

# Job Opportunities For the Future

What kinds of businesses and professions will your local community need as we journey into a future with less oil?

As you search for a job, retrain for a new career direction, or dream of a new business, knowing about future opportunities can help you avoid dead-end jobs and doomed industries. Instead, pick vital industries which will continue into the future.

A list prepared by the international Transition movement offers a start:

## A realistic business outlook:

The economic “downturn” won’t get better. Instead, the current economic indicators will continue to contract throughout our lifetimes. “Economic recovery” is not possible because of the laws of physics.

We live on a planet that is finite: the earth isn’t getting any bigger, it isn’t adding more matter or elements. But since the 1860s we have embraced the mistaken presumption that unlimited growth is possible. Amid *finite* resources we have taught each other to expect *infinite* growth.

## PEAK OIL

All of the wealth and bounty that we have come to accept as “normal” in our modern life is based upon cheap, abundant, readily-available fossil fuels. But the earth holds a finite, limited supply of fossil fuels, and we are now delving into the second half of that planetary supply. When a resource is in limited supply and everyone wants more of it, we can expect extreme price volatility (oil prices \$147 in July 2008, \$30 in Dec. 2008), supply interruptions, shortages, and competition or conflict over what remains.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

We are already seeing the effects of global warming in climate change. We’re experiencing changes in the steady, sedate weather patterns upon which humans have relied for centuries – upon which farmers rely to grow our food. Forecasts are for more extreme weather events: more droughts, (continued on page 2)

Employment Sector	Industry Type	Opportunities for Economic Development	
Food Production/Land Use	Organic Farming	Urban farming/edible landscaping, Farm workers, research and innovation, value adding and processing, retail, Community Supported Agriculture initiatives	
	Textile Production	Farming, processing, manufacturing	
	Organic Food Production	Training, freshwater aquaculture, organic gourmet mushroom production for food and medicines, intensive market gardening	
	Forestry	Timber for construction and a variety of uses, sawdust for mushroom cultivation, charcoal, wood gasification, coppice products, saps, tannin, bark mulch, education, training, food crops, fiber	
	Urban Agriculture	Coordination, land access provision, edible landscaping consultancy, online tools for linking growers and consumers, large potential for commercial production, plant nurseries and propagation	
	Gleaning	Apple harvesting and pressing, hedgerow drinks and other products, education	
Agroforestry systems	Agroforestry systems	Design consultancy, planting and ongoing management, selling of wide range of produce, long term enhanced timber value, courses, publications, research	
	Schools	Edible landscaping, teaching, Education for Sustainable Development, food growing training, apprenticeships, bespoke Transition training programs	
	Water	Water supplies	Local cisterns, rainwater harvesting
		Water use	Greywater retrofitting, greywater education (particularly with regards to edible plants), reedbed filtration, bioremediation, local sewage solutions
Manufacturing and Processing	Recycling	Salvaging building materials, processing and reclaiming materials (bricks, timber etc), making insulation from waste paper, glass bottles into insulation	
	Sustainable Industry	Renewable energy technologies manufacturing and installing, technology systems,	
	Repair	Extending the life of machinery, building for durability	
	Fabric	Processing of locally produced fabric, hemp, flax etc, making a range of clothing for retail, and repairs, spinning, weaving, knitting, sewing, education in fiber arts	
Services	Scavenging	Materials reuse, refurbishing, resale to low-income families	
	Healthcare	Holistic healthcare practitioners including herbalists and other oil-independent modalities, research into effective herbal medicines, local herb growing and processing, training for doctors, apothecaries, midwives, nutritional advice	
	Energy	Home insulation advice, energy monitoring, energy efficient devices, investment coordinators, sale of energy to grid or decentralized energy systems, producing wood chip/pellets for boilers, Energy Resilience Analyses for businesses	
	Compost Management	Collecting, Managing, Training, Distribution, Education, potential links to urban food production	
	Information Technology	Creation of effective software systems for energy management, carbon footprinting and much more	
	Education	a whole new portfolio of subjects and focus to prepare young people for the new lifestyle, teaching this entire list	
Hospice services / bereavement	Hospice services / bereavement	Hospice services, supporting families who keep relatives at home, green burials	
	Finances	Credit Unions, local currencies, cash-free systems like bartering and timebanks and skillshares, mechanisms whereby people can invest with confidence into their community, Green Bonds, crowd funding	

## Transition Los Angeles

guiding our communities from oil dependency to local resilience

[www.TransitionLA.org](http://www.TransitionLA.org) ■ [TransitionLA@gmail.com](mailto:TransitionLA@gmail.com)

more heat waves, more floods, more hurricanes like Katrina, more firestorms. In Southern California our rainfall patterns are shifting; less rain will fall where our massive aqueducts are built to receive it and channel it to urban water supplies.

