# The Transition Model

## Urban Planning and Regeneration

Eva Schonveld

# What I'm going to talk about:

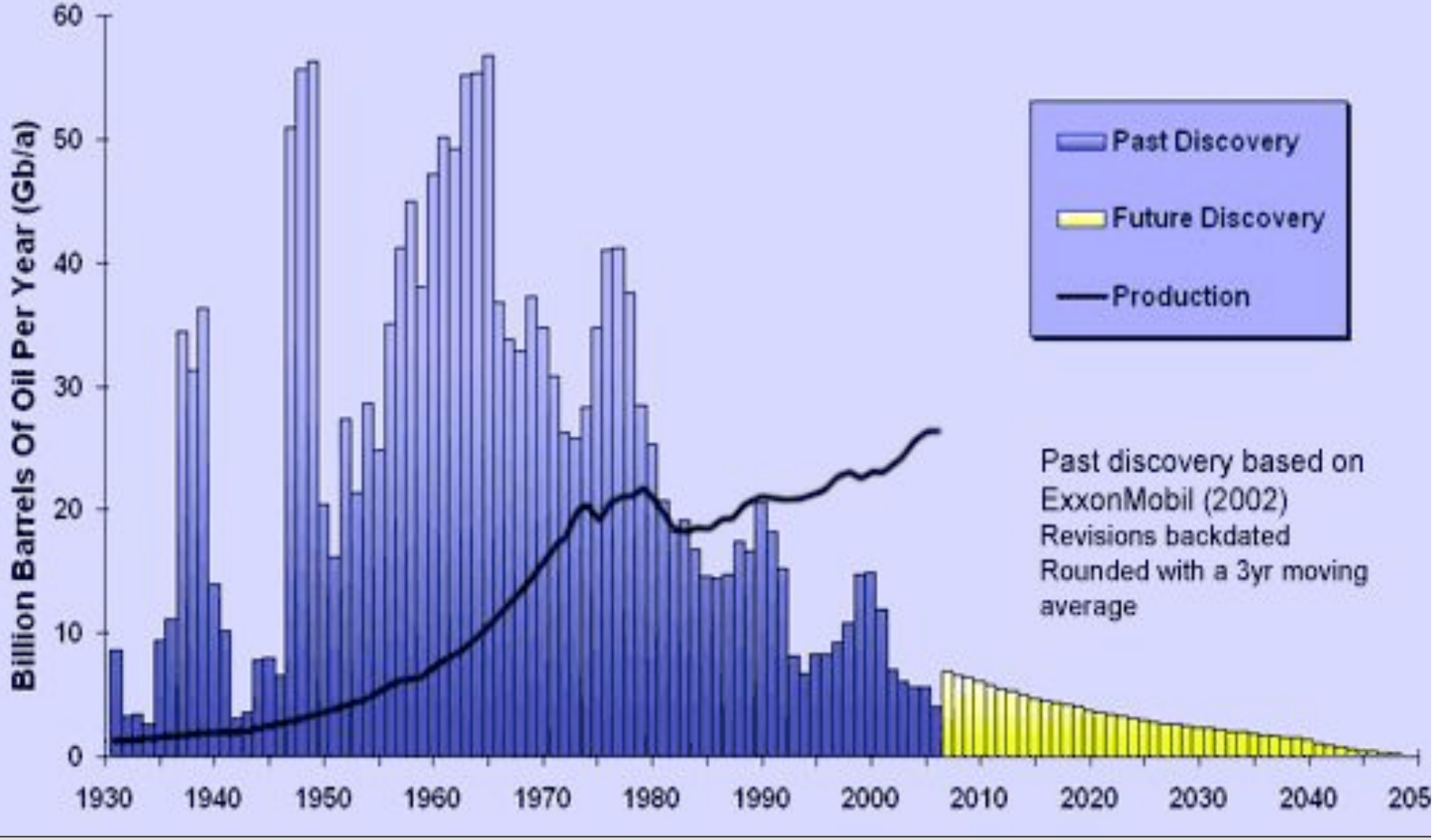
- A bit about Portobello Transition Initiative: PEDAL
- Outline the Transition model.
- Look at why people are getting involved, and discuss why it might have been so successful to date.
- Look at urban planning in the context of climate change and peak oil, and ask what our options are.

