

Peak Oil Motion for Metro Vancouver

Rebuilding Our Cities in Sustainable Patterns

The Quantum Shift



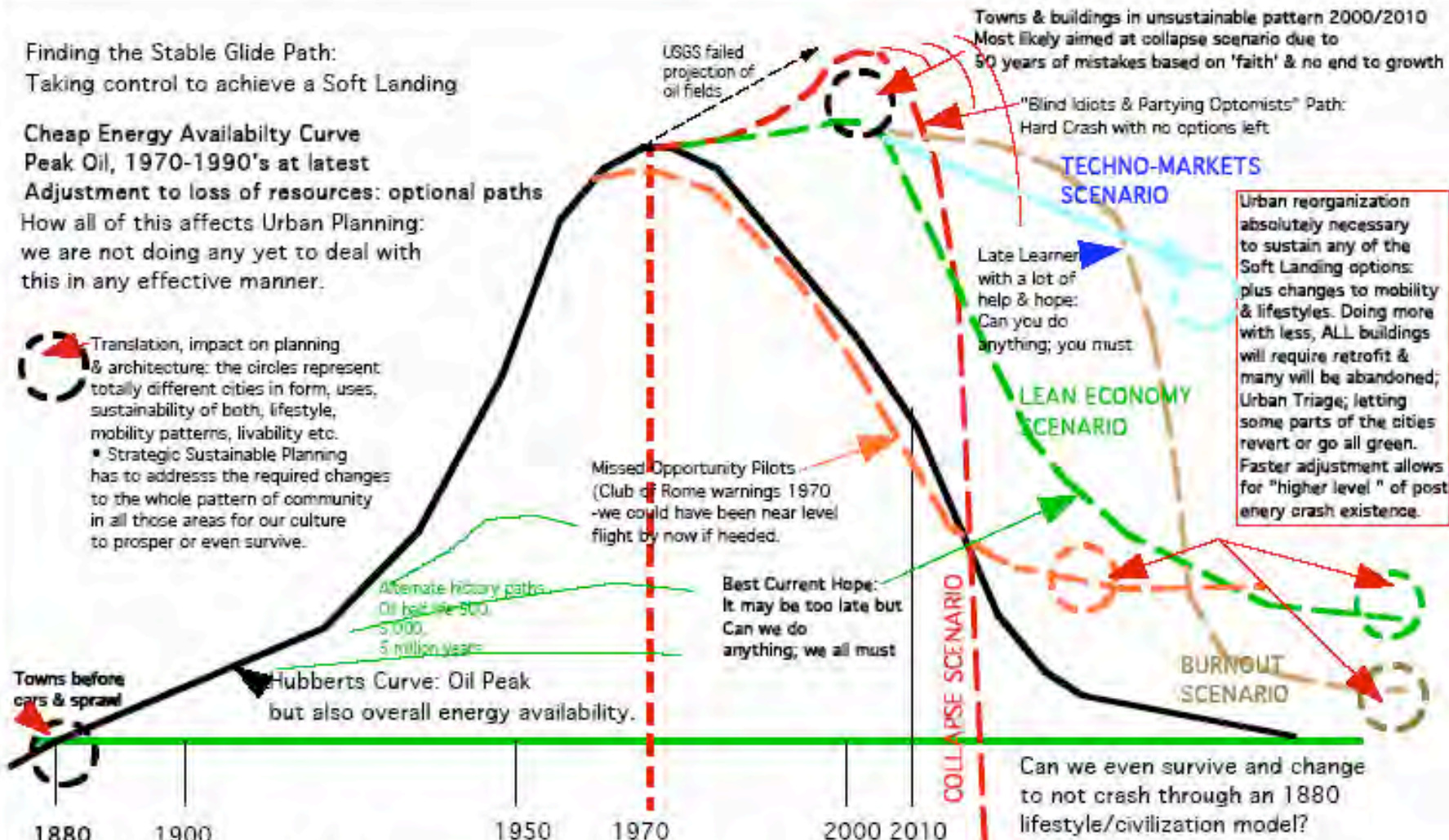
Why A Peak Oil Motion

- All we take for granted in modern life is now oil dependent to a great degree.
- The oil is now running out, and we have known this since the 1972 Club of Rome report, along with other warnings.
- It is not just oil, but all energy costs that will rise while many other key resources are at diminishing points of recovery too.

