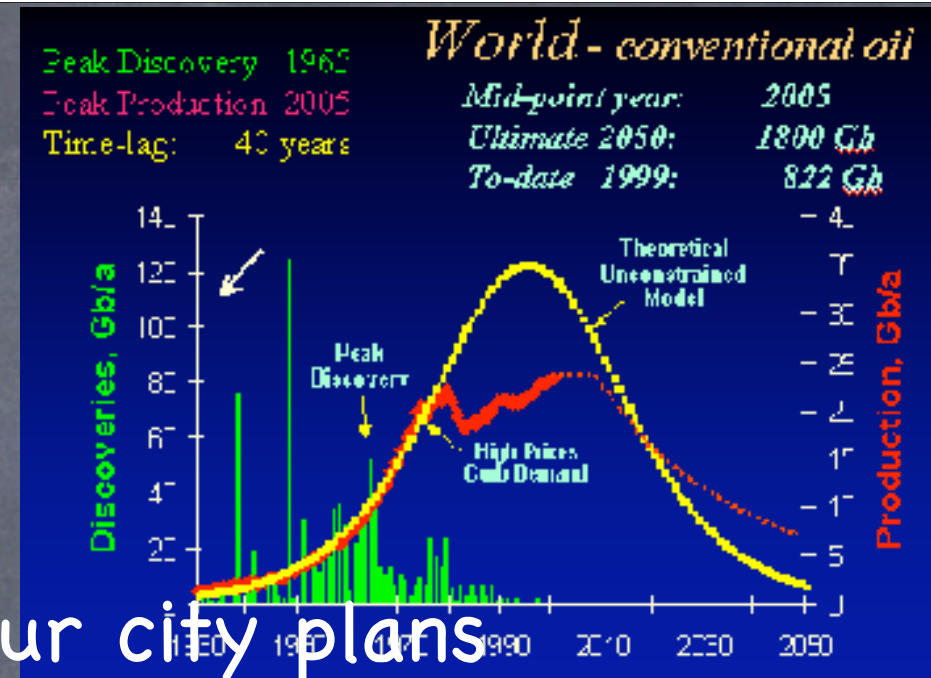


An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Vancouver, showing a large bay, surrounding mountains, and urban development. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

Strategic Sustainable Plan

Vancouver City Planning Commission
Workshop Seminar 2005

Rationale with Urgency



- Impending changes not addressed in our city plans
- This is evident at all levels, most societies
- Most devastating impacts ignored
- Short term gain & rewards push planning aside
- We have known of downsides for a generation –Club of Rome Report for example from early 1970's.
- Now it is time to face reality
- The longer we avoid adaption, we are worse off.

Food?

Standard of Living?

Transportation?

Parking Structures?

Culture?
Education"

Oil?

Drinking water?

Building materials?

What is Sustainable in this picture?