Climate change demands that we adapt, and peak oil defines which adaptations will be possible. We must “power down” our society – change to lifestyles which demand less energy overall.

## Positive Outcomes

The future with less oil could be better than the present. In a future with less oil we'll travel less. How well do you know your neighbor or the families on your block? We'll do more with the people who live around us. We'll develop close-knit communities.

How fulfilling is your current work? In a future with less oil the results of our daily work will be much more visible and tactile, quite tied to the basics we need for living: food, water, shelter, people.

How connected do you feel to nature, the earth, your basic “life support system”? In a future with less oil the artificial, human-created things and activities which keep us feeling so discon-

ected, detached, and distracted will be the very things which go away. Life will move at a much slower pace – the pace of nature.

## Local Resilience

Local *resilience* – our ability to flex and adapt with changes in the world around us – is essential for a successful Transition into the future. We need to grow the self-sufficiency of our local neighborhoods. We need to plan for these changes and prepare our communities. We need to educate our neighbors about the reality of the future and encourage them to join us in the creation of positive outcomes. We'll need to invest our remaining fossil fuels in preparing the tools of Transition: construction of food gardens in the spaces between our urban buildings; devices to capture local rainwater to secure our water supply; passive solar retrofits to our existing buildings like shade structures and insulation to cope with heating and cooling issues; development of fully-localized business networks to provide livelihoods within our home communities.

Yes, we have a big job ahead of us. But as more people understand the problems, accept the realities, and start to prepare for a future with less oil, the job has already begun. Come join us.

Government	Local political	Opportunity to organize efforts throughout region, counties, cities, council districts
	Researchers	Opportunity to gather information from the many projects and enterprises underway.
Education and Design	Educators	Wide range of opportunities for supporting ‘The Great Reskilling’, developing Distance Learning programs, training for professionals
	Sustainable Designers	Landscape architects specializing in edible landscaping, zero carbon buildings
	The Arts	Art projects documenting the Transition, installations, exhibitions, public art workshops, local recording studios, storytelling
Personal / Group Support	Transition Consulting	Working with businesses on energy audits, resilience plans, a range of future-proofing strategies
	Counseling	Personal ‘Transition Counseling’, group support, community processes, local “inner work” professionals (mental health professionals, counselors, spiritual and religious leaders, etc.) who are prepared to work with the issues that arise as people cope with a radically new direction for the future.
	Citizens Advice	Debt advice, housing advice, financial management skills, debt scheduling
	Outplacement/Redundancy Support	Support, retraining, ongoing support and training
Media	Print media	Local newspapers, small print run books on different aspects of the Transition
	Radio	Local radio
	Internet	Online retailing systems for local markets
	Film media	Online TV channels documenting inspiring examples of Transition in Action
Construction	Reskilling	Retraining builders to use local materials and green building techniques, improving awareness around energy efficiency in building, setting up local construction companies
	Materials	Creating local natural building materials, clay plasters, timber, lime, straw, hemp etc. Growing, processing, distribution, retail etc. Locally made wallpaper.
	Architects	Specialists in <i>passiv haus</i> building, local materials, retrofit advice
Transportation	Low energy vehicle fleets	Marketing, maintaining, renting, chauffeuring
	Bicycles	Selling, servicing, maintenance training, rental
	Rickshaws	Importing, servicing, taxi service, weddings etc.
	Biodiesel	Sourcing, processing, selling, training and advice
	Biomethane/Electric vehicles	Fleet management, sales, leasing, car clubs

Source: Chen, Y., Deines, M., Fleischmann, H., Reed, S. & Swick, I. (2007) *Transforming Urban Environments for a Post-Peak Oil Future: a vision plan for the city of San Buenaventura*. City of San Buenaventura. Adapted and expanded by Rob Hopkins of [TransitionCulture.org](http://TransitionCulture.org) <http://TransitionCulture.org/2009/07/01/what-employment-opportunities-arise-from-embracing-transition> and the international Transition community.



Transition Los Angeles is a city hub, coordinating communication between the many local Transition groups in the Los Angeles area. Find Transition action in your local area via [www.TransitionLA.org](http://www.TransitionLA.org)

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