

Science Shops Wales in association with Cynnal Cymru/Sustain Wales and the Sustainability College of the Valleys Initiative invite you to join us at

A Prosperous Way Down? Exploring Green Economic Futures for Wales

A One-Day Conference on Wednesday 28th January 2009 at City Hall, Cardiff

What is the Motivation for the Conference?

There is now unequivocal scientific evidence that human activities are affecting Earth's environment on a global scale. It is clear that we are near, or have already passed, the limits of many of the non-renewable resources on which we currently rely. Yet, with climate change and biodiversity loss accelerating, global inequity increasing, and peak oil looming, many economists and policy-makers still argue that economic growth based on ever-increasing consumption is not only possible but highly desirable - despite the overwhelming weight of evidence to the contrary.

Why Wales? Why Now?

In the 19th and 20th Centuries Wales was at the heart of the fossil-fuel based Industrial Revolution, but also led the world in exploring socioeconomic and political approaches based on equity, sharing, cooperation and collective action. In the 21st Century Wales continues that tradition by being one of a tiny handful of countries in the world with a statutory commitment to sustainable development. But can we possibly meet this commitment while clinging to our old economic worldviews? As markets melt down and the fear of recession deepens, do we have any room left to manoeuvre? If business as usual is not an option, what should we do instead?

The range and complexity of problems that face us as we attempt to achieve a sustainable Wales can seem insurmountable. But positive solutions are available, and here in Wales we have the historic opportunity to build a new economy which generates real, lasting wealth without costing the Earth.

What is the Aim of the Conference?

The aim of this one-day conference is to raise awareness of the wide range of alternative economic approaches available to policy-makers. With contributions from some of Wales and the UK's leading Green economists and Futures specialists, we will explore what Wales could look like if our economic planning was rooted in an evidence-based understanding of the limits to growth, and oriented around a creative and positive response to the challenge of post-carbon living.

Who Should Attend?

The conference is **free** and open to anyone who wants to help envision a green, equitable and sustainable economic future for Wales. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.

If you would like to attend, please let us know by Friday 16th January 2009 at the latest

Early registration is essential to ensure a place.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Principal Speakers:

Molly Scott-Cato, Reader in Green Economics, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, Speaker on Economic Affairs for the UK Green Party and author of *Market*, *Schmarket* and *Green Economics*

Calvin Jones, Welsh Economy Research Unit, Cardiff University

Professor Barbara Adam, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University and author of *Time* and *Future Matters*

Colin Hines, Finance for the Future and co-author of *A Green New Deal*

John Barry, Queen's University Belfast, author of *Environment and Social Theory*

With Science Shops Wales; Cynnal Cymru; Lammas Low-Impact Living; Land for People; Time Banking Wales; Wales Co-operative Centre; and many others....

Themes and Topics:

Principles of Green Economics; Measures and Indicators; Ecosystem Services; Ecotaxes; Environmental Accounting & Decision-Making; Community Land Trusts; Permaculture; Cooperatives; Social Enterprise; Community Currencies; Low-impact Living; Food and Energy Security; Time Banks; Community Currencies; Green Jobs; Transition and Energy Descent; Low- and Post-Carbon Economies; Legislation and Regulation – and much more!

When, Where, How Much?

Wednesday 28 January 2009

09.30-16.00

The Lower Hall, City Hall, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3ND

Admission is free

How do I Register?

Please contact Tom Thornton at Science Shops Wales by Friday 16th January 2009

Email: tthornto@glam.ac.uk

Tel: 01443 654526

When registering, please provide your name, organisation, and email address