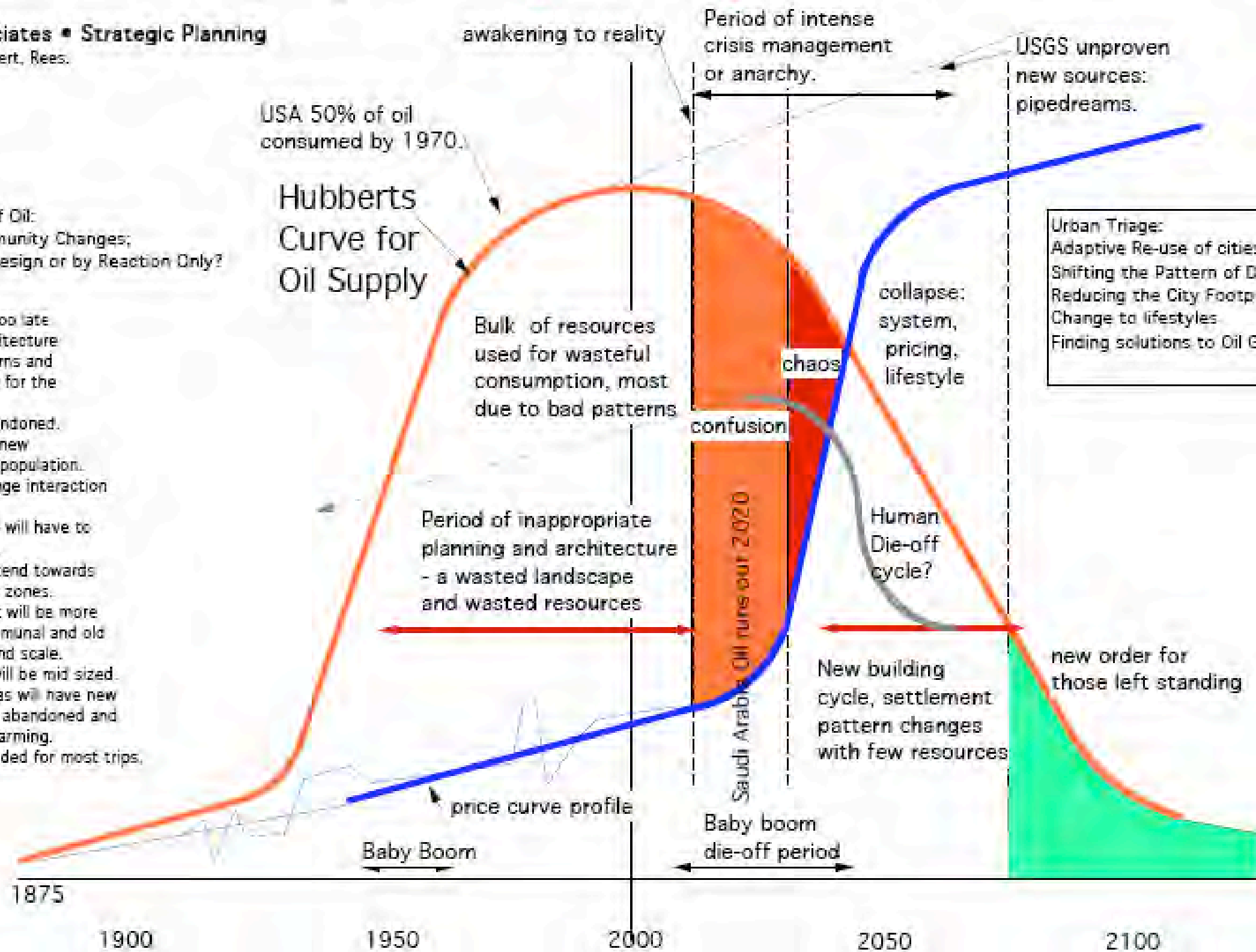
Imminent Danger ?

Balfour & Associates • Strategic Planning
2003.11, after Hubbert, Rees.

The Sociology of Oil:
Pattern of Community Changes;
By Choice and Design or by Reaction Only?

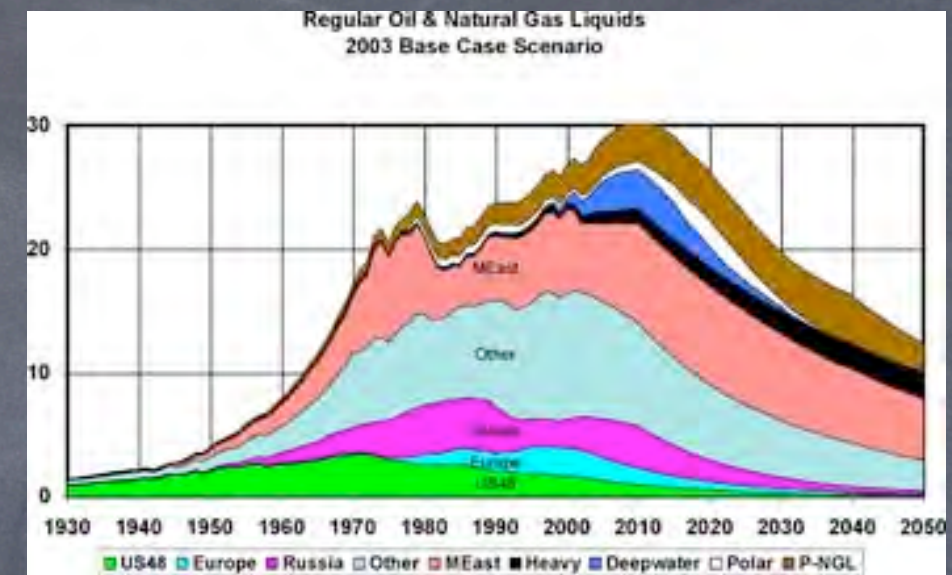
Conclusions:

- we have left it too late to design our architecture and our city patterns and our transportation for the new reality.
- Much will be abandoned. The rest will have new concentrations of population.
- Physical long range interaction will be minimal.
- Food production will have to be localized again.
- Settlement will tend towards temperate climate zones.
- Rural settlement will be more clustered and communal and old fashioned in use and scale.
- Urban clusters will be mid sized.
- Large urban areas will have new holes inside them, abandoned and returned to local farming.
- Mass transit needed for most trips.