Finding the Stable Glide Path:
Taking control to achieve a Soft Landing

Cheap Energy Availability Curve
Peak Oil, 1970-1990's at latest
Adjustment to loss of resources: optional paths
How all of this affects Urban Planning:
we are not doing any yet to deal with
this in any effective manner.

Translation, impact on planning & architecture: the circles represent totally different cities in form, uses, sustainability of both, lifestyle, mobility patterns, livability etc.
Strategic Sustainable Planning has to address the required changes to the whole pattern of community in all those areas for our culture to prosper or even survive.



Towns before cars & sprawl
Hubberts Curve: Oil Peak but also overall energy availability.

Alternate history paths:
Oil peak late 800,
5000,
5 million years

COLLAPSE SCENARIO

Can we even survive and change to not crash through an 1880 lifestyle/civilization model?

Towns at risk of total failure along with most of our civilization. Highest risk: our institutions which define our culture.

Strategic Sustainable Planning
Vancouver City Planning Commission
2005.09.16
rb/bca+sp

Circles in time & place represent towns in those contexts: the pattern of community in each case will have to be different, how can we find the best path to survival & real sustainability.

Urgent: Rework our Patterns of Community

- 100 years of oil based planning created a pattern of community that is NOT sustainable
- Our up to now small green attempts are not enough, nor is there much time to make the necessary shifts- Greenwash is not Sustainability.
- If we had acted in 1972 we might have bought several hundred years of grace, but:
- We now have to play catch up fast just to avoid a crash, to find a Soft Landing.

Hubbert's Curve & Cities

THE DEPLETION OF RESOURCES & THE IMPACT ON PATTERNS OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS:
THE NEED FOR LONG RANGE STRATEGIC SUSTAINABLE PLANNING

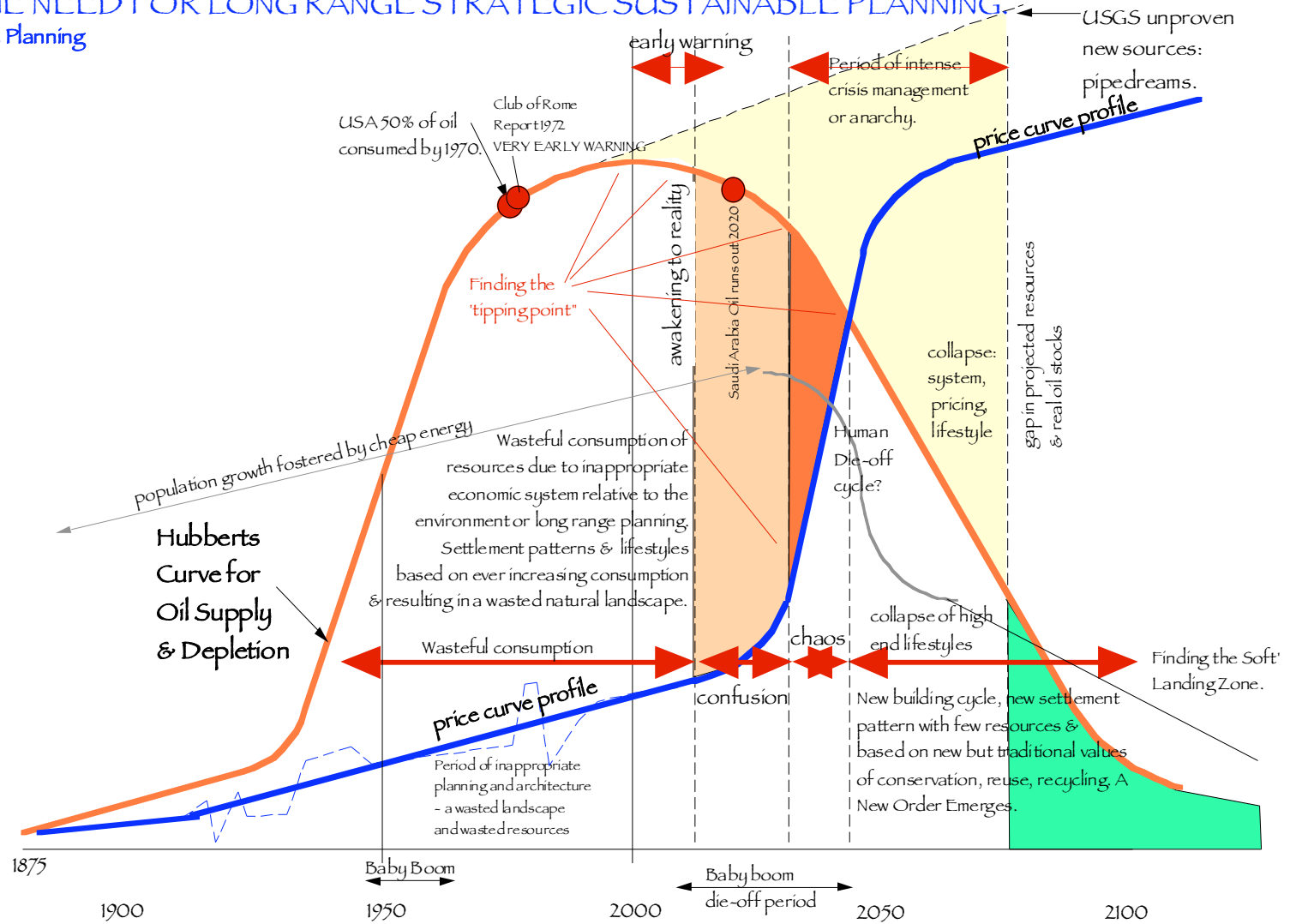
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2003.11, after Hubbert, Rees. rev 06.04

