



EASY STEPS to a better world

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Our media keep us focused on irrelevancies. It's time to pay attention to what really needs to be done – what can quickly transform our lives and our world. Here's my list. What's yours?

- **End terrorism** – This can only happen by reducing the *causes* of terrorism. Start with our own government's actions. Then join together internationally to deal with the few fanatics that remain.
- **Achieve energy independence** – Our dependence on fossil fuels generates trade imbalances and wars to control oil. Solar and energy efficiency can reduce building and industrial energy use 90%, while saving money. We can reduce our oil need 90% in ten years. Keep our economy moving – but do it by producing things that make a *real* difference. High-speed trains, 100mpg cars, homes ten times as efficient as today's.
- **Achieve equitable material sustainability for the planet** - This is the only route to peace and progress. Along the way, it deals with global warming, peak oil, the causes of terrorism, and brings us back into balance with our values.
- **Get out of debt** – Foreign debts and unfair trade agreements are one of the root causes of international anger against our "global" culture. Getting out of debt at home individually, as businesses, and as a nation is the same as increasing our incomes by 20% – what we all pay for interest charges. Pledge that 20% to help the rest of the world.
- **Shift from corporate to compassionate democracy** - Restore the human basis of democracy, and structures focused on effectiveness rather than greed.
- **Require fair wages** - People are starving even in our own country. Double the minimum wage to a living wage, locally or nationally, and reduce government aid spending in the process. Tax the super-wealthy to restore economic equity. Equity, practical compassion, and social justice are the cornerstones of Muslim culture. Can't we do as much?
- **Establish fair trade** – "Free trade" is freedom only for the powerful to exploit the poor. It allows moving money and resources, but doesn't allow people to move where wages or living conditions are better.

- **Help people everywhere achieve local food self-sufficiency** – This is basic. Without it, people are forced into terms of trade they have no power to affect, and further impoverishment. With it comes power to determine their own lives, culture, and relationship with others.
- **Stop discounting the future** – If we want a positive future, we need to understand what comprises and generates that future, and take the steps to achieve it. An economics of wholeness, showing true costs and not discounting the future, can produce ten-fold improvement in our entire economy.
- **Share with others** – We have more than we need, more than is fair. Some of it can be shared with the rest of the world with no loss to ourselves. A videotaped college lecture can be shared worldwide by satellite and internet – giving the world free education. Stabilizing growth, improving equity, and reducing debt can maintain our present well-being with 80% less resources.
- **Stabilize our population, help others stabilize theirs** – Growth is the root source of many world problems. We now spend 33-40% of our national income to pay for growth. Think what a difference those resources could make in people's lives.
- **Acknowledge the energetic nature of our cosmos** - Plasma physics and qi energy hold profound transformations for our sciences and culture.
- **Restore values and the sacred to our lives and culture** – Start on the street. Every purchase we make is based on deceit. Prices that make us think we're paying less than we are, packaging that confuses and makes comparison difficult, hidden financing costs, manipulative advertising. Honest and helpful pricing can restore respect to our transactions, and thus to our relationships.
- **Find the most wonderful dreams and goals for our lives, for humanity, and for our planet** – Our deepest goals are rarely material or economic. They include love and being loved, feeling of value to others, knowing we have something to contribute. They embrace friendship, peace, security, health, well-being, adventure, joy, passion and spirit. They encompass meaningfulness and purpose of our life; growth, fullness, and experience; successful meeting of challenges; knowledge and expansion of our own capabilities. It's time to remember and embrace those goals – for our entire global family. They can change the world.

It's time to move beyond a culture that generates fear and terrorism – which arise most often from a history of true injustice. Our path begins by putting people before profit, caring before greed; and justice, equity and compassion before all else.