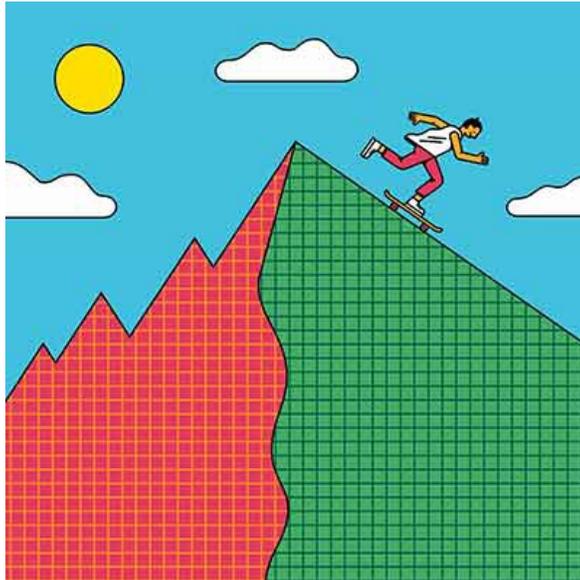


Greetings!

Prosperity without Growth



How can we continue to "grow" on a finite planet?!

Do we stick with maximizing profits and continued growth? Or do we put the wellbeing of people and the Earth as our highest priority, and make policy and decisions accordingly?

It's past time we questioned our dedication to *grow the economy* when it is clearly the cause of current social and environmental crises and distress.

"Our social and environmental problems cannot be solved without changing the economy." (Watch [The Economics of Happiness](#), a 19 min. film by Local Futures.) Our current economic system generates gross inequity in the accessibility of basic needs and it creates massive destruction of our life support system, the Earth!

Below I have highlighted some of the creative thinking and action that is going on right now to address these crises. The illustration above is from the *New Yorker* article, ["Can We Have Prosperity Without Growth?"](#)



Stories, insights and action for a world that works for all of us

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Justice is what love looks like in public.

Cornel West

~ ~ ~

Favorite Resources

[Yes! magazine](#)

[The Optimist Daily](#)

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality](#)

[Project](#)

[The Small Planet](#)

[Institute](#)

[Local Futures](#)

[Network of Spiritual](#)

[Progressives](#)

[Desert Rose Press](#)

[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

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[Future Crunch](#)

Is it Time to Live Better with Less? What's Degrowth?

A Guide to Degrowth

[This article and the 6 minute film](#) present a clear, graphic



explanation of why and how we can, and must, create a new economic system that supports people and the planet.

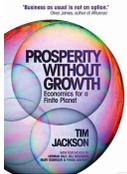
“As a society, we are so locked into the ideology of growth that it becomes almost impossible for anyone to question it. Growthism has a kind of totalitarian

character, to the point of precluding critical thought. . . . Huge chunks of our economy are totally irrelevant to human wellbeing. We must ask ourselves; do we really want to pursue aggregate growth if it’s going to put our planet — and our civilization — at such extraordinary risk? We need to be smarter than that. “ Jason Hickel, an economic anthropologist and senior lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London. ([Watch this 12 min. video.](#) He is particularly good at giving examples of which elements of our current economic system are harmful and what alternatives we have to restore environmental health, social equity, and wellbeing to all humans.)

"Something that the people who dismiss degrowth don't take into account is that economic growth is just not viable as a mechanism for future prosperity. In fact, it is associated with future cataclysm." Julia Steinberger, Ecological Economist

Put simply, degrowth is “a planned yet adaptive, sustainable, and equitable downscaling of the economy, leading to a future where we can live better with less.” Degrowth does not mean ‘shrinking’ all areas of human life or of the economy. It allows for the creation of *more of what we need*, and *less* useless material goods and toil.

Read "[A Call from Scotland to Embrace Degrowth Thinking.](#)"



Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet, by Tim Jackson, a book review

Prosperity is understood as a successful, flourishing or thriving condition: simply, a state in which things are going well for us. Every day the system in which we live tries to persuade us – via TV news, politicians'

speeches, corporate pronouncements, inducements to consume and so on – that our prosperity is intimately linked to whether or not gross national product is growing and whether stock markets are riding high. These are the two main measuring sticks for the version of capitalism on which most countries base their economies today. Jackson says. "There are many and varied opportunities for achieving a lasting prosperity, and most of them – unsurprisingly – start from the grassroots. High on the list is the need for us all to consume less "stuff" and to seek a type of prosperity outside the conventional trappings of affluence: within relationships, family, community and the meaning of our lives and vocations in a functional society that places value on the future."



Why the Economy Should Stop Growing and Grow Up

How do we grow the economy? is an obsolete question. The questions relevant to this moment in history are “How do we navigate the step to a mature economy that meets the needs of all within the limits of a finite living Earth?” How do we rebuild the strength and power of living communities? How do we create a culture of mutual caring and responsibility? How do we assure that the legal rights of people and communities take priority over those of government-created artificial persons called corporations? [Read David Korten's insightful article here.](#)



Pakistan's Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Plantation Project is well underway

The first 1.5 bn trees will be planted by the end of 2021, Over 200,000 jobs have

been generated by this program, which is only a part of Pakistan's green vision plan. [Read the article here.](#)



California passes 5 laws to fight the plastic crisis

The bills are designed to create a more circular

economy and reduce plastic waste. "The most problematic idea is that we can recycle or compost our way out of the problem — more specifically that we can manage the waste properly once it's created... What we need to do is tackle the ever-growing amount of waste being generated in the first place — that is, turn off the tap. Transition from single-use to reusable as much as possible and reduce the unnecessary stuff." [Read here.](#)



France to ban plastic packaging of most fruits and veggies by 2022

"We use an outrageous amount of single-use plastic in our daily lives. The circular

economy law aims at cutting back the use of throwaway plastic and boost its substitution by other materials or reusable and recyclable packaging," [Here's the article.](#)



What Can I do?

[Local Futures](#) has put together a comprehensive and accessible list of 146 actions to build a better world that works for all of us. Actions are broken down into themes (Food, Business, Finance, Energy, Consumption, Community) and actors (Individual, Community Groups, Governments, Businesses, Institutions.)

"Solving our current crises requires actions that resist the drivers of social and ecological destruction, and those that renew local cultures, communities and economies. Let's take action at a personal and community level and build a movement powerful enough to turn the tide."

Explore and act!

Alternative Online Marketplaces

Some feature organic, sustainable or package-free gifts and products. One is a certified B Corporation. [Here's the list of 11 alternatives to Amazon.](#)

Wisdom for Our Time



An Interview with Jane Goodall: "Why I have hope"

"Hope is often misunderstood. People tend to think that it is simply passive wishful thinking: I hope something will happen, but I'm not going to do anything about it. This is indeed the opposite of real hope, which requires action and engagement.

"I have four main reasons to feel hopeful about the future of our world: the amazing human intellect, the resilience of nature, the power of young people, and the indomitable human spirit.

"Hope is nothing less than a crucial survival trait that has sustained our species since the time of our Stone Age ancestors. Certainly, my own improbable journey would have been impossible had I lacked hope." [Here's the full interview.](#)

Amazing Trees / Enchanting Music



My Column
More thoughts on



A magical presentation to begin a magical month

Wishing everyone a lovely holiday season

Virginia / Gibi

Change or Business as Usual?

And thanks to all who
have contributed to
this newsletter over
the past year!