We are neglecting the design of appropriate patterns of settlement & transportation systems for the fast approaching new reality of energy scarcity & resource depletion.

We need strategies to deal with the following new realities:

- settlements will tend to be located in temperate climate zones & on higher ground.
- large sections of our existing cities will be abandoned as they are unsustainable. New appropriate concentrations of population will emerge as physical long range interaction becomes minimal.
- food production will return to restricted smaller areas and serving local needs.
- mass transit will be used for inter and intra city movement of people & goods.
- settlements will be comprised of smaller towns, smaller houses & narrower streets.
- localized industry, farming & market return. Proximity to food production, social networks & natural reserves will mark points of new community.

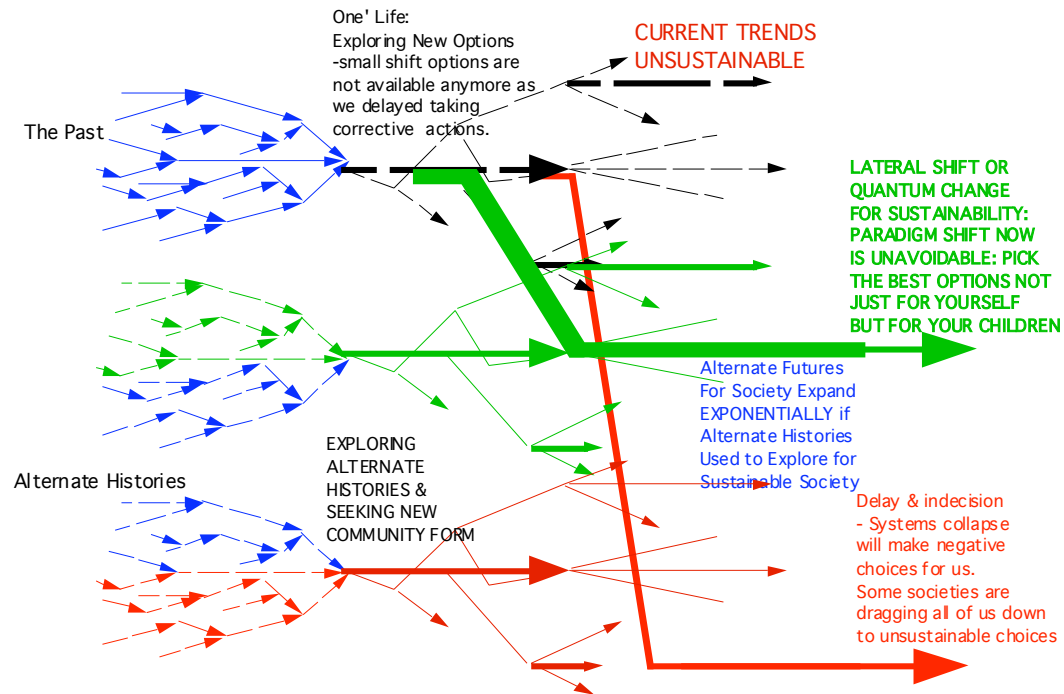


Why cities have to Act.

