

MISSION, OBJECTIVES & HOW WE WORK

THE MISSION OF TRANSITIONPDX is to inspire, to encourage, to network, to support and train the communities and neighborhoods of the Portland metro area as they consider, adopt, adapt and implement the transition model in order to establish Transition Initiatives. The transition model emboldens communities to look peak oil and climate change squarely in the eye and unleash the collective genius of their own people to find the answers to this big question of how they can transform their communities to cope with these challenges and produce thriving neighborhoods.

We support the Permaculture ethics of:

- Earthcare: recognising that the Earth is the source of all life and that we recognize and respect that the Earth is our valuable home and we are a part of the Earth, not apart from it.
- Peopelcare: supporting and helping each other to change to ways of living that are not harming ourselves or the planet, and to develop healthy societies.
- Fairshare: ensuring that the Earth's limited resources are utilized in ways that are equitable and wise.

THE OBJECTIVES OF TRANSITIONPDX ARE:

To raise public awareness of the issues associated with climate change and the peaking of global oil supplies, encouraging communities in the Portland metro area to adopt the Transition Model in order to unleash the collective genius of the local community to answer the following question:

For all those aspects of life that this community needs to sustain itself and thrive, how do we:

- **dramatically reduce carbon emissions (in response to climate change);**
- **significantly increase resilience (in response to peak oil);**
- **greatly strengthen our local economy (in response to economic instability)?**

To inspire communities to consider the Transition Model through talks, film screenings, DVDs, books, websites, blogs, publications, PR, radio, television, and the arts.

To encourage communities to adopt and adapt the Transition Model as their response to climate change and peak oil by providing advice, guidance, training and consulting.

To support Transition Initiatives by:

- Connecting communities with each other and sharing ideas, experience (successes and failures), best practices, tools and techniques
- Coordinating Transition efforts within the Portland metro area
- Connecting communities with experts in given fields while encouraging them to develop local knowledge and skills
- Organizing regular conferences
- Providing templates and models for key documents and materials
- Assisting in setting up Transition Initiatives and organizing structures
- Encourage Transition Initiatives to look towards the Transition Network for how the Transition Model is developing

To train communities and individuals in all aspects of the Transition concept

To build a network of communities to enable sharing, cooperation, cross-fertilization of ideas and best practices to accelerate and consolidate the adoption of the Transition Model in the U.S. and beyond

To work with communities and neighborhoods towards producing their own local Energy Descent Action Plan and relocalization projects

Where appropriate, to engage with other organizations, including government, citizen, non-profit, and business in pursuit of its aims and objectives

All of this to take place within the spirit of fun, support and joy at coming together to co-create the future that we are visioning

HOW WE WORK

These are the principles that guide the way TPDX works. These continue to develop and evolve:

- We work together because we know that together we are greater than the sum of our parts. We work in a collaborative way because we get better results for less effort.
- We don't need permission to act. There is no hierarchy. Leadership for TPDX is shared by everyone. In representing TPDX, individuals agree to abide by and uphold all TPDX principles and take responsibility for their own decisions, actions and results.
- We trust that those who step forward have good intentions and will make good decisions. We give autonomy and support to those who wish to be part of TPDX.

- We are open to working with everyone. We welcome diversity and see it as a strength. We avoid categories of "them and us".
- We acknowledge other initiatives and seek to find ways to collaborate and further the aims of TPDX.
- Individually and as a group we identify what needs to be done and people volunteer for tasks when they already have the skills or want to develop the skills. We help and support each others' learning.
- We don't have a blueprint. We believe in multiple paths, ideas and possibilities. We think questions are as important as answers. It's fine to make mistakes and learn from them.
- We work with a natural momentum, driven by our passion and positive approach.
- We are transparent in everything we do.

There are also some specific principles that deal with the **organizational structure**:

- TPDX Groups form as needed to do what needs to be done: make decisions, take action; they dissolve when the need is gone.
- Each Group is responsible for raising and acquiring its own money and resources – and for using these wisely.
- Groups exist to deliver the aims of TPDX in a positive and concrete way.
- Each group and neighborhood Transition Initiative has a representative on the TPDX Steering Group.
- Everyone is responsible for ensuring the free flow of information and knowledge around the TPDX network and also the wider TT network.
- We always consider the effects of our actions on our public reputation.

There are also some specific principles on **fundraising** for projects¹:

- Projects for which funding is sought need to be agreed with the Steering Group.
- The project must support the aims of TPDX, be in line with the TPDX principles and be designed to deliver on key objectives.
- The individuals who raise funding will hold the budget for the project and account for it publicly.
- The individuals who developed the project are responsible for monitoring the project, its process and outcomes.
- If anyone in TPDX does not agree that a project is in line with TPDX aims and principles then that person can take the matter to the Steering Group for discussion.

¹ We agree to these principles in general and plan to make them more specific soon.

And finally, a principle on how we evolve the principles:

- We make changes to these Principles where necessary, but only with a high level of consensus.

It is anticipated that this governing document will be reviewed, and if necessary revised, at the dissolution of the 'Launch' Steering Group and the formation of the on-going Steering Group made up of representatives from each Working Group.

Signed

Dated

TransitionPDX Steering Group

TransitionPDX Media Group

TransitionPDX Buzz Group

TransitionPDX ?????? Group

Sunnyside Initiative

Lents Initiative

Oak Grove Initiative

????? Initiative