

Hohenwald, TN – A Winepress for the Globalization Process – Part II - Money!  
An article for the Beacon Newspaper by Don Casey – please forward.

Lewis County, TN and the City of Hohenwald, the county seat, joined hands to create by Official Proclamation<sup>1</sup> a “Transition Initiative.” “Initiatives” are part of a global movement touting 33 “Initiatives” underway in the United States with a worldwide total of 185<sup>2</sup>.

What’s to tout?

Derk Loorbach, PhD is a senior researcher and consultant at the Dutch Research Institute for Transitions (DRIFT). The Professor promotes a central theme: “transition-management approach is a new governance model based on complex systems thinking, governance theories, and sociology”.<sup>3</sup> Professor Loorbach stated in his 2009 award-winning paper “A transition research perspective on governance for sustainability”<sup>4</sup> that:

“Radical, structural change is needed to erode the existing structure of a system and ultimately dismantle it. Immediate radical change, however, would lead to maximal resistance from the deep structure, that cannot adjust to a too-fast, radical change. Abrupt forcing of the system would disrupt the system and would create a backlash in the system because of its resilience. Incremental change allows the system to adjust to the new circumstances and to build up new structures that align to the new configuration. Radical change in incremental steps thus implies that the system heads for a new direction toward new attractors, but in small steps.”

Thus, local government in rural Tennessee is commented to “dismantling” their existing economic, social and environmental infrastructure in favor of a new system of “governance” based on sustainable development principles.<sup>4a</sup>

Incremental Shepherding/Mentoring for “Sustainable Development”

Financial Permaculture,<sup>6</sup> one of the eight<sup>5</sup> shepherding/mentoring organizations has uploaded a video<sup>7</sup> filmed during a week-long October, 2008 summit in Hohenwald, TN.

“Summit,” a term used in the introduction of the video implies a meeting between heads of government and other high-ranking officials. The description should be revised to accurately reflect the fact that the week-long event was an exercise in consensus building.

Margaret Thatcher’s thoughtful comment is sound advice for Lewis County residents.

“To me, consensus seems to be the process of abandoning all beliefs, principles, values and policies. So it is something in which no one believes and to which no one objects.”

Ms. Thatcher’s comment begins with stipulation that consensus participants “abandon all beliefs.” This requirement is acknowledged in Professor Loorbach’s quote. Remember,

the Professor stated that “radical structural change” begins with “dismantling” the existing infrastructure in incremental steps - the precise method underway in the Hohenwald transition.

An “incremental” step.

One “incremental transitional” step toward “sustainable development” selected for the Hohenwald “transition” is “complementary currency.”<sup>8</sup> “Complementary currency,” a locally issued currency (media of exchange) is similar to the United States’ currency.

Lacking authority:

The local governments of Lewis County are not legally authorized to require residents to accept a locally-issued currency - that would be counterfeiting. The act of creating money out of thin air and forcing a debt holder to accept it as payment is a legal right reserved by the Federal government. It (paper currency) is money by governmental declaration – the act is commonly referred to as “fiat.”

Money, real money, is a simple concept. It is the storage media of the sweat of my brow. After supplying the daily requirements for myself and my family, I may store my excess labor in a media of exchange – money. The question arises - what substance has for the entire history of man been the appropriate storehouse for man’s labor?

Gold and Silver:

The Bible states in Genesis 13:1-3 that Abram was, by earthly accounts, a wealthy man. He owned considerable rolling stock (cattle) and had an abundance of gold and silver. All very important aspects of a worldly life – BUT the most important aspect referenced in these three verses is the fact that Abram was relocating. In Abram’s day he was free – not encumbered in any way – to sell – to dispose of - in a manner that he determined best suited his requirements, placing the value of those items in a substance universally accepted as money – gold and silver. Arriving at his destination (another country), he was free to draw any amount of stored wealth he deemed necessary to procure needed requirements.

This freedom enjoyed by Abram is today unrecognized in modern America. For if a citizen were to sell all that he owned, placing all of the proceeds on his person arriving at an airport with the intent to exit the country – well, need more be said?

Additionally:

It mattered not what emblem or likeness adorned the gold or silver. It was the purity of the metal that concerned the parties involved in the purchasing agreement. Printing a national emblem on a piece of paper and declaring it money does not, as the old saying goes, make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear. Paper currency is, in the end, a bogus storehouse of man’s labor.

The abyss:

As we begin the slide into the abyss of the dollar’s decline, a regionally-issued currency similar to the financial experiment underway in Lewis County, TN may have a perceived

value. The perceived value of a locally-issued currency will never attain the general acceptance equal to US currency. Why? Federal authority bears the full force of arms and taxation. Until local governments acquire this authority – generally referred to as “home rule,” general public acceptance will be voluntary and therefore sporadic.

The collapse of the dollar as a depository of wealth is on the horizon. Accepting a locally-issued currency as payment for goods and services, will only compound the agony associated with that catastrophe.

1. [http://www.sonnenscheingreentn.org/trans\\_initiative.html](http://www.sonnenscheingreentn.org/trans_initiative.html)
2. <http://www.transitiontowns.org/TransitionNetwork/TransitionCommunities>
3. <http://ejournal.nbii.gov/archives/vol3iss2/editorial.loorbach.pdf>
4. [ec.europa.eu/research/sd/conference/2009/papers/9/derk\\_loorbach\\_and\\_niki\\_frantzeskaki\\_-\\_transition\\_research.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/sd/conference/2009/papers/9/derk_loorbach_and_niki_frantzeskaki_-_transition_research.pdf)

See also

Sustainable Development – A Challenge for European Research – Winning papers May 26-28, 2009  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/sd/conference/2009/pdf/winning-papers.pdf>

4a. See the video of the Vice-Mayor Dustin Flowers proclaiming the town’s enthusiastic endorsement of “sustainable development.” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNVGo6ySNQc>

5. Center for Holistic Ecology, Gaia University, Solari, Inc., Ecovillage Training Center, Living Mandala, Global Village Institute, The Leadership School, Oklahoma Food Cooperative  
[http://www.financialpermaculture.com/Living\\_Mandala/Summit\\_Details.html](http://www.financialpermaculture.com/Living_Mandala/Summit_Details.html)

6. “Financial Permaculture is the conscious whole system design of human financial systems to create a zero waste economy that cares for the earth, the people and distributes surplus of material, currency and knowledge in a fair and equitable manner.” <http://www.financialpermaculture.org/definition/>

7. <http://www.vimeo.com/2936264>

8. <http://wholeco.blogspot.com/2009/02/in-hohenwald-we-trust.html>