- Our energy consumption as families and as a culture is predicated by the pattern or community built out during a period of cheap energy.
- When the energy fails, the city fails, as does civilization, the family, our basic existence is at risk.
- Cities therefore have the greatest means of correcting a hundred years of Unsustainable Pattern of Community. But not much time.
- Cities control the pattern of community- the form dictates most of all how energy is consumed.

Proactive Planning

PROACTIVE PLANNING: Strategic, Sustainable Planning:
Seeking alternative futures via quantum shifts
& by looking at alternate histories to find
soft landing alternatives for you & your community



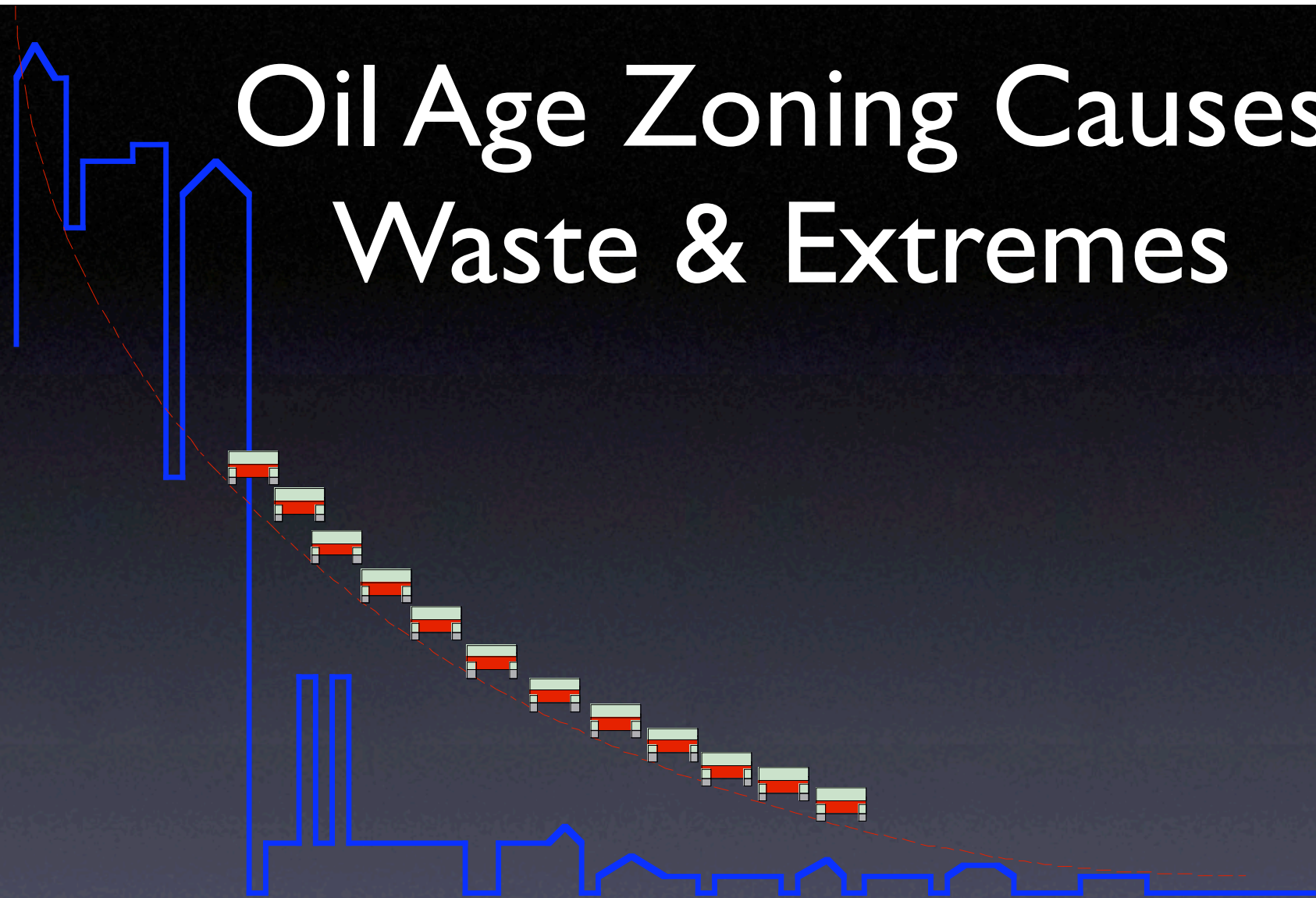
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Where to Start?

