



October 2013

Dear SCORAI,

We hope this message finds you well now that Fall is humming along. This issue marks a transition in the evolution of the SCORAI newsletter. We bid goodbye to Kate Hagemann who has been dexterously handling the editorial responsibilities for the past year-plus. Kate will be devoting the next several months to finishing up her master's degree at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. We in turn welcome Catie Carter who will be taking over the helm. Catie is a PhD student in sustainable design at the University of Texas. Feel free to send her announcements of new activities and events. Finally, if you need something new to read as the days become colder (at least in the northern hemisphere), we can offer plenty of recommendations this October.

All the best,
Debbie & Maurie (and Catie)

New Economy Coalition Updates

Halina Brown

As of August, SCORAI is a member of the Consultative Council of the New Economy Coalition. Halina Brown is SCORAI's Executive Board liaison to the Council and at the monthly virtual meetings of the Coalition.

The New Economy Coalition is an effort to create a social movement. It is "designed to bring individual and organizations together to support the transition to a new economy where people and the planet are the priorities; social justice and cohesion are prized; and peace, communities, democracy and nature flourish." The coalition has been spearheaded in the summer of 2013 by New Economics Institute, located in Boston, and lead by Bob Massie. It currently has over a hundred members. For more information please contact [Mike Sandmel](#).

The Coalition members meet at monthly webinars. The

Executive Board

Jeffrey Barber

Integrative Strategies Forum

Halina Brown

Clark University

Maurie Cohen

New Jersey Institute of
Technology

John Stutz

Tellus Institute

Philip Vergragt

Tellus Institute and Clark
University

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centerpiece of each webinar is a short presentation by an invited speaker, followed by a general discussion. As much as possible, the speaker is asked to distribute a discussion paper prior to the webinar (these are generally "work-in-progress" drafts). At the August meeting Chuck Collins of the Institute for Policy Studies presented a paper on "Investing in the New Economy," in which he discussed many different opportunities for investing and ranked them according to their return on investment, liquidity, and social impact.

I also learned at the last meeting that a couple of weeks earlier there was a hearing at Boston City Hall about divesting the city's pension funds from big banks; and a hearing at the Massachusetts State House about divesting from the fossil fuel industry.

Previous webinars included presentations by Stacy Mitchell of the Institute for Local Self Reliance on their work on a localist policy agenda; Neal Gorenflo of Shareable on their report on Policies for Sharable Cities; Joe Uehlein of the Labor Network for Sustainability; Gwendolyn Hallsmith of Vermonters for a New Economy; and Dan Apfel of the Responsible Endowments Coalition.

New Economy Coalition Important Upcoming Events

October 12-18, 2013:

New Economy Week. Its goal is to put in the spotlight the activities of many organizations that share the broad vision of the new economy; to promote "teach-ins" and other educational and political activities, and to reach out to enlarge the coalition.

Check the [website for the New Economy Week](#).

June 7-10, 2014:

Annual Conference, to be held at Boston University.

New Animation from the Center for a New American Dream

We in the U.S. feel lucky to live in a free nation with so many opportunities. But we also know that, in many ways, our country is falling behind and heading in the wrong direction.

In [this short animation](#), noted environmentalist and author, Gus Speth shows us another America: America the Possible.

This is the America we want for our children and ourselves, where the pursuit of happiness is sought not in the endless increase of getting and spending, but in the growth of human solidarity, real democracy, and devotion to the public good.

Here's the good news: We can start building America the

Possible right now in our own homes, streets, neighborhoods, and cities. Watch the video to learn more.

New Book: The Housing Bomb

[*The Housing Bomb: Why Our Addiction to Houses Is Destroying the Environment and Threatening Our Society.*](#)

By M. Nils Peterson, Tarla Peterson, Jianguo Liu.

Have we built our way to ruin? Is your desire for that beach house or cabin in the woods part of the environmental crisis? Do you really need a bigger home? Why don't multiple generations still live under one roof? In *The Housing Bomb*, leading environmental researchers M. Nils Peterson, Tarla Rai Peterson, and Jianguo Liu sound the alarm, explaining how and why our growing addiction to houses has taken the humble American dream and twisted it into an environmental and societal nightmare.

