

Towards SD for the SE : challenges and opportunities

Presentation for SEFS AGM

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The presentation

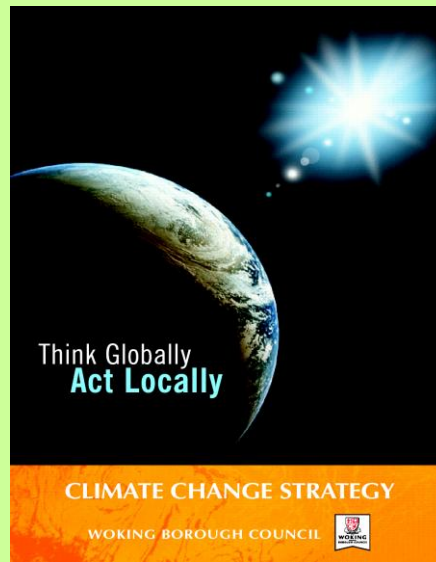
1 The scale of the challenges for the SE

2 Policy context

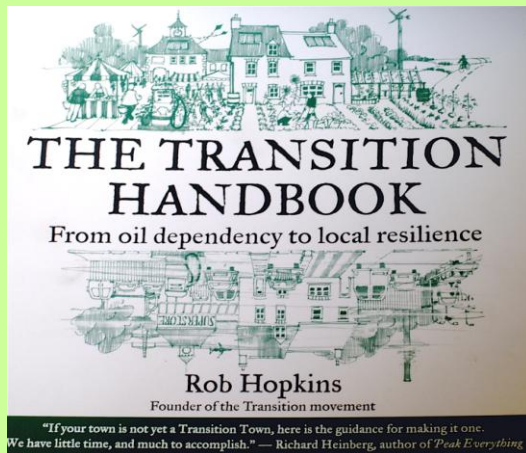
3 Strategic opportunities for the region



Source: Still Pictures



Source: National Geographic



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Towards *genuine* SD?

- Sustainable development... or sustainable biosphere?
Problem of the primacy of the Growth Economy
- Sustainable prosperity, smart growth - still high carbon and eco-footprints
- Climate action = SD? Need to raise profile and understanding re biodiversity, habitat loss, ecosystems
- Big issues:
 - **Copenhagen effect: risk of 2010 depression**
 - **Peaking of GHGs by 2020**
 - **Public finances, recession**
 - **Public understanding, motivation, incentives**
 - **Behaviour, values, norms, frugality**

Scale of challenges

- Regional Economic Strategy aims for average increase in GVA per head of at least 3% pa to 2016
- RES also aims for 'Smart Growth' and 'Sustainable Prosperity'
- **So far we have relied on recessions to reduce the ecological impact of SE economy**
- Ecological Footprint is still growing...as are CO2 emissions...
- Aim is to reduce rate of increase and stabilise the footprint by 2016
- **BUT...**
- **We need to achieve 2020 targets for CO2 cuts and use of renewables - and get on to transition path for 2050 low-carbon economy**

Scale of challenges

- ***Where do we stand in 2009?***
- **Green light:** GVA per tonne of waste
- **Amber light:** water consumption and waste reduction
- **Red lights for progress on:**
 - Ecological Footprint
 - Climate change
 - Energy decarbonisation
- **No 'De-Coupling'**



