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## EDITORIAL

### Let Them Eat Cars

The ice is melting ever faster; China and India are set on becoming America as fast as possible; Australia still seems lost in a dream of lawns and sprinklers as salination marches inland and the Murray River system teeters on the edge of collapse.

What can we do - well, all those plastic bags are bad you know and we must stop leaving the computer on standby while we are holidaying abroad. Seriously though, the basic thrust of government policy seems to be how can we find sort of greenish ways to sustain the present economic and social lifestyle and population density that has created this problem. The age of oil draws to an end after about 250 years. It replaced the age of wood which sustained us while we were in the trees and for millennia afterwards. We forget our current global civilization is exceptionally fragile and unsustainable in the long term (although a century is hardly long term and that itself is seeming optimistic as the evidence mounts day by day).

What should we and the government be doing? Planning and organizing now for a post-oil way of life. Serious far-reaching change is inevitable with irreversible tipping points not far off. What we need, to