The Pattern of Community

- Begin Land Conservation; make land use work
- Tax land waste,
- claw back lands for environment and farm uses.
- Recognize the places to save and build upon the greatest assets.
- Watch out that current green models are not just token, or unsustainable in long run.
- Urban Triage: parts of the current city pattern may have to die or change direction.

Oil Age Zoning Causes Waste & Extremes



Vertical Centres & Horizontal Suburbs
Tied by the Umbilical Cord of Highways

Recipe for City Remediation

- 1. Peak Oil Policy moves beyond accepting Change to Acting on Needed Changes: Opening up all policy for Survival of culture.
- 2. Assessing the Unsustainable City: recognizing what to save, what to let go.
- 3. Move NOW on the Missing Housing we should have built but did not in the Oil Age.
- 4. Reduce the urban footprint, look to alternate places of community, hill towns & airspace town sites.

#1- 4: Manuals in progress.

Learning from the Old World

- Finding sustainable new patterns: looking at third world, the old world
- Looking to what might have been our alternate histories to find where we should have gone
- and now apply these lessons in our areas of Urban Triage, New Transportation, & Re-localized Industry.
- Some patterns are too consumptive to persist, this will lead to areas of city death or “Urban Triage”

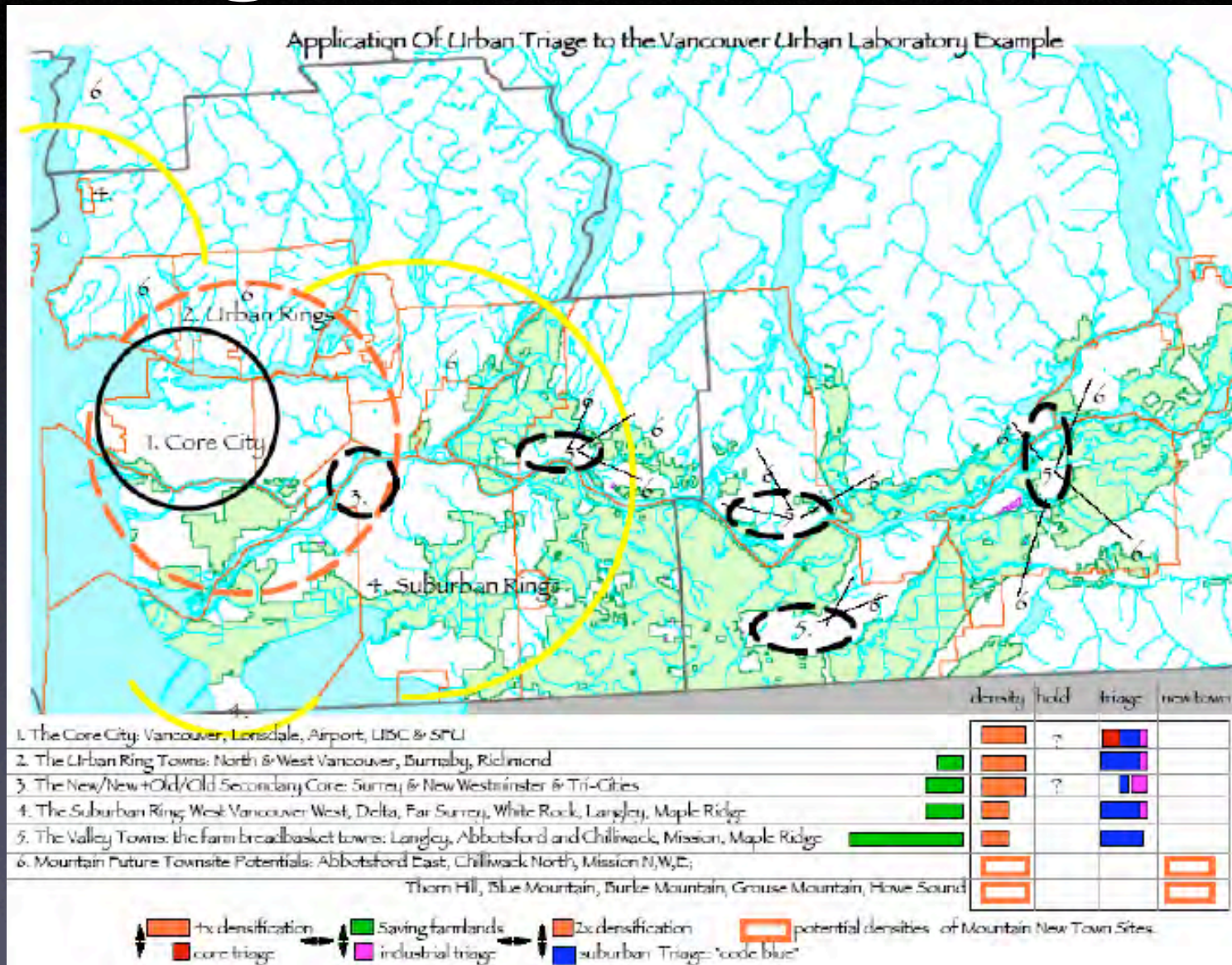
Shifts Up & Down

- Decline of Mega City matched by new Green urban fingers: new urban farms.
- Death of Suburbia is opportunity to reclaim farm and forest for sustainable balance.
- City & Community has a duty to coordinate to protect itself and our culture.
- Soft Landing is the target, if collapse is to be avoided; technology can be relied upon, so a lean market economic adjustment is our hope.

Urban Land Shifts

- Land conservation: means no half way measures.
- Auto age: planning pushed extreme of vertical & horizontal tied by oil: single family homes & high rise cores; both unsustainable building forms.
