

## Jenna Kay

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**From:** Monica Zazueta <zazuetamonica0813@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 5, 2024 3:07 AM  
**To:** Jenna Kay; Amy Koski; Ben Duncan; Sylvia Ciborowski; Dana Hellman; tlunsford@parametrix.com; Nicole Metildi; Harrison Husting  
**Subject:** Overview of The Great Simplification & policy recommendations

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Nate Hagens: "Episode 100 - The Great Simplification" | The Great Simplification  
[https://youtu.be/GocuMZX3hIs?si=nP\\_9ZZs6U77fsun0](https://youtu.be/GocuMZX3hIs?si=nP_9ZZs6U77fsun0)

Here is a summary of the key points from the Nate Hagens episode 100 video:

The video is the 100th episode of Nate's podcast "The Great Simplification", where he discusses the major challenges facing human civilization. Nate describes hosting the podcast as both challenging and rewarding - challenging because it covers complex, controversial topics, but rewarding because it helps connect people who want to better understand these systemic issues.

Nate explains some of the core concepts he explores on the podcast:

- Energy blindness - How society misunderstands the central role of energy in supporting our way of life, and the depletion of finite fossil fuel energy sources.
- The carbon pulse - The brief period in human history where we've been able to rapidly extract and burn ancient carbon deposits to power modern civilization.
- The economic "Superorganism" - How human institutions and behaviors have self-organized to maximize economic growth and profits, tightly coupled to energy and material consumption.
- The "Mordor economy" - The trend towards an economy increasingly dominated by energy extraction, processing, and environmental remediation, at the expense of a thriving ecology.

Nate shares his personal journey, from initially being focused on finance and wealth management, to becoming deeply immersed in understanding energy, ecology, and the systemic challenges facing human civilization. This led him to start the podcast as a way to explore these complex topics and share knowledge.

Overall, the video presents Nate's perspective on the need for a "great simplification" - a societal transition away from the current unsustainable growth model towards a more resilient, lower-energy way of living. He sees this as one of the greatest challenges and opportunities facing humanity in the coming decades.

Based on Nate's discussion of the "great simplification" and the challenges facing society, some key policy ideas could include:

1. Energy policy reforms - Implementing policies to transition away from fossil fuel dependence towards renewable, sustainable energy sources. This could involve carbon pricing, incentives for renewable energy adoption, and reducing energy consumption.
2. Financial system reforms - Addressing the unsustainable debt levels and financial complexity that Nate describes as the "first horseman." This may require reforms to the monetary system, debt management, and financial regulations.
3. Resilience planning - Developing policies and infrastructure to increase the resilience of supply chains, food/water systems, and social institutions in the face of disruptions from the "four horsemen" Nate outlines (financial, geopolitical, complexity, social unrest).
4. Degrowth and simplification initiatives - Implementing policies that enable and encourage people to voluntarily simplify their lives and reduce material/energy throughput, rather than continuous economic growth.
5. Public education and awareness - Investing in educational programs and media to help the public better understand the energy, ecological and systemic challenges Nate describes, in order to build support for the necessary policy changes.