End of Resources and Social Disorder: Impact of Patterns of Development

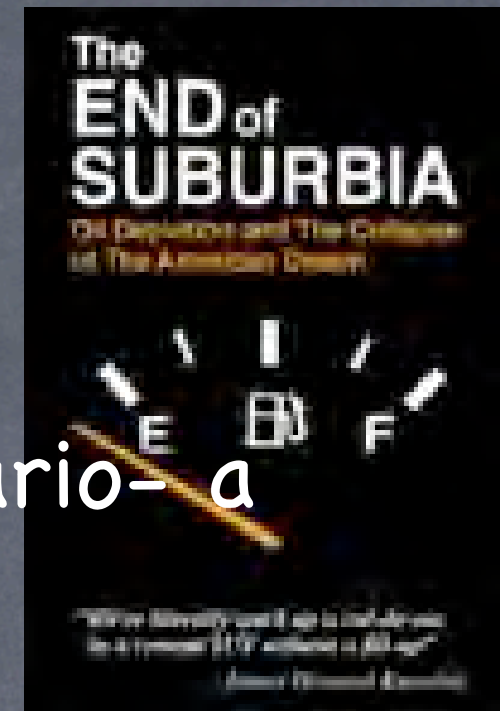
Why Oil Shock ?



- All of our city & society is based on cheap oil
- If an economic base collapses, so does society
- Most societies cannot perceive their peak
- Those that do, plan for at least survival mode—most do not of course, why should we be an exception?
- Combined impacts threaten all civilization
- Can a city counter for non planning by others?

Socrates 2005

- Group interaction triggered by posed scenario – a case of not if but when....
- Scenario: 6 pages of questions impacting you
- Questions based on coming change – do what?
- Changes triggered small reactions – act now?
- Individual reactions to change multiplied....
- Community impact surfaced quickly....
- Could an Early Warning avoid Disorder?



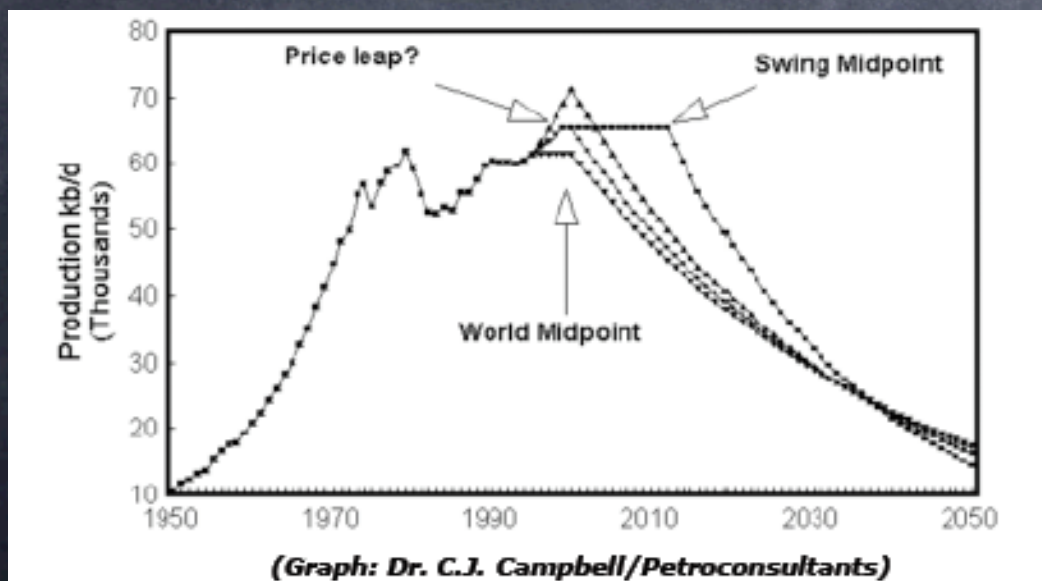
It is not just our opinion.....

