

Every month since February 1987 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence.

The Olympia FOR's program airs several times every week for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV's schedule at www.tctv.net.

You can also watch the program described below (and more than 90 of our previous interview programs and special programs) at the Olympia FOR's website, www.olympiafor.org. Simply click the TV programs link to reach www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm, scroll down, and click the program you want to watch.

Many of our website's TV program listings also include a .pdf document describing the program.

APRIL 2012 "LOCAL ECONOMICS"

by GLEN ANDERSON, PRODUCER AND HOST OF THIS TV SERIES

For many of the topics we address – such as coping with peak oil and the climate crisis, opposing the global economic system that causes wars and oppresses people in poor countries, and strengthening democracy and human rights – we keep coming back to **one solution that pertains to all of these: creating a sustainable and humane local economy** so we can meet our needs with fewer resources, without damaging the rest of the world, and while strengthening our local community's resilience and democracy.

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's April 2012 TV program focuses on the local economy. We provide fresh ways to understand it, and some new resources and activities to support it. Most of the examples we discuss exist in Thurston County WA, but the general principles apply to any local community.

Our guests – Marie Poland, Sash Sunday, and John MacLean – work actively in various ways to support a healthy and sustainable local economy:

Everybody talks about the "global economy" and the "market economy," but those models – and mainstream economics overall – are deficient and problematic in many ways.

All of our natural resources are limited. We are probably at "Peak Oil," the point at which oil extraction must start declining because of hard geological and economic realities. The climate crisis means we must stop burning so much coal and oil. The national and global economies are crashing. All of these come together in a "perfect storm" that prevents us from returning to "business as usual" with a fantasy of endless "growth." Mother Nature is forcing us to run our economy very, very differently. A truly sustainable economy must be very local.

Now is the time to transition our local communities toward sustainability. The Transition Town Movement is working proactively to cope with the "perfect storm" of Peak Oil, the Climate Crisis, and Economic Collapse. (The Olympia FOR's August 2009 TV program focused on the Transition Town Movement. People can watch it at our website,

www.olympiafor.org). A sustainable local economy promotes and strengthens local human interactions.

The Occupy Movement focused on how the U.S. government and giant corporations perverted the economy to benefit the richest 1% at the expense of the 99%. Our TV guests are working toward a different kind of economy – one where ordinary local people matter.

Buying from local producers and locally owned retailers helps our economy especially because of what economists call “the economic multiplier.” One dollar spent at a corporate business leaves our community quickly, and only 6 cents remains. At a local chain store 80 cents leaves quickly and only 20 cents remains. But for each dollar spent with a truly local business, 60 cents continues circulating locally, employing and helping local people and strengthening our local community.

Olympia’s October 2011 Food Summit generated an Action Plan that could help our local community’s resilience regarding food.

The “Buy Local” program of Sustainable South Sound does great work and produces a savings book and directory featuring 164 local businesses, with contact info, operating hours, and many special discounts. See www.sustainablesouthsound.org.

People in Thurston County have a great opportunity right now to “buy local” in electricity. See the information about our May 2012 TV program.

All three of our guests participate in the Local Economics Study Group & Roundtable on the second Thursday of each month from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at 112 4th Avenue East Suite 206 in downtown Olympia.

They have been reading a fascinating and informative book by Charles Eisenstein, titled *Sacred Economics*. People can read it online at www.sacred-economics.com

Nowadays we face gigantic problems including peak oil, the climate crisis, a global economic system that causes wars, and an insensitive national economic system that oppresses people and shrinks our democracy here in the U.S. These problems are huge, and people feel powerless.

But for many of these problems, a good solution would be to create a sustainable and humane local economy so we can meet our needs with fewer resources, without damaging the rest of the world, and while strengthening our local community’s resilience and local economic democracy. Many solutions do exist at the local level. Cumulatively, they add up. We can indeed make our local communities more sustainable and more humane.