



Global Energy Peak: Threat or Opportunity

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The historically unprecedented peak and inevitable decline in global production of oil is imminent while the global peak of gas production is decade away at most. The implications for all people, nations and cultures are immense and arguably a more intense environmental limit on human options and capacity than global climate change.

While official response to climate change has been less than adequate, the issue is widely discussed and debated. Environmentally progressive policies and behaviour are almost always evaluated in terms of climate change.

In contrast, discussion of global oil and gas peak is only just now emerging from expert networks and a limited sector of environmental activists.

This presentation outlines the issue but mainly focuses on Permaculture as an integrated and diverse set of positive responses capable of being implemented by ordinary citizens.

Permaculture is a design system for sustainable land use and living first articulated by the author and Bill Mollison nearly 30 years ago. It has since become one of the most powerful frameworks for positive response to environmental limits and global ethics. Permaculture has influenced fields as diverse as home self reliance, organic agriculture, ecological building, environmental education and development aid (including World Vision projects and training). The permaculture network span all continents and most countries. The eighth Australian permaculture convergence will be held in Melbourne in April 2005 and the seventh international permaculture conference will be held in Slovenia in June 2005

This presentation is aimed at informing teachers of the global energy peak issue and giving a glimpse of positive and empowering responses which already exist in various forms in our rural and urban communities . It aims to give teachers the benefits of the author's thirty year interest in this issue rather than provide a package ready to deliver to students.

Teachers with this knowledge will be better placed to deal with the re-emergence of the energy debate as a dominant global issue and more able to help students make the links to issues as diverse as war & geopolitics, refugees, food security, new technology, environmentalism, community development, personal skill development and career planning.

(See pdf of Powerpoint presentation at
<http://www.worldvision.com.au/resources/conference2004/>