Cheney's assessment is supported by the estimates of numerous non-political, retired, and now disinterested scientists, many of whom believe global oil production will peak and go into terminal decline within the next five years. Those still inside the industry who are sounding the alarm the loudest are anything but your classic "chicken-littles." Andrew Gould, CEO of the giant oil services firm Schlumberger, recently explained that the global decline rate may be as high as 8% per year. His exact words were,

An accurate average decline rate is hard to estimate, but an overall figure of 8% is not an unreasonable assumption.

An 8% yearly decline would cut global oil production by a whopping 50% in under nine years. If a 5% cut in production caused prices to triple in the 1970s, what do you think a 50% cut is going to do?

Other experts are predicting decline rates as high as 10%-to-13%. Some geologists expect 2005 to be the last year of the cheap-oil bonanza, while many estimates coming out of the oil industry indicate "a seemingly unbridgeable supply-demand gap opening up after 2007," which will lead to major fuel shortages and increasingly severe blackouts beginning around 2008-2012.



THE OIL AGE IS OVER

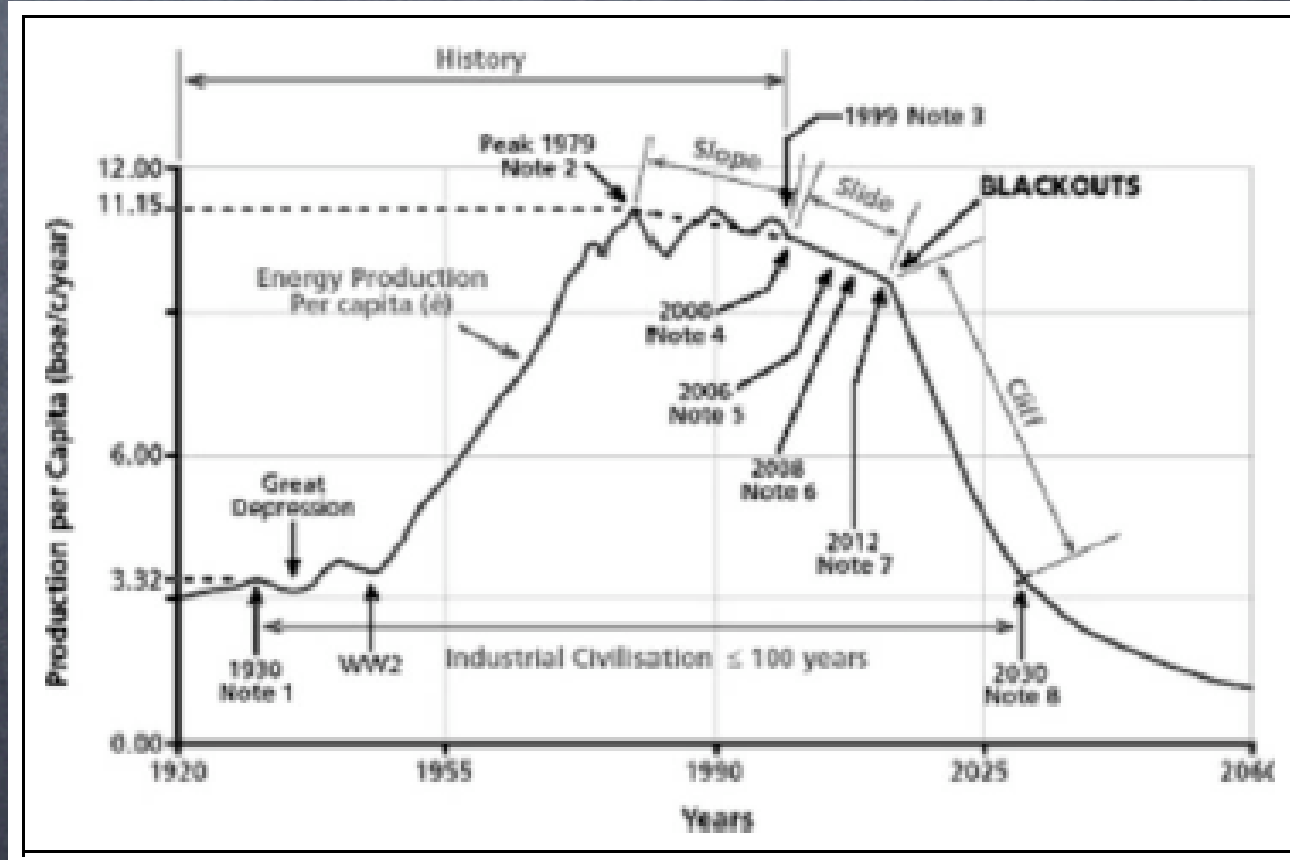


"Is the Modern Banking System Entirely Dependent on Cheap Oil?"

