

TRANSITION NELSON NEWS No. 1

13/6/08

Transition Nelson – building a vibrant, resilient and sustainable community in the face of Climate Change and Peak Oil.

Transition Nelson's inaugural event on the **5th June** was a huge success with over 170 people attending. The movie "*Power of Community – How Cuba survived Peak Oil*" gave attendees a great introduction to Peak Oil and a very vivid appreciation of the dramatic changes Cuba underwent to survive on very little oil. This was followed by a PowerPoint introduction to Transition Towns and lots of questions.

People were overwhelmingly supportive and encouraging of the Transition Town idea. There was a real sense that Nelson is an ideal community to embark on this process and that by working together we can make a huge difference. Thanks to everyone that attended.

So how do you get involved? Take your pick;

1. **Sharing** your new knowledge and information about Transition Nelson with others in the community;
2. **Learning** more about Transition Towns, Peak Oil and Climate Change by visiting the NZ website <http://www.transitiontowns.org.nz/> ;
3. If you are a member of an existing community group and would like more information or would like us to talk to your group please let us know;
4. **Attend** future Transition Nelson **events** (see below);
5. **Join** one of the Transition Nelson "**topic action groups**" when they begin. Start doing some thinking and research on a topic that interests you. Other Transition Town websites are a great place to start looking;
6. **Make a submission** on the Nelson City Council Communities for Climate Protection (CCP-NZ) Local Action Plan which is due in by the 1st July. You can make a submission either online at <http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/> search for "climate change action plan" or by picking up a form from the Nelson City Council;
7. **Email us** with any other **feed back and ideas**;

Upcoming Events

We are planning a number of events over the next couple of months and will let you know more once these are finalized.

- On Tuesday **8th July** we will launch the first of the topic action groups. This will focus on **food and agriculture**. Victory Rooms, Trafalgar Centre, 7pm. More details in a couple of weeks;
- On Friday **15th August** as part of Ecofest we will be chairing a **political panel discussion** on how the current oil crisis will affect Nelson over the next 5 years and what could we be doing to prepare;
- During **Ecofest** on the **16th – 17th August** we will have a stall and be part of the seminar series;

- In **September** we are planning a **Transition Nelson launch** or Unleashing to celebrate the communities desire to take action. It marks the point in time when we move from mostly awareness raising to action, with the forming of topic action groups which will start developing specific ideas and solutions. This is a key step in creating a Transition Town. Our next newsletter will outline these steps;

You may also be interested in attending the next **Sustainable Transport Futures** meeting on Tues **1st July**, 7.30 pm at Nelson Environment Centre, **215 Akersten St.** Please note the NEC has moved to this new address. Sustainable Transport Futures is a community group formed last October. They seek the improvement and development of alternatives to cars to provide people with local transport choices for environmental, social and economic reasons. They advocate walking, cycling, public transport and travel demand management initiatives in Nelson and Tasman.

We have attached a Transition Nelson flier for you to share with others.

Cheers from the Transition Nelson Steering Group

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