Portobello Beach, looking West

# Up-coming PEDAL projects

- 'Porty Shopper' jute shopping bag.  Will lead on to a 'Plastic Bag Free Porty' campaign and then a broader zero waste programme.
- Green space forum to look at the value of urban green space.
- Intro to Permaculture weekend course.
- Fermented food workshop..
- Planting our first community orchard in the

# THE GROWING GAP
## Regular Conventional Oil: Discovery & Production



# Not just for cars...

- Modern medicine
- Water distribution
- Microchips
- Transport
- The internet
- Concrete, asphalt, roads, and modern cities
- The banking system

# Oil = food

In developed countries it takes ten calories worth of energy from fossil fuels in the form of fertilizers, pesticides and fuel, to get one calorie back in the form of food.

# Oil = alternative energy

A solar panel takes more energy to make than it will produce in its lifetime.

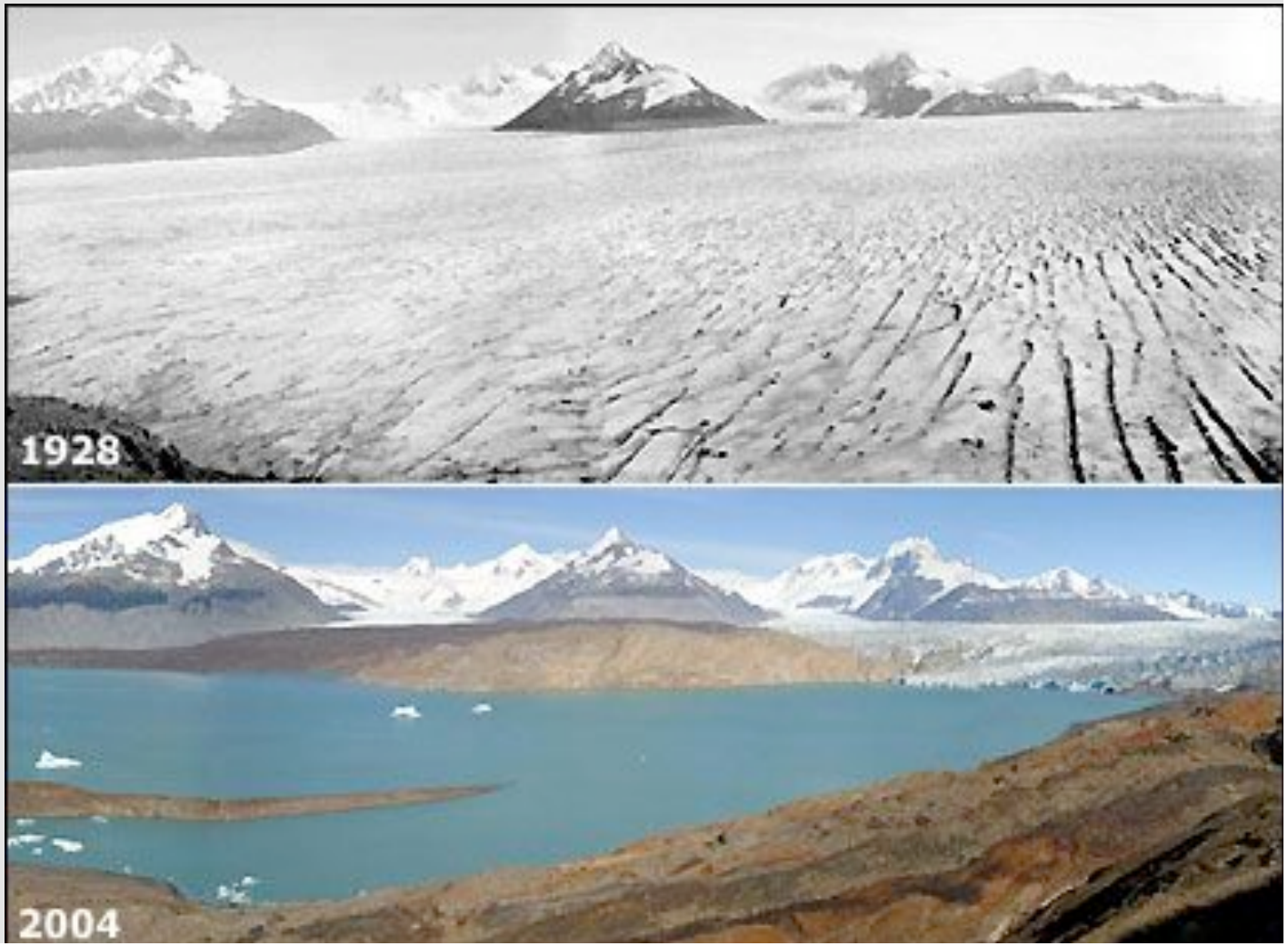
# Peak Oil – what's it like?