Yes.

WHAT TO EXPECT AS THE WORLD RUNS OUT OF CHEAP OIL, 2005-2050

BY MATTHEW DAVID SAVINAR, ESQ.



Seminar Format 1

- Participants had a medium term scenario
- As individuals they responded to change
- As “families” they made decisions to adapt
- As interest groups they argued for action
- Consciousness grew, actions changed
- Most progress made took place too late.



It is past time. As I have said, the experts and politicians have no Plan B to fall back on. If energy peaks, particularly while 5 of the world's 6.5 billion people have little or no use of modern energy, it will be a tremendous jolt to our economic well-being and to our health — greater than anyone could ever imagine.

Seminar Format 2



- 3 Core groups tackled systemic aspects:
- Economic group questioned optional energies.
- Environmental group tried for balance during crisis management; even harder than now.
- Cultural group – can institutions survive, or which ones do we allow to wither as resources shrink?
- A predator role was assigned just to throw in unplanned shifts to 'safe' assumptions....

When asked if there is a solution to the impending natural gas crisis, Simmons responded:

I don't think there is one. The solution is to pray. Under the best of circumstances, if all prayers are answered there will be no crisis for maybe two years. After that it's a certainty.

Conclusions of sorts:



- There are some energy alternatives
- Alternates cannot replace oil efficiencies
- Oil is needed for all alternate energy ramp ups
- Economic collapse could be avoided if we plan
- Environmental risks increase with resource loss
- Cultural institutions are most at risk

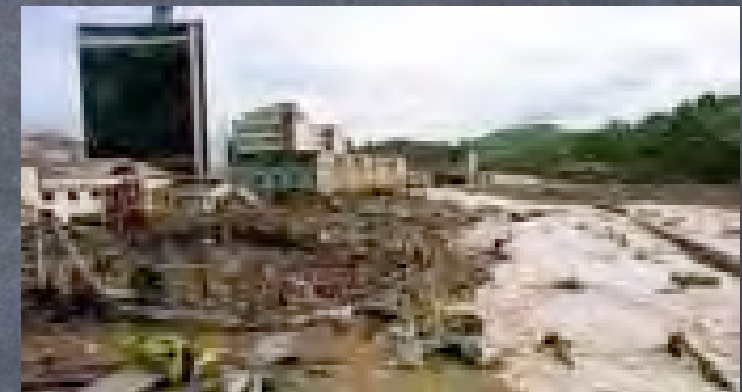
Without timely mitigation, world supply/demand balance will be achieved through massive demand destruction (shortages), accompanied by huge oil price increases, both of which would create a long period of significant economic hardship worldwide.

Waiting until world conventional oil production peaks before initiating crash program mitigation leaves the world with a significant liquid fuel deficit for two decades or longer.



What Change is Effective?

- Cities & buildings take a third of energy
- Transport & connections take a third
- -Combined pattern is based on cheap oil
- Changing urban pattern > most savings
- City reworking has most impact
- We need to revisit all land use assumptions



The problems associated with world oil production peaking will not be temporary, and past 'energy crisis' experience will provide relatively little guidance. The challenge of oil peaking deserves immediate, serious attention, if risks are to be fully understood and mitigation begun on a timely basis.

. . . the world has never faced a problem like this. Without massive mitigation more than a decade before the fact, the problem will be pervasive and will not be temporary. Previous energy transitions were gradual and evolutionary. Oil peaking will be abrupt and revolutionary.

If this is a false alarm?

- you save oil anyway, and save for your kids, & theirs
- the world is made a better place- move on.
- you buy your civilization a generation or two, ...why not more?
- how dare we use millions of years of asset building (like oil), in a few generations when we have all of history to follow us? Or not.
- But really folks, we have blown it..big brains, big oil, no intelligence- prove that statement wrong.