- Mid rise energy conservation forms are more like each other; mid rise apartments and mid rise family homes on own lots
- Village is a contiguous built form but with green relief of farm field and forest: a local balance in all.

Triage & Newtowns



European Densities: our Public Realm Shifts

- NO left over waste spaces (SPLOAP)
- Street & courtyards take on importance
- Pedestrian realm takes over from cars
- RE-think use of trucks & servicing in urban villages (Eg; Olympic Village loses to Food Semitrailer needs?)

Governance

- New conditions might warrant new ways of governing, from neighbourhood to City State
- Less governance means more freedom; but design of new cooperation models would help realize greater common goals.
- As too much red tape is Unsustainable, cooperation within a free society makes for greater sustainability.

End to Subsidized Waste

- Industrial Lands: end over-supply, save our farmland
- force land conservation; tax low usage
- Reward good usage; low tax on efficient use
- Reward local industry, phase out wasteful use
- Phase out global use of local environment: high costs, no returns, impacts global warming.
- Transportation for community, not just for the benefit of others with unsustainable consumption patterns which in turn destroy others cities too.

Capturing Assets

- Lost streets & rooftops
- Ignored waterfronts
- Airspace potentials in key locations
- Hillsides are asset sites, not impediments
- Cluster for community, leave greens for all.
- Slow life, less energy, more community?
- Cooperation over competition, -rewards for all

Triage Rewards

- Working together to acquire transition sites in suburban triage areas & urban relocalization.
- Making new local activity part of new economy
- More permanent sense of place, less wasted mobility, ie make sure it serves a purpose.
- Economy of land tenure over longer period again, as family and village re-stabilize on land.
- Inter community relations essential to maintain sense of freedom and worldliness.