Without realizing how much a contemporary home already contributes to environmental destruction, most of us want bigger and bigger houses and dream of the day when we own not just one dwelling but at least the two our neighbor does. We push our children to "get out on their own" long before they need to, creating a second household where previously one existed. We pave and build, demolishing habitat needed by threatened and endangered species, adding to the mounting burden of global climate change, and sucking away resources much better applied to pressing societal needs. "Reduce, reuse, recycle" is seldom evoked in the housing world, where economists predict financial disasters when "new housing starts" decline and the idea of renovating inner city residences is regarded as merely a good cause.

Presenting irrefutable evidence, this book cries out for America and the world to intervene by making simple changes in our household energy and water usage and by supporting municipal, state, national, and international policies to counter this devastation and overuse of resources. It offers a way out of the mess we are creating and envisions a future where we all live comfortable, nondestructive lives. The "housing bomb" is ticking, and our choice is clear-change our approach or feel the blast.

New Book: The Costs of Economic Growth

[*The Costs Of Economic Growth.*](#)

Edited by Peter A. Victor, Professor in Environmental Studies, York University, Canada.

This book is a convenient and comprehensive collection of seminal papers on the costs of economic growth. The papers are grouped in 6 sections covering: the origins of the debate, the limits to growth, measurement, international and global

dimensions, developing countries, and looking ahead. The original introduction, written by the editor, draws out the main themes that run through this extensive and thought-provoking literature. This timely collection is intended for academics, students, researchers and anyone interested in this controversial topic.

New Journal Articles

Stephens, Jennie, Elizabeth Wilson, Tarla Peterson, and James Meadowcroft. 2013. "[Getting Smart? Climate Change and the Electric Grid](#)." *Challenges* 4 (2) (September 5): 201-216.

Brizga, Janis, Kuishuang Feng, and Klaus Hubacek. 2013. "[Drivers of CO2 Emissions in the Former Soviet Union: A Country Level IPAT Analysis from 1990 to 2010](#)." *Energy* 59 (September 15): 743-753.

SCORAI Design Workshop Next Spring

Emerging out of the [SCORAI conference last Spring](#) in Worcester is a group of design researchers interested in reframing sustainable design, production, and consumption.

Pending funding, the [University of Texas Center for Sustainable Development](#) will host researchers from the [University of Texas Sustainable Design Program](#), the [Parsons New School Transdisciplinary Design Program](#) and [DESIS lab](#), the [Carnegie Mellon Design Program](#), and others for a workshop next spring. The aim of this work is to advance sustainable design, production and consumption research in North America through three related activities: (1) bridging the divide between graduate sustainability programs in design and the social sciences; (2) identifying and advancing a collaborative and interdisciplinary research agenda; and (3) developing a publication program that would support the first two activities. Stay tuned for further announcements as the project unfolds.

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

[The 2013 Solidarity And Green Economy \(SAGE\) conference](#) will be held November 9 & 10th in Worcester, Mass. For more information and to register online visit this [link](#).

[Radical Emissions Reduction Conference](#) will be held at the Royal Society, London on 10-11 December 2013. This conference will bring together academics and practitioners, engineers and economists, policy-makers and civil society to detail evidenced-based opportunities for delivering urgent and deep reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases.

[Capitalist Crises, Critique of Growth and the Perspectives for a](#)

[Post-Growth Society](#), the theme of the next European Sociological Association conference, will be held in Turin, August 28-31 2013.

[The 2nd International Conference on ICT for Sustainability](#) (ICT4S) conference hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Communications and VU University Amsterdam will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, 24-26 of August 2014. The theme of the 2014 conference is ICT and transformational change. ICT for sustainability is about utilizing the transformational power of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for making our world more sustainable: saving energy and material resources by creating more value from less physical input, increasing quality of life for ever more people without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs.

New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following SCORAI affiliates joining us, bringing our total number to 582.

Chen Hongmin	Judi Varga-Toth
Olena Ebel	Wang Chuanrong
Mary Greene	Joseph Wright
Clare Hinrichs	Dalton Wudrich
Qian Liu	Zhang Lei
Liu Wenling	Veronica Ciambra
Kirk Magnuson	Sebastian Becker
Ren Yuan	Vera Buttmann
Nicholas Ryu	Gianfranco Lazzarin
Melanie Studer	Bin Chen
Birendra Suna	George Pataki
Tatjana Tambovceva	Charles Tanguay
	Jasemine Tanguay

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