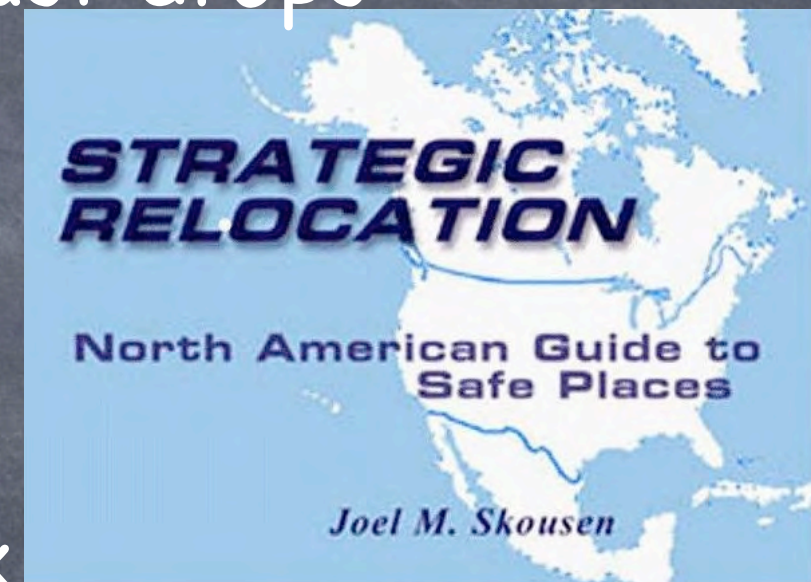


If you've been wondering why the Bush administration has been spending money, cutting social programs, and starting wars like there's no tomorrow, now you have your answer: as far as they are concerned, there is no tomorrow.

From a purely Machiavellian standpoint, they are probably correct in their thinking.

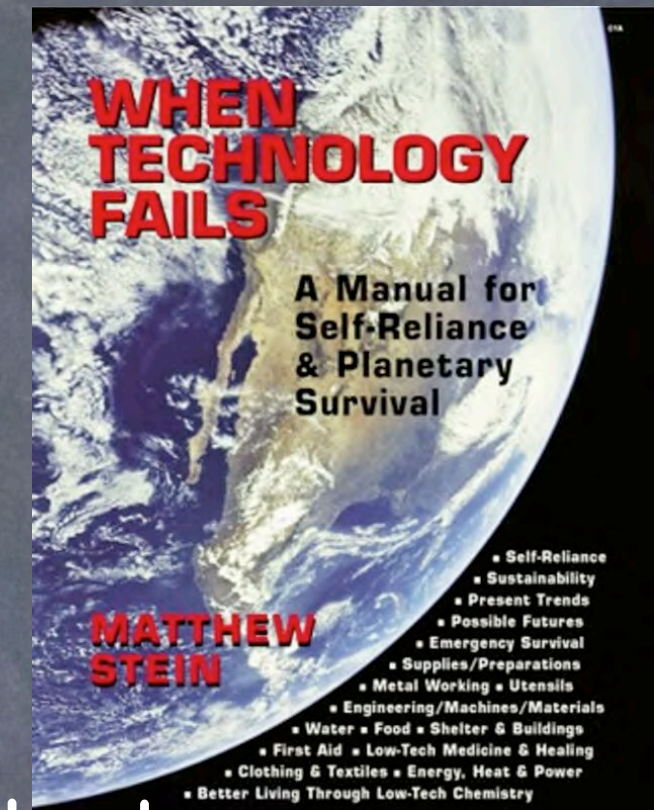
How a City Compares

- Third world has less risk; less oil addiction
- China & India rush to be part of the problem
- US ignores the problem, fights for last drops
- Europe is adjusting ahead of most
- Canada is in between all of them
- BC leads in areas but mostly we talk
- Actions required need Quantum Shift in actions
- Vancouver region talks green but builds with oil



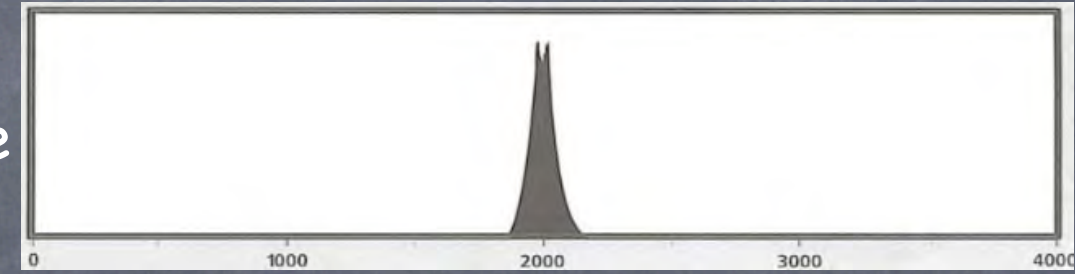
How a City Prepares

- Need to revisit every plan & policy
- Shift each decision into sustainable mode
- Need to raise society consciousness to adapt—this is like an insurance policy.
- Need to confront the forces of inertia
- Need to overcome the notion of privilege
- Need to truly think of the common predicament
- Need to act immediately to correct a hundred years of bad decisions based on cheap energy



