

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 half life 500,
5,000,
5 million years

Missed Opportunity Pilots
(Club of Rome warnings 1970
-we could have been near level
flight by now if heeded.

Best Current Hope:
It may be too late but
Can we do
anything; we all must

Towns & buildings in unsustainable pattern 2000/2010
Most likely aimed at collapse scenario due to
50 years of mistakes based on 'faith' & no end to growth

"Blind Idiots & Partying Optomists" Path:
Hard Crash with no options left

TECHNO-MARKETS
SCENARIO

Late Learner
with a lot of
help & hope:
Can you do
anything; you must

LEAN ECONOMY
SCENARIO

Urban reorganization
absolutely necessary
to sustain any of the
Soft Landing options:
plus changes to mobility
& lifestyles. Doing more
with less, ALL buildings
will require retrofit &
many will be abandoned;
Urban Triage; letting
some parts of the cities
revert or go all green.
Faster adjustment allows
for "higher level " of post
energy crash existence.

COLLAPSE SCENARIO

BURNOUT
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.

1880 1900 1950 1970 2000 2010
cultural/energy baseline: Pre-oil

Social Psychology: slow learning and adaption is near impossible (Jared Diamond)
No weaning from cheap energy; we can only adapt to a crash condition (No pilots, only navigators yelling help)
To put us on a safe glide path, we all have to wake up and take charge of the plane.
- It cannot be the work/fault, responsibility of the other guy; it will take all of us to protect our culture from impact.

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.

Strategic Sustainable Planning
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