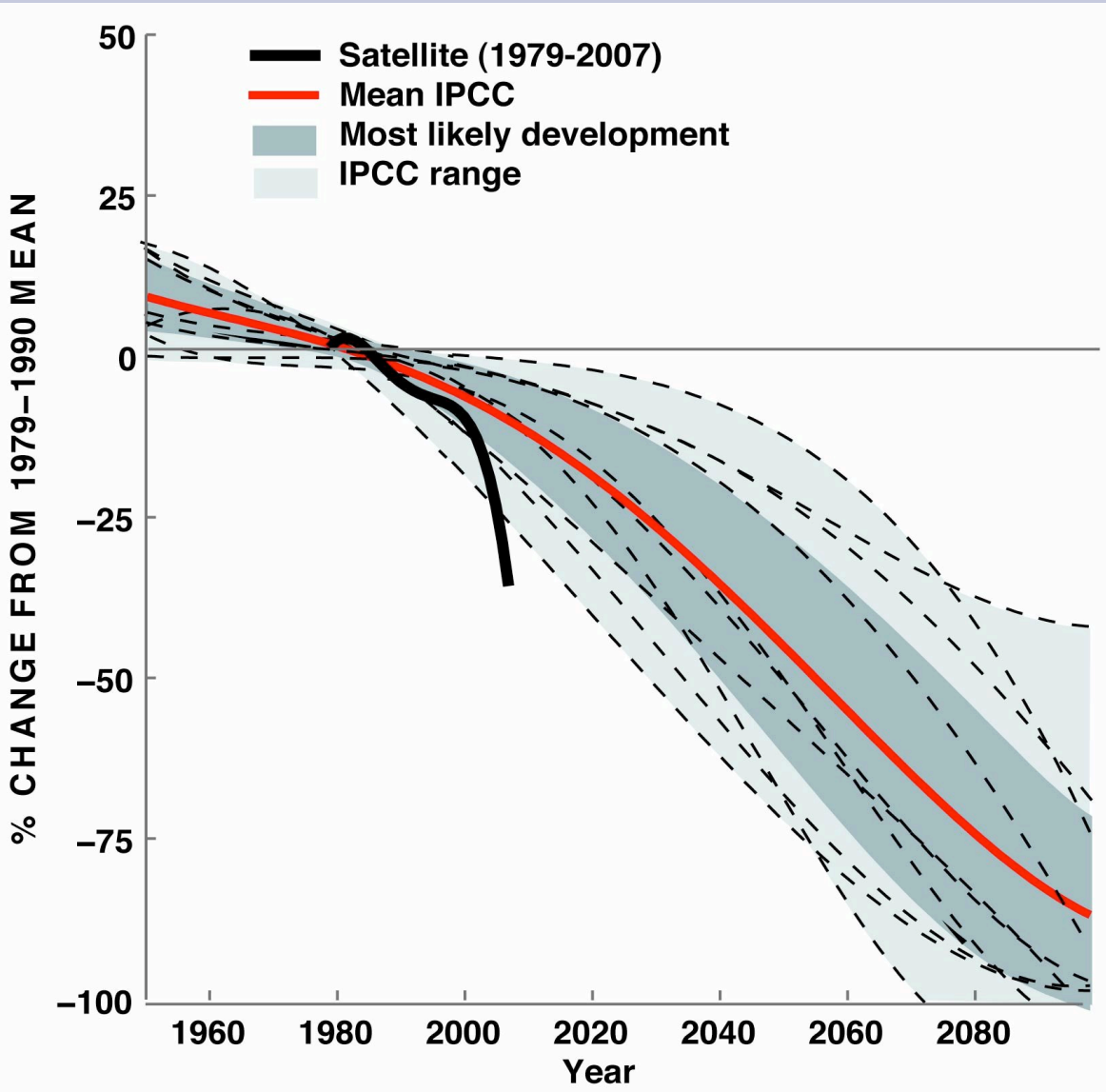
- terminal decline
- demand destruction
- examples:
  - 1990s: North Korea
  - 1990s: Cuba
  - 2000: UK fuel crisis
  - Now: Poor countries