Some Leading Indicators

Oil in History Curve

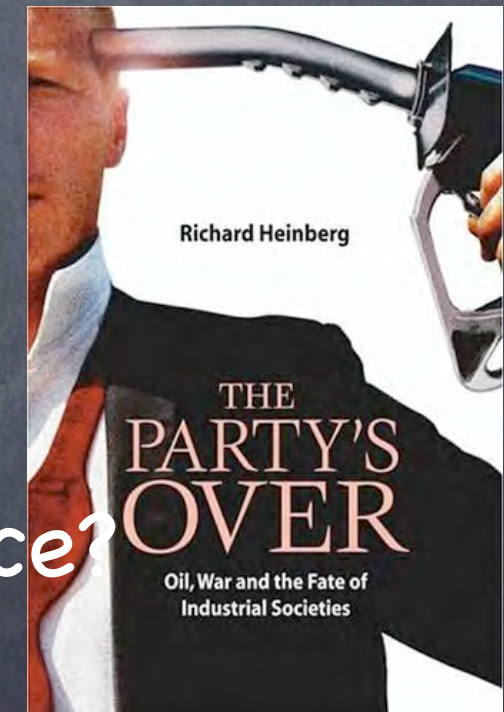


- Densify cores in every category- even rural towns
- Make more effective use of all lands- look to hills
- Provide the green sustainable lacework- local food
- Triage: Abandon non sustainable parts- revert
- Move to transit, find alternate vehicles, local source.
- Abandon useless/wasteful industry
- Prepare for lower expectations
- Abandon know lost causes

Equally alarming is the fact that Chevron has now started a surprisingly candid campaign to publicly address these issues. While the campaign fails to mention "Peak Oil" per se, it does acknowledge that, while it took 125 years to burn through the first trillion barrels of oil, it will only take 30 years to burn through the next trillion.

Next Steps • SSP in Region

- Revisit policies & plans for updating/sustainability
- Redo land use/zoning notions for same- rethink/retool
- Question the rationale of purported 'good plans'
- Provide direction for meeting social goals
- Make sure all levels of sustainability balance
- Revisit historical departure points for guidance?
- Incite visionaries & democratic participation.



City:Talk versus Action: 1

- Bad Dreams City: Central city with single family density and Nimby fortress mentality, forces young families into apartments or out of town
- Needed Action; secondary suites is a start; transition districts have to be designated & executed now.

Life After the Oil Crash

"Deal With Reality or Reality Will Deal With You"

It is not just economics; the Nimby forces are destroying the larger urban and natural environment by forcing their children to places they do not want or need to be.

City:Talk Versus Action 2

- the ideal of an independent house on a large garden lot is an inherited mythology pushed by an auto-industry-real estate alliance based on cheap energy- this belongs to somebody else, our kids.
- Reality check 2; suburban postage stamp lots and a long commute offer less than an inner city traditional fee simple rowhouse; let's make the latter work. Some small towns are ahead of the city in areas of looking to alternate forms.

Yet "Peak Oil" was never mentioned during the hearings by either the executives or the Senators questioning them. Given the obvious importance of the issue, any reasonable person can't help but to ask, "Why the heck not?"

The answer is simple: the true consequences of Peak Oil cannot be acknowledged in such a highly public forum without crashing the financial markets or begging the obvious yet politically-dangerous and "patriotically-incorrect" question:

