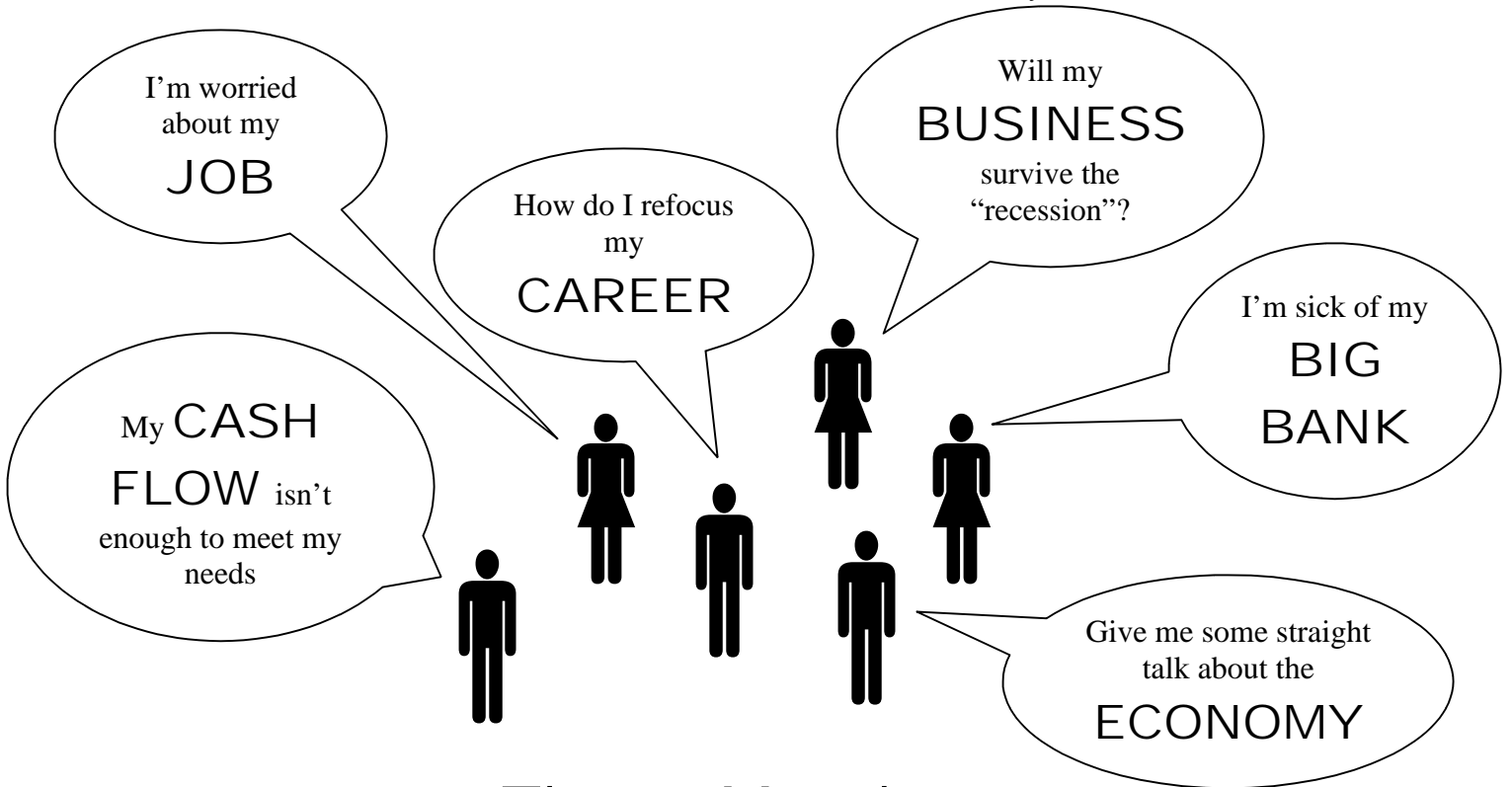


Come to an open discussion about

Growing a Resilient Local Economy

▪ Local businesses ▪ Secure livelihoods ▪ Community-based finances



Thurs. March 11
7-9pm

Times are changing – radically. Changing times call for changing practices.

As you as you reorient your career, or as you create the 5- and 10-year plan for your business, we encourage you to do so with clear understanding of the potential pitfalls and the unprecedented opportunities.