Re-ruralization



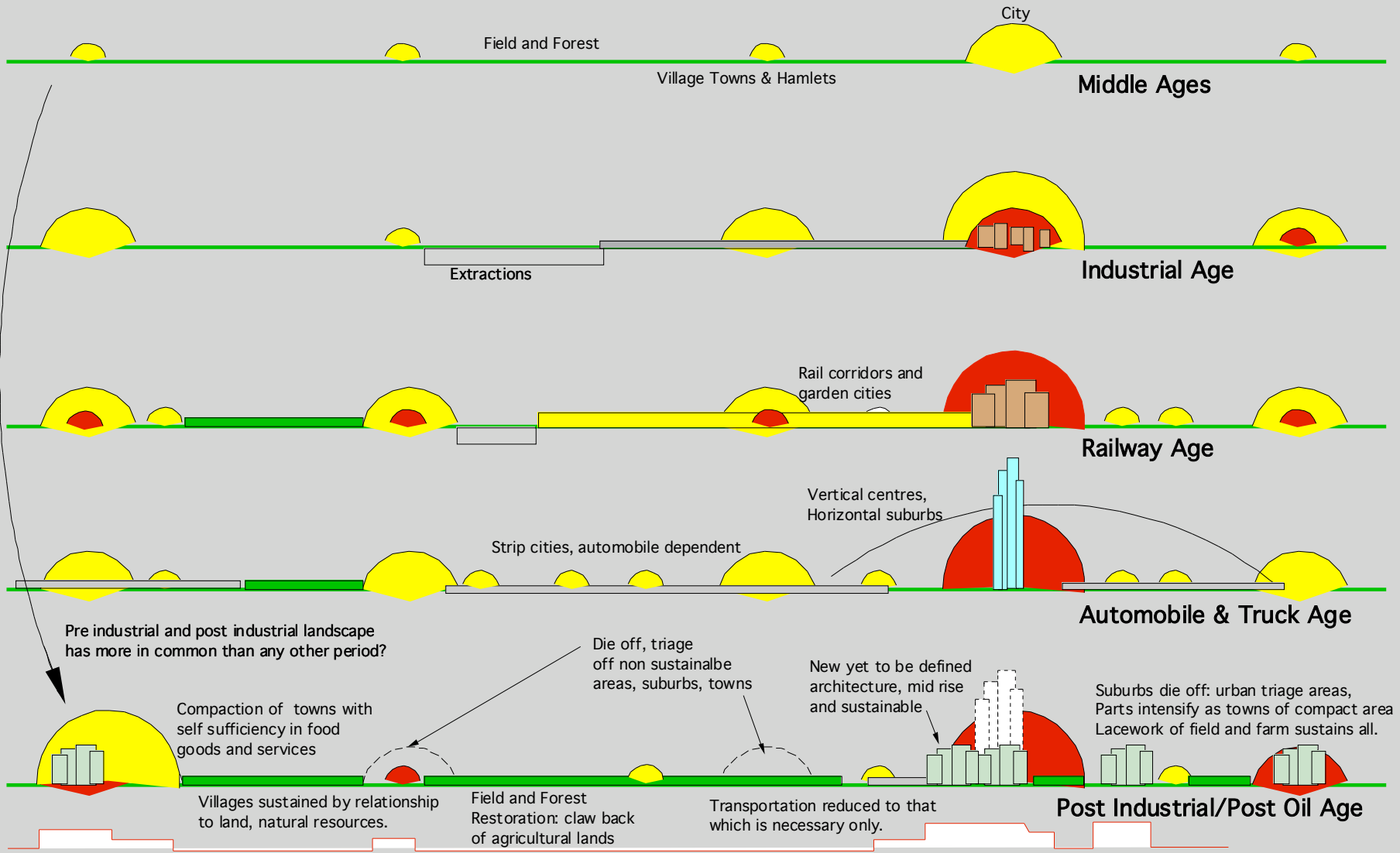
The Challenges

- NIMBYism: chasing even our children out to places they do not belong.
- Corporate Culture that purports to speak for the people while damaging the land
- Institutions that lose sight of their original purpose & who is supposed to be served.
- Rules written in an age of cheap energy to serve the combined interest groups,
- The combined influence of these factors which overwhelm the democratic process.

