

The Vancouver City Planning Commission & SSP

Balfour & Keenan 2009

Background to SSP Programmes and the SSP Manual



2005 SSP I

- Vancouver Planning Commission SSP Committee organized the first workshop on Global Issues affecting city and culture: the impacts of Peak Oil and Climate Change, or why we cannot carry on trying to plan the same old way any longer.
- The first Strategic Sustainable Planning 'war game' seminar was held at Architect Oberto Oberti's West Vancouver house overlooking Metro Vancouver.



SSP I Findings.

- Four impact teams working within a post oil 2013 scenario dealt with Economic systems, Cultural systems, Ecological systems and a largest group mostly of UBC students tackled the impacts from a local community perspective.
- Dr. Bill Rees provided the wealth of back up data which allowed for a challenging discussion in the wrap-up forum.
- The SSP I Report to VCPC and City Council can be downloaded from www.plancanada.com



World Urban Forum & SSP

- In the Agricultural Session organized by the Canadian Federal Government Agricultural Department, a dozen speakers dealt with the Global Impact threats to future and immediate food security.
- Architect/Planner, VCP Commissioner Richard Balfour presented these issues from the perspective of urban and rural interface planning; Peak Oil and Death of Suburbs, Urban Triage of Economic Collapse due to the End of Cheap Energy, and how the Immediate and Radical Change to the Pattern of Community is now not a choice anymore but a necessity.



Earlier Warnings:

- Malthus
- Rachel Carson: Silent Spring
- 1972 Club of Rome Report: projected end of most key resources in 50 years. They were mocked but they were right.
- Richard Duncan & the Olduvai Theory: Earth has resources for one main civilization of one century, which started in 1930 A.D.
- Many planners have attempted to work inside these parameters but have failed to turn the world around to avoid the worst consequences.....



SSP 2 2006 VCPC

- The second SSP workshop session was held at Jericho Beach in July 2006, with the new support of Post Carbon Institute (Julian Darley), New City Institute, Metro Vancouver Planning Coalition, and Dynamic Cities (Bryn Davidson).
- In this session, the 'war games' were set up with 2 to 8 participants attempting to govern a typical part of Metro Vancouver under Post Oil economic turmoil, climate change impacts and the start of affects from mass migration and rising ocean levels.



SSP 2 Outcomes

- All groups first went into a 'Mad Max' response but were asked to try and deal with community and cooperative responses as a civic government attempting to maintain social order in the face of multiple challenges.
- With great difficulty, some novel responses came out of this session and this was posted as a VCPC public report for City Council and the region to learn what it can from non-linear emergency planning.



Global Exposure SSP

- The second workshop was attended by members of Peak Moment (peakmoment.org), and they video taped the workshop so other towns and cities can learn to put on these think tank sessions for themselves. The video is available from them at cost from their site.
- As a result of many requests from Peak Moment team and others for some more comprehensive help, for a Manual, over the next 18 months the chairs of the SSP Committee wrote a planning compendium, published as “Strategic Sustainable Planning: A Civil Defense Guide to Cultural Survival” Balfour & Keenan, Old City Foundation Press- see www.plancanada.com, or email oldcityfoundation@telus.net



SSP 3: goes Provincial

- Nelson BC held the first Food Security Conference, a regional three day session dealing with Global Impacts on regions and eco-basins which will need to deal with re-localization of food and all other necessities of life as the end of cheap energy and climate change impact and collapse the now temporary global economy and supply lines.
- Richard Balfour NCI, Herb Barbolet, SFU and Justin Roller from National Research Council presented the Global Impacts section with many other top speakers covering a wide range of immediate concern over shortages and regional self reliance and healthy foods.



SSP Starts International 07/08

- Oxford University in the UK requested attendance and presentation of the SSP findings and workshop to aid in the design of the new curriculum for UK schools of architecture and planning. As we could not make the session, a paper was sent to them to aid in their work in this area.
- The University of Wessex in the UK invited an SSP presentation for a session of world planners conference in Skiathos Greece which also could not be attended by Balfour or Keenan but a working paper was sent to the conference for public benefit.



A flurry of workshops

- Local governments, colleges, local professional offices requested SSP hour long to half day introductory sessions 2006 to 2009.



BC Regional SSP Exposure

- Nelson Food Security Conference SSP 3
- BC Agrologists AGM: SSP: Planning for urban triage & farmland recovery 2007.
- Nanaimo Food and Community 2007 Workshop SSP 11
- Sorrento BC SSP BC Food Systems Network 2008.
- North Vancouver Arts Council: Arts & Industry in Post Oil Economy. SSP 2009



National SSP Exposure

- 2006 World Urban Forum Agriculture Canada Seminar
- 2008 Canadian Institute of Planners AGM
- 2008 Federal Agricultural Planners Network Winnipeg Meeting



International SSP Exposure

- Links to Post Carbon Institute, Relocalization Now Net, INTBAU (Prince Charles Trust), UK.
- Oxford University and University of Wessex planning SSP papers.
- University of Kentucky (Lexington), SSP 15 session as part of planning for the future of Fayette County, Kentucky. A presentation on the comparison of Lexington & Kentucky under Global Impacts.



Follow up in progress.

- Book II: BC Visions, Living on Mountain Slopes II. Planning for post oil BC, the new post-oil hill-towns and railroads, urban triage and relocation, planning for mass in-migration but also for rising ocean levels. Re-localization of industry, farming and food processing.
- Projected printing 2010.