Constraints as Assets

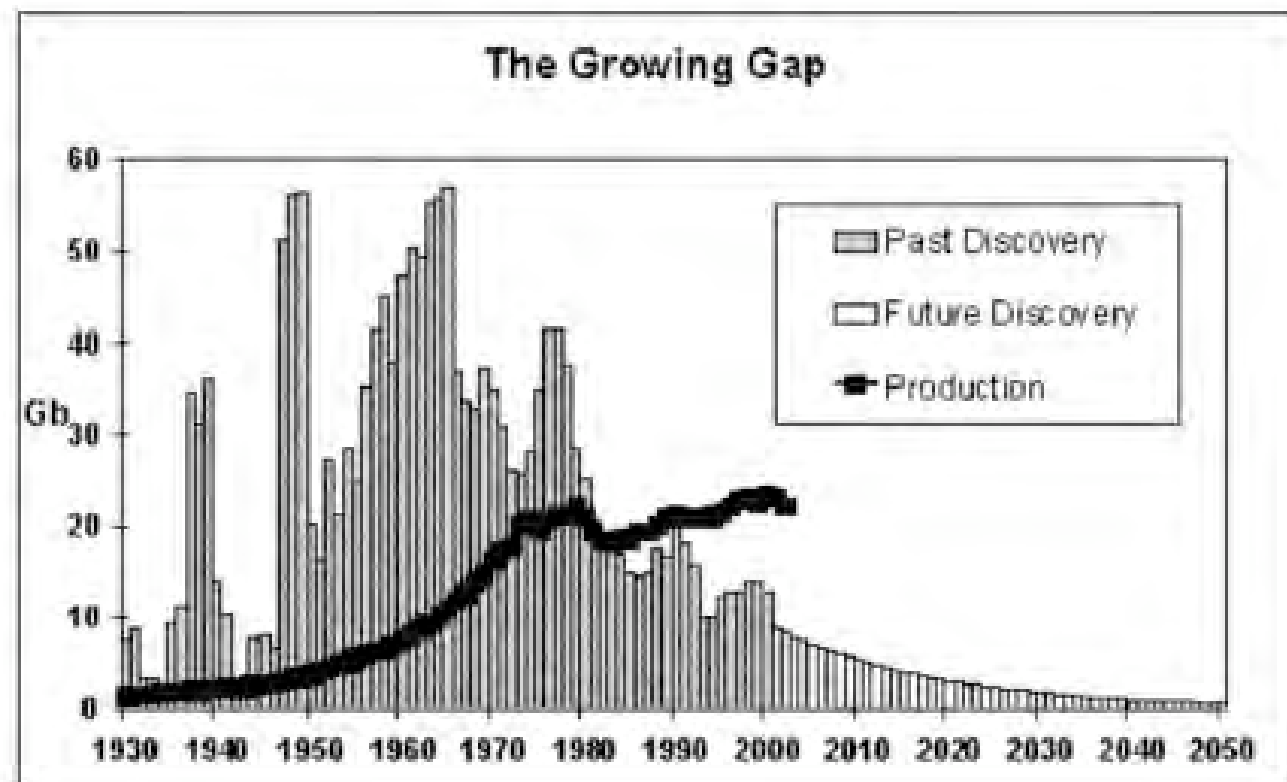
- If we rethink and retool we can do more with less, save energy and work less too.
- Right now we spend a lot of our precious years feeding a machine;
- There are other options, we need new choices in housing, transportation, etc
- We could make a better community and a better life for all of us if we act now.
- We also have to learn to work together rather than against each other at all levels.

Charting a New Course

Navy talk for Soft Landing



Do we really need all of this stuff?



Some Little Steps 1



- Local businesses that serve the needs of the immediate community are supported and encouraged.
- Most daily trips are possible on foot or by bicycle with convenient public transit available for longer trips.
- Local schools and their facilities become hubs of community learning, information exchange and activity.
- Resilient, strong and vibrant networks and friendships are set up between those with similar and complementary needs, such as caring for children and seniors, reducing the need for formal Government assistance programmes, and enabling seniors to remain semi-independently in their communities for longer.

Some Little Steps 2

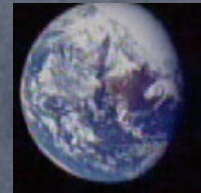
- Talents are pooled in a dynamic way and synergies created, so the output and problem solving skills of the community as a whole can exceed the talents of individuals.
- New types of employment are created within the community to serve its individual and unique needs.
- Practical skills and knowledge that are useful (eg. urban agriculture without chemicals, making furniture, clothing, food etc.) are pooled among those who know them and taught to those who do not. This might result in more active involvement of seniors in passing on life skills and a corresponding increase in their perceived value to the community and their level of respect within it.
- The resulting inevitable increase in daily activity and exercise and improvement in diet, together with increased social interaction between individuals creates both physical and mental health benefit

Life is a Stock Option?

- For a moment let us hypothesize that we may be wrong about the timing of Peak Oil and the amount of the fossil fuel age still remaining. Perhaps there are many years of cheap petroleum left to us and the issue of global warming can be addressed by human ingenuity and technology. Even if this is the case, the movement towards the model outlined is still a valuable and worthwhile endeavour and we all stand to gain immensely from it. -vice chair ssp/Eileen Keenan 2005

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