# Climate Change – the end of the debate

The 4th IPCC report, 2007:

- Warming of the climate system is unequivocal
- Most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely (confidence level >90%) due to the observed increase in human greenhouse gas concentrations






# Arctic sea ice loss compared to IPCC models

Arctic ice extent loss to September 2007 compared to IPCC modelled changes using the SRES A2 CO2 scenario (IPCC high CO2 scenario). September loss data from satellite observations. Data smoothed with a 4th order polynomial to smooth out the year-to-year variability. Chart courtesy Dr Asgeir Sorteberg, Bjeknes Centre for Climate Research and University Center at Svalbard, Norway.
Date: 23 September 2007 www.carbonequity.info/images/seaice07.jpg

# What is a Transition initiative?

For all those elements that our community needs to sustain itself and thrive, how can we dramatically reduce our carbon foot print and our dependence on oil?

# Re-localisation

- Food
- Waste
- Transport
- Energy
- Youth and community
- Education
- Housing
- Health
- Tourism
- Livelihoods
- Marine resources

# Key elements of Transition initiatives

- Long term: 15 – 20 year plans
- Very broad based: take in a wide range of fields
- Action oriented
- Determinedly 'bottom-up'

# Transition Model - Step 1

- Set Up a Steering Group and Design Its Demise from the Outset
  - atrophy
  - personal agendas
  - humility
  - stages 2-5
  - reforms from subgroups

# Transition Model - Step 2

- Awareness raising
  - allies and networks
  - prepare community
  - movies
  - talks
  - events

# Transition Model - Step 3

- Lay the foundations
  - other groups
  - existing projects
  - official bodies
  - businesses
  - collaboration

# Transition Model - Step 4

- Organise a Great Unleashing
  - coming of age
  - powerful, passionate, informative, inspirational
  - timing
  - content
  - making connections

# Transition Model - Step 5

- Form “working groups”
  - starting new groups
  - bringing in existing groups
  - guidelines
  - training
  - working groups and the steering group

# Transition model - Step 6

- Use “Open Space”
  - shouldn’t work!
  - requirements
  - preparations
  - World Café
    - Harrison Owen - Open Space Technology: A User’s Guide
    - Peggy Holman and Tom Devane’ - The Change Handbook: Group

# Transition Model - Step 7

- Develop visible practical manifestations of your project
  - not a talking shop
  - choose carefully
  - lure in fence-sitters
  - team building potential
  - getting dirt under your

# Transition Model - Step 8

- Facilitate the Great Reskilling
  - Asking older people  what life was like when they were young.
  - repairing, cooking, cycle maintenance, natural building, loft insulation, dyeing, herbal walks, gardening, basic home energy efficiency, making sour doughs, practical food growing (the list is

# Transition Model - Step 9

- Honour the Elders
  - elders as a community resource
  - 1930 to 1960 – moving from oil scarcity to abundance
  - oral history
  - community infrastructure
  - not about going backwards

# Transition Model - Step 10

- Build bridges to Local Government
  - becomes crucial
  - don’t wait too long…
  - open door
  - Community Development Plan
  - elections…!

# Transition Model - Step 11

- Let it go where it wants to go…
  - focus on the questions
  - unleash the community
  - any sense of control is illusory

# Transition Model - Step 12

- Produce and start to implement the Energy Descent Action Plan
  - assess current situation
  - create 15-20 year vision for all key areas
  - integrate with community plan if possible
  - identify steps needed to get there
  - start the work

# Interest in Scotland

- Aberdeen *
- Alness
- Alva
- Ardfern
- Banchory
- Belhaven
- Biggar *
- Clydebank
- Dunbar *
- Dundee
- Dunning
- East Kilbride *
- Edinburgh *
- Falkirk
- Falkland *
- Forres *
- Glasgow *
- Gorebridge *
- Grantown on Spey
- Isle of Mull
- Isle of Eigg
- Larbert
- Linlithgow
- Lochwinnoch
- Maryhill, Glasgow
- Melrose
- Moffat
- Monimail *
- Oban *
- Partick
- Portobello *
- Rosyth
- Stirling
- Thornhill
- West Kilbride *
- West Linton

# Why does it work?
# 1 – viable response to threat:

- **Climate change**
  - Depending on scientists for information (though increasingly easy to experience i.e. 'funny weather')
  - 'symptom' of industrial way of life
  - 'tail-pipe' problem
  - Looking at potential extinction