PS: Homogeneity vs Marbelization Patterns

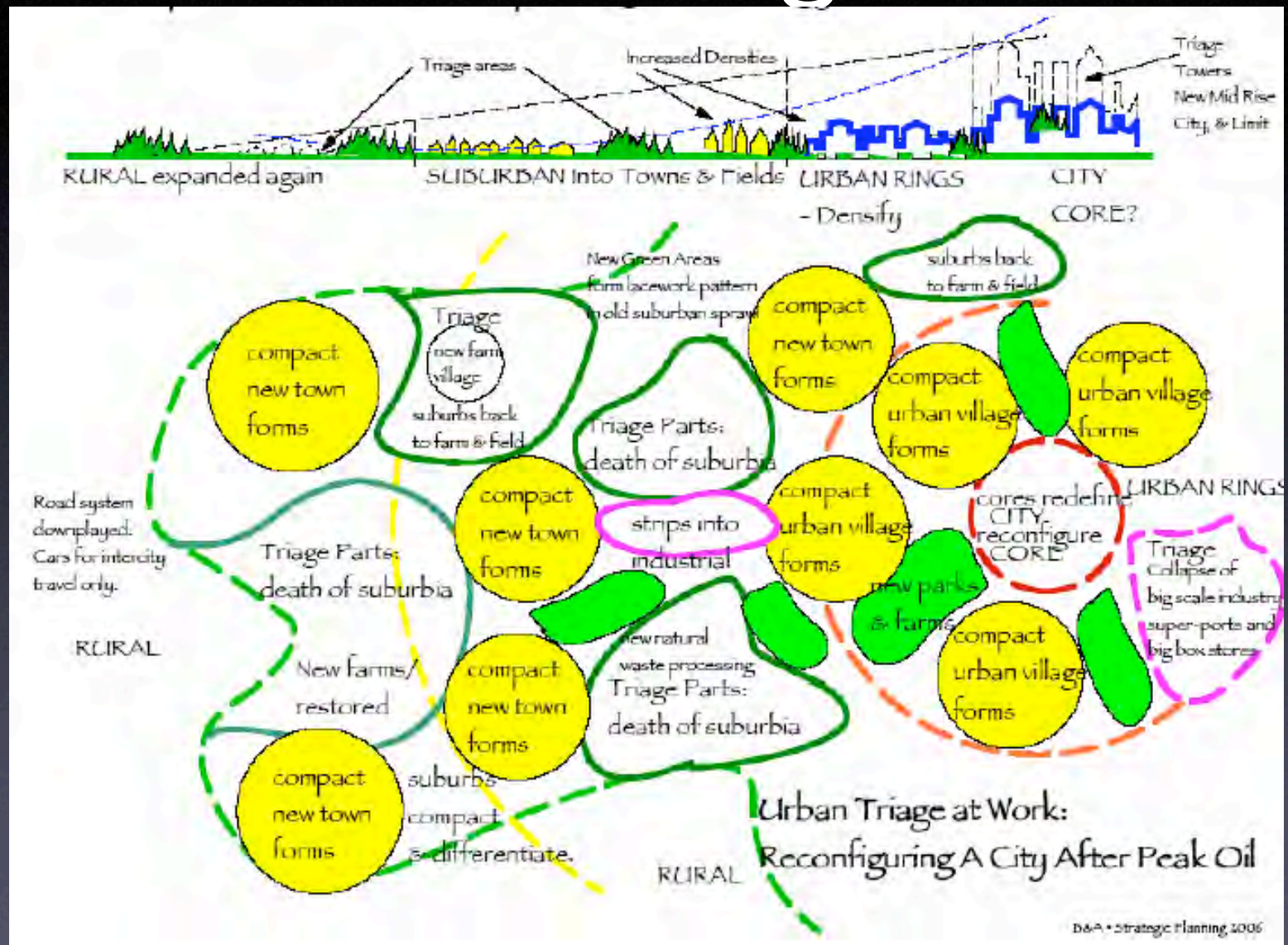
- Like monoculture, our cities sprawl with areas of one use.
- RELOCALIZATION: Some areas may be too big & too dense to supply post oil: some decline may be the sustainable alternative.
- Fringe areas need to both densify into sustainable traditional village patterns while other parts need to re-green to farm & field.

Cities: Conversion on the Landscape in the Period of Soft Landing/Post Oil Economy



VCPC Strategic Sustainable Planning
B&A SP/ 2005.11

Pattern Diagram



- Don't forget the GREEN