

NOTES FROM PROSPERITY WITHOUT GROWTH CRACKER BARREL

Overall presentation

- Since 1965, NS has revised economic strategy 18 times
 - o All economic strategies have been based on unlimited growth
 - o Even “Ivany Report” based on
 - o “Steady state economy” may be more appropriate strategy for the future
- Earth only has so many resources
 - o May have already hit a limit
 - o Have to be aware of carrying capacity of the Earth
- Need to ask four key questions:
 - o What is getting bigger?
 - o How big is this economy?
 - o How big can it be?
 - o How big should it be?
- What does new economy look like?
 - o Non renewables can't outpace renewables
 - o Have to be aware of regeneration cycles (e.g. forestry, etc.)
 - o Have to account for externalities somehow
 - o Have to rethink “big box store” mentality

Summary of Key Comments from Session 1

- Stuff we buy today isn't durable. We're paying to get rid of our stuff.
 - o Alternatives: Germany applying tax to stuff you can't throw away
- County of Annapolis trying to build-in opportunities for low income families with plans for environmental sustainability
- Is a local economy so different from global? Just different way to think about economic developments. What do you do to make your community stand out?
- We're living in global economy. Why has the County of Annapolis not joined a Regional Enterprise Network?

Summary of Key Comments from Session 2

- Do we try to grow our communities or make what we have better?
- Elephant in the room in the “Ivany Report” is unlimited growth. Need attitude shift away from more, more, more
- Can you decouple what's good for business with what's good for the environment? Do they always have to be opposing forces?
- Need to change minimum wage to living wage
- How do you get youth interested in farming again with an education system that isn't geared towards training for rural resource economies?
- Need to connect with people in 30s with families who want to return home
- Can building codes in NS support tiny homes?

Summary of Key Comments from Session 3

- Use other measures than GDP to measure growth, prosperity
 - o Ex: Genuine Progress Index

- We should try to move energy consumption towards 80% locally produced energy. Need to look at all options to achieve.
- COMFIT an alternative revenue option for municipalities
- Have to teach different skills to support more local food production
 - o Ex: Preservation techniques, community “tool/equipment library”
- Should you turn away a big corporation/box store if it offers jobs?
- Can working towards an environmental sustainability goal help spark community unity?