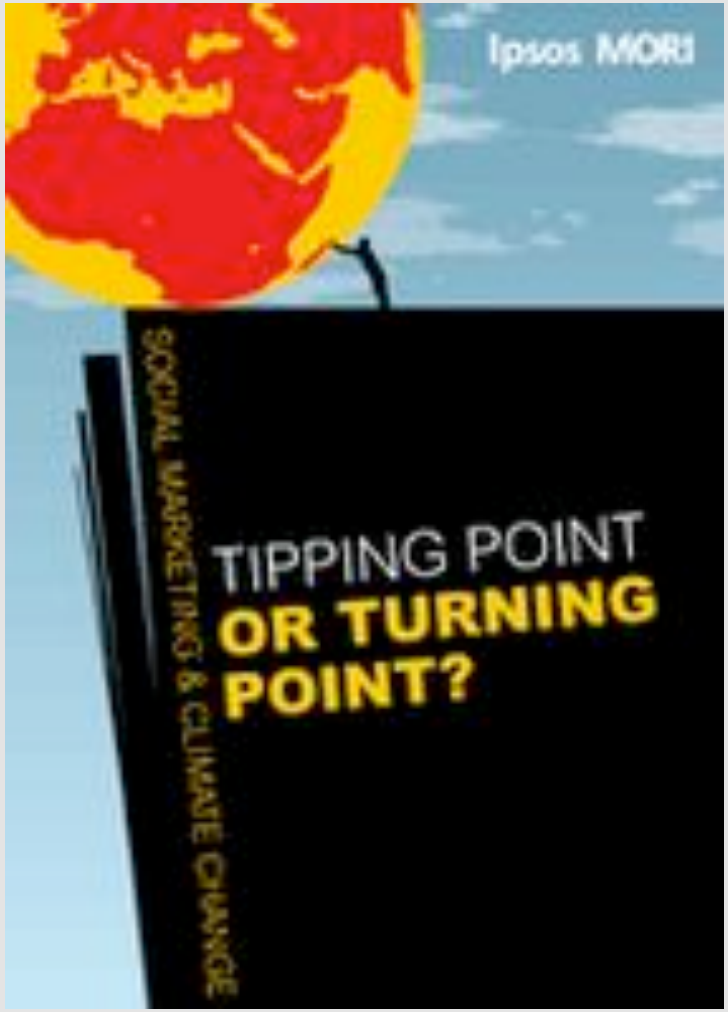
- **Peak oil**
  - Depending on oil owners for information (though increasingly easy to experience i.e. Oil $110 a barrel)
  - Result of continued resource use.
  - 'into fuel tank' problem.
  - Looking at potential collapse of 'civilisation'

**BIG** PROBEMS NEED A **BIG** SOLUTION

# MORI POLL – Turning Point or Tipping Point

There is a 'mismatch between the size of the problem relative to the actions we can take.'

'We are encouraged to only half fill the kettle and to turn off the lights, but ... if climate change is indeed the greatest threat we have ever faced ... surely the response calls for more heroic forms of action alongside the



# MORI POLL – Turning Point or Tipping Point

- A sense of collective action is fundamental, particularly in view of concerns over fairness and the potential for 'free riders' to take advantage of individual sacrifices and for others to be left behind.
  - **54% say that they would do more if others did as well.**
- As individuals we don't feel we can make much of a difference:
  - **4% perceive they have a large influence**
  - **33% who say 'none'.**

# Why does it work – 2?

- Radical and pervasive changes: big enough to meet the challenge.
- Small steps make sense as part of a long term plan.
- Gives people space to play to their strengths and passions.
- Personal connection to other areas of action.
- Desire for more local living, sense of community
- People can be more effective working locally - empowerment.

# Why does it work?
# 3 - Desire for positive action

- Much advice on how to address climate change focusses on what you can't do/have to give up.
- Transition projects typically focus on what we can do – and try to ensure that the emphasis is on action not talk.

# What are our options?

We'll be transitioning to a lower energy future whether we want to or not.  We can choose to prepare in advance for this or not.

# Not just a sticking plaster.

The Transition model is an attempt to imagine and set out on the path towards a very different future, one where individuals are fully involved in their communities, and where communities are focal hubs which generate most of the essentials necessary for its members to thrive.

**If we take the threats of climate change and peak oil seriously, we can't wait for the 'major shocks'...**
**immediate, radical action is called for!**

# The Transition Model

## Thank you

**Eva Schonveld**