

Preparing for Transition?

Imagine discovering an energy source so versatile that it could power 90% of modern transportation, help in the production of 95% of industrial goods, provide a three fold increase in agricultural crop yields and supply our government (alongside gas) with 30% of its corporation tax receipts.

You just struck oil! But here's the rub. 100 years ago you only had to puncture Texan ground to make oil burst forth. Today we're burning natural gas to extract it from tar sands. The return on energy invested was once 100:1 - for tar sands it is closer to 2:1. As more and more energy is required to extract oil, less will be available to feed economic growth. The low price oil we've enjoyed for decades appears to be history.

The Transition Town Network has highlighted some of the challenges this poses. It is working to build local resilience and it is not alone. Interest in allotment plots, car sharing and renewable energy is growing. Sustrans is encouraging us to walk, cycle and use public transport. People are getting their homes better insulated - a sensible first step faced with the prospect of rising heating costs.

For further information visit www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk/saving



Insulation cushions the impact of higher heating costs

Photo courtesy of cocoonyourhome.co.uk

Notes for Editors:

1. References:

90% of the world's transport relies on oil
<http://tiny.cc/g8b21>

Oil is used directly or indirectly in the production of 95% of industrial goods
<http://tiny.cc/tctpi>

Oil and gas provide 30% of all UK corporation tax receipts
<http://tiny.cc/l89yl>

In the US in 1930 the EROI for oil was at least 100:1
<http://tiny.cc/vlwl1>

Tar sands - investing 1 barrel (in gas equivalent) to extract 2 barrels of oil
<http://tiny.cc/x50g7>

For every 100 established allotment plots, 59 people are on a waiting list
<http://tiny.cc/m3lq0>

Members of car sharing clubs around the UK number 127,000
<http://tiny.cc/mo708>

Sustrans makes smarter travel choices possible
<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/about-sustrans>

2. Since 2005, Transition Town groups have sprung up across the UK and now the world. To find your nearest group, visit www.transitionnetwork.org
3. This article was produced by United Sustainable Energy Agency (USEA).
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4. USEA (usea.org.uk) works in partnership with local authorities throughout Bucks, Berks, Beds, Herts, Oxon, Hants and the Isle of Wight. We operate an Energy Saving Trust advice centre for the South East and offer an insulation installer comparison service called Cocoon (cocoonyourhome.co.uk).
5. The information contained within this article is correct to the best of our knowledge, but is subject to change. USEA cannot in any way be held legally responsible for any advice given or any work carried out as a result of this information.