Photo: Lorraine Worpole

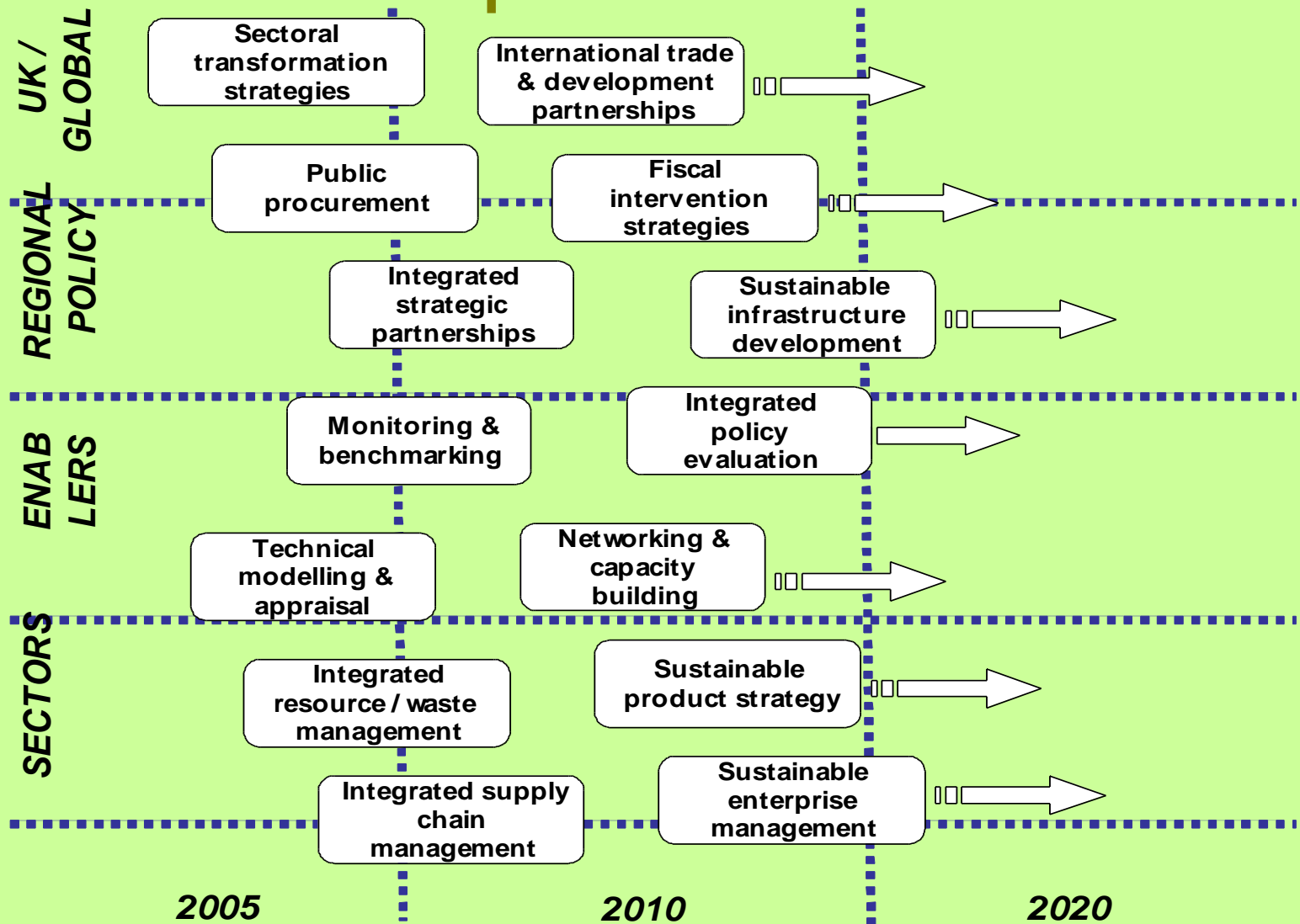
Scale of challenges

- See the SEI / CAG Ecological Footprint study for SE region (2008)
- Route-Map for a sustainable region
- What is needed? Examples...
- **Transport:** radical action in face of BAU projection to 2016 of 21% rise in contribution to Ecological Footprint
- **Goods and services:** big gains in resource efficiency and shifts in consumption - projected 22% rise in EF contribution by 2016 under BAU

Scale of challenges

- **Transformational programme** needed to meet the demands of the Ecological Footprint Route-Map, the RES and new Government strategic goals and targets
- **Transformational scenario** in Footprint Analysis includes:
 - **All new homes to Code Level 6 by 2016**
 - **All houses retrofitted by 2025**
 - **20% by 2020 - decarbonised electricity**
 - **Stabilise rise in car use by 2016**
 - **Every individual targeted with 'smarter choices' for travel by 2016**

Scale of challenges: the Route-Map to SD for SE



Scale of challenges

- **Target audiences and ‘co-producers’ for transformative programme and projects :**
- **8 ‘Diamond’ sub-regions for Investment and Growth**
- **74 local authorities and LSPs**
- **3.5 million households**

Policy context

- **Copenhagen process**
- **UK Government: Low Carbon Transition strategy**
- **Carbon Reduction Commitment**
- **Cross-party convergence re climate**
- **Deep recession and impact on investment - eg fall in housebuilding**
- **Risk of lack of capacity and skills for Green investment in recovery**
- **Uncertainty about regional framework and institutions**