In the decade ahead our local community will need:

- Local businesses, which sell or utilize locally-sourced materials that demand far less transportation.
- Businesses which are independent of national and international financial markets.
- Core industries which provide the basic needs of living: food, water, shelter, basic clothing and tools.
- Skilled craftsmen, home businesses, and barter-based services
- Community banks, time banks, and sophisticated bartering networks

How do we support what we already have, build/grow/cultivate what we don't have, and get the Transition process underway?

Community Hall of Holy Nativity Church, 6700 West 83rd, Westchester (LA 90045)
Suggested donation \$1 to \$5. We invite you to bring a can of food to donate to LAX Food Pantry.

Environmental Change-Makers
[www. EnviroChangeMakers.org](http://www.EnviroChangeMakers.org)

Guiding our communities from oil dependency to local resilience

Transition Los Angeles
www.TransitionLA.org

**"One thing is clear:
the era of easy oil is over"**

-- David J. O'Reilly, Chairman &
CEO, Chevron Oil

How will your business industry weather the future?

- How will your industry cope with much higher gas prices, higher oil prices, and depleting fuel supplies? (*peak oil*)
- Will your industry survive a declining economy? How will even-scarcer consumer disposable income impact you? (*economic contraction*)
- How will your industry deal with a wildly fluctuating climate – with difficulties in California agriculture, decreases in Southern California water supply, greater numbers of extreme-heat days and more unpredictable storms? (*climate change*)
- What will your industry do to lower carbon emissions?

In the post-petroleum future, we will need industries which provide for our basic needs ... *locally*.

In recent decades, with cheap, plentiful oil, we have become accustomed to outsourcing our basic needs: raw materials harvested on one continent, shipped to another for manufacture, with the finished goods shipped to a third continent for sale and use, with the waste shipped offshore yet again.

We accept this as "normal," but as transportation becomes more and more expensive, we'll quickly come to see how ridiculous it is.

Meanwhile, during the past 50 or so years we have forgotten how to provide basic needs within our local communities. Skills our grandparents took for granted we no longer know how to do.

With the emphasis on a "service economy," many of us in Southern California are working at things which are luxury industries – the very things consumers phase out of their budgets as finances get tighter.

Many "*green jobs*" aren't exempt, because they still depend on the same basic fallacies: outsourcing and globalization, providing luxury services, excessive volume expectations, and the presumption that our economy will only grow, grow, grow.

**"Shell estimates that after 2015
supplies of easy-to-access oil
and gas will no longer keep up
with demand."**

-- Jeroen van der
Veer, the chief executive of Royal
Dutch Shell

**"We must begin now
to move toward
the era beyond fossil
fuels."**

-- James Hansen, NASA and
Columbia University

Resilience is our ability to flex and adapt in the face of change. A resilient community doesn't crumble when unpredictable things come our way (like a gasoline shortage, or a water shortage, or a food shortage).

Resilience is the essence of LIFE – our ability to get creative; to generate fresh, entrepreneurial new ideas; to develop new approaches for a better future.

**"The future with less oil
could be better than the
present,
but only if we engage in
designing this Transition
with creativity and
imagination."**

--Rob Hopkins, founder of the
Transition Towns movement

**How can I start
making my business more resilient?**

- Where do your goods/materials/supplies come from? How much oil do they require? Could you start offering locally-made items? (Restaurants = local food; Retail = U.S.-made items, local handcrafts)
- Are you already taking some steps to be "greener" such as
 - on-site composting
 - elimination of all Styrofoam and toxins
 - reducing the amount of single use items ("disposables")
 - water-wise practices and rainwater harvesting
 - hiring locals and encouraging people to use bike or bus
- Some industries are not likely to survive peak oil (airline, automotive). Others are dependent upon a national market which will stumble with economic contraction (insurance, large-scale banking). What alternative business avenues are you investigating?
- Would your business consider accepting a local currency for some transactions?
- How can you start eliminating all debt?
- What is sufficiency? The business ethic of the past has been to make a killer profit; the future calls to us to define what is "enough" to feed our families and be content.
- Join and support local networks which understand peak oil and economic contraction.

For more information see <http://envirochangemakers.org/sharing.htm>

Movimiento de Transición (en español)

<http://transitionla.blogspot.com/2009/08/movimiento-de-transicion-en-espanol.html>