

TCLocal Research Topics

Last revised 7 December 2009

Key: The heads in ***bold italics*** are upper-level “subjects” and those in roman are lower-level “topics.”

Basic assumption: Global oil production will peak or plateau sometime in the next few years, after which prices will continue to increase for the foreseeable future. Consequences will include supply chain contraction and reduced mobility.

Scope: The decade following the peak of production. This puts the focus on the economic consequences of steeply rising fuel costs, but actual shortages may also be in the picture.

Participation: Persons wishing to take ownership of a particular topic not already assigned should contact the TCLocal editor, Jon Bosak (bosak@pinax.com).

People transportation

Public transportation (buses) — *Simon St.Laurent*

Emergency services — *Simon St.Laurent*

School transportation

Transportation by water (ferries, etc.)

Freight transportation

Local trucking

Rail transport

Barge transport

Transportation infrastructure

Roads, bridges, rails, etc. — *Simon St.Laurent; published March 2008*

Health care

Definition of baseline public health care services — *Bethany Schroeder*

Distribution and delivery of health care services — *Bethany Schroeder; part 1 published October 2008; part 2 published December 2009*

Paying for basic health care services — *Bethany Schroeder*

Education

Definition of baseline public education (e.g., eighth grade)

Developing curricula to prepare for anticipated local employment

Distribution and delivery of educational services

Water at the community level

Analysis of local water outlook (including climate change)
Water catchment at the community level
Distribution of water at the community level
Water quality at the community level
(Position on City WTP decision ***published May 2008***)

Land use

Optimal balance of farming, grazing, and timber production

Urban design

Urban density and redesign for low energy use — *Josh Dolan; parts 1 and 2 published July 2008*

Building community

Neighborhood based strategies: self-help through mutual aid
Building social networks through community organizations

Local agriculture and local food supply

Overview: Food production systems — *Karl North; series in progress*
Baseline human nutritional requirements expressed in terms of food products
Foodsheds (was: Carrying capacity of current and potential county agriculture) — *Chris Peters; published March 2009*
Local soils and their regeneration (cover crops, composting, etc.)
Local subsistence farming
 Fruit trees — *Angelika St. Laurent; published January 2008*
 Small-scale livestock — *Angelika St. Laurent; published December 2008*
Local food distribution
Food processing — *Seph Doliner; published February 2009*

Local agriculture as an industry

Defining the local agricultural mix
Commercial crop production
Commercial forage and silage production
Commercial tree crops
Commercial dairying
Commercial meat production
Commercial poultry production
Commercial food processing and preservation
Commercial winter food production
Agricultural employment
Training for agriculture
Subsidizing local agricultural redevelopment

Local hunting (seasons, licensing, training, butchering, storage)

Local aquaculture

- Current status of local aquaculture
- Lake Cayuga as a source of food
- Local fisheries
- Local ponds
- Creating new supplies
- Training for aquaculture

Local manufacturing

- Defining the local manufacturing mix
- Local manufacturing production
- Local manufacturing employment
- Training for local manufacturing
- Subsidizing local manufacturing

Repair as a local industry

- Training for re-use
- Training for repair
- Building a local repair industry
- Subsidizing a local repair industry

Retail trade

- Re-establishing the local reseller network
- Distribution of retail goods
- Clothing (local fashion, recycling)
- Buying local

Energy production

- Milliken Station/AES Cayuga
- Alternative energy at the county level (wind, microhydro, solar)
- Biomass options — ***Krys Cail; overview published November 2009***
- Local biofuel production
- Local wood heat — *Tony Nekut; scheduled for January 2010*

Waste disposal — Tom Shelley; published January 2009

- Garbage disposal/composting
- Human waste disposal/composting
- Runoff disposal/municipal water catchment
- Trash disposal

Household preparation

Overview published 2008, but the individual topics are still open

Energy inspection

Insulation

Water catchment for households

Alternative energy for households

Winter food supply and preservation for households

Emergency provisioning

Social and psychological adjustment

Risk communication & change theory: opportunity and/or crisis

Dislocation & shifting ideologies: creating paradigms that work, identifying those that don't

Individual psychosocial adjustment

Peak oil and the family

Role of the community & local identity

The peak oil experience across the age spectrum: children, youth, middle years, the elderly

Special needs: physical, emotional and mental disabilities

Globalism in a relocalized world

Post peak leisure & recreation

The arts & cultural expression

Information infrastructure

Local libraries

Local radio

Local printing

Local phone service

Local web service

Schools as distribution points