and build community resilience through shared learning. Clark County will monitor and publicly report on plastic reduction and other outcomes on an annual basis.

We must fund the Sustainable Refill and Community Hubs Initiative. Additional collaborations and community partnerships are encouraged to expand this program.

#25

Policy Title: Worker Empowerment and Climate Resilience Act

Purpose: To build an equitable, sustainable, and climate-resilient economy through decent work, shared prosperity, and community self-determination.

Key Provisions:

1. Job Guarantee Program: Establish a federally-funded but locally-administered job guarantee program to provide meaningful work to all who want to work on climate resiliency and sustainability projects selected by community job boards. Projects may include renewable energy development, green infrastructure, ecological restoration, zero emissions transportation, community resilience planning, etc. Workers will receive living wages, benefits, training, and opportunities for ownership and promotion.

2. Worker Cooperative Conversion: Provide grants, low-interest loans, and technical assistance to help existing private businesses voluntarily convert to worker cooperatives where workers collectively own

the company and democratically self-manage their work. Companies that convert will receive support and priority for resiliency project contracts.

3. Community Ownership Fund: Establish a national community ownership fund to provide financing and capacity building for communities to purchase local businesses, farms, utilities and lands at risk of closure or sale outside the community. Communities gain resilience through localized ownership of critical economic and environmental assets.

4. Supply Chain Transition: Incentivize companies through procurement preferences and public-private partnerships to transition supply chains toward decentralized, mission-driven, worker and community-owned business models that prioritize environmental and social value over profits.

5. Just Transition: Provide robust support services, wage replacement, retraining and relocation assistance to help fossil-fuel dependent communities and workers transition proactively to new sustainable livelihoods and industries with high-road jobs and shared prosperity.

The overarching goal is to build an inclusive green economy with decent work, shared ownership, community self-determination and caring for both people and the planet.

#26

We cannot have growth forever in a finite world.

Our economy has to shrink. - Dr. David Suzuki

Why it's time to think about human extinction | Dr David Suzuki | Unstoppable

1 hour video

https://youtu.be/ktnAMTmgOX0?si=pdTp_yNZSKJ4iIOS4

Here is a concise summary of the key points from the interview:

Dr. David Suzuki discusses the urgent threat of climate change and our unsustainable way of life. Highlights include:

- Scientific consensus is that we have a narrow window to drastically reduce emissions and keep warming below 2C. Inaction will have catastrophic consequences.

- Our economic system prioritizes endless growth over environmental protection. To survive on a finite planet, we must rethink what truly provides well-being.

- As animals dependent on clean air, water, soil and sunlight, we have an obligation to care for the natural systems that sustain us. New technologies must respect these limits.

- Overconsumption in developed nations stresses global resources. Communities that consume locally and minimize impacts will be more resilient facing climate impacts.

- Individual actions like voting, consuming less and building community can affect change. But bold leadership is needed to transition from fossil fuels and restore natural carbon sinks like forests.

- Elders free from conflicts of interest should educate on finding meaning beyond materialism and leaving a livable world for coming generations, whom current inaction will profoundly impact. Urgent global cooperation is needed to tackle the challenge of our time.

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Transfer developmental rights to programs to non-profits