

GLASU Transition Town event feedback and workshop summary

Permaculture and Transition in Powys

We had very lively discussion in all three of the workshop sessions and the main three areas we discussed issues under as follows.

1. Training and enablement
2. Developing local economies, esp food and nutrient cycles
3. Energy descent, relocalising energy and resource provision, regional energy autonomy.

Although each time we spent nearly all of the workshop time talking about training and food. There is a growing awareness of permaculture and what it is about, but still a lot of the time was spent establishing some definitions and looking a bit more at the specific challenges of peak oil and what that might mean for food growing on a big scale and how that might impact on local production.

The key area that permaculture can offer to the transition process is firstly and importantly in the training and enablement area. It offers a curriculum and resources to engage with complex inter related issues of houses, water, energy, soils, economies, food production etc.. there was a general feeling that that even amongst farming communities these are areas we still don't have enough awareness in order to make the complex and far reaching decisions we will need to make in order to effectively re-localise at least some of our food and resource supply base.

We would love to see GLASU and other agencies helping us to find way to invest in education and awareness around these issues and in ways that empower and support individuals, communities and families to take meaningful action. Up until now there is a feeling that green issues has been more 'talk' than walk', and it feels really important to get more grass roots initiatives off the ground, by supporting individuals with ideas and training to launch their own projects. Permaculture can provide a conceptual framework to understand how these things inter relate and can give insight into priorities.