Policy context

- **Sub-national Review** and establishment of the **IPC**
- What will survive the **2010 Election**?
- How will **IPC** work with SEEDA, LAs, citizens' groups, SD toolkits, carbon budgets, political pressures?
- **Land use** as flashpoint and focus for new dialogues in SE:
 - current and future contests for land between housing, energy infrastructure, food, leisure, wildlife, CO2 storage, biofuels, business

Opportunities and needs in the emerging policy context

- Life beyond regionalism: focus on local governance, city-regions, community networks and alliances, CRC action
- Greening the Cuts: richer visions and measures of efficiency, service redesign
- Virtue of necessity: constraints on agencies and need for collaborations
- Behaviour and value change: EA, NE
- Copenhagen effect: faith communities
- Need for positive stories of SD futures

Strategic opportunities

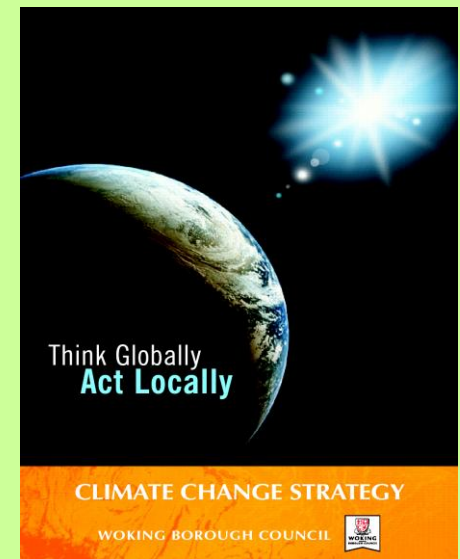
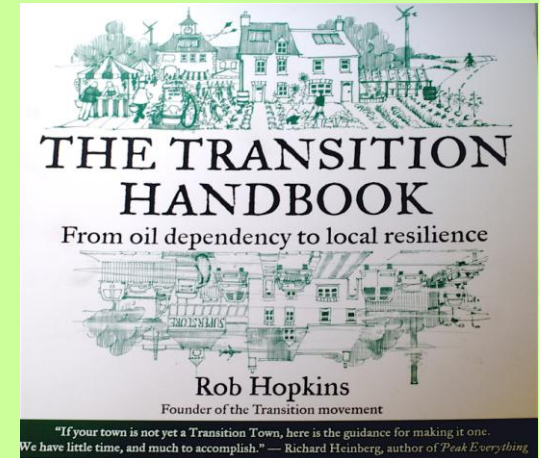
- Barbara Hammond - Feb. 2009 presentation for SEEDA on Green paths out of recession:
- **SE Businesses could save £ 871m pa in energy, water & waste: > £2000 p.a. for every VAT-registered business in the SE**
- **Global growth in demand for Green innovation, goods and services**
- **Around 200 or 7% of communities in the South East are active on green issues :**
 - 34 Transition towns
 - 87 Greening Campaigns
 - 50 Low carbon communities
 - 8 Energy Saving Trust pilots

Strategic opportunities

- **SE University and R&D excellence - a few examples:**
- **Oxford** - ECI, Smith School, energy, ecology, etc
- **Oxford Brookes** - SEA, EIA, spatial planning
- **Reading** - food, farming, land use
- **Kent** - Durrell Inst. of Conservation Ecology; planned Sustainability Institute for Medway
- **Surrey** - Tim Jackson and Centre for Environmental Strategy: Sustainable Development economics and metrics, clean production systems, LCA
- **University of the Arts** - Martin Charter at Farnham: sustainable product design

Strategic opportunities

- **Low Carbon Transition: pursue funding for pilot communities, towns and cities**
- **Local authorities and CRC/CAA incentives**
- **Where next for 'Low Carbon Economic Area' after Cornwall?**
- **SE as powerhouse for SD r&d: universities, Thames Estuary Eco-Region, renewables**
- **Impact of recession: search for resource efficiency, new business models, awareness of transport and energy costs, more people and organisations seeking alternatives**



Checklist

- **Get ready for probable sharp move away from regionalism and SNR agenda**
- **Green the Cuts**
- **Positive images and visions of a sustainable future for SE places**
- **Behaviour change needs powerful forces for *community*-level action: explore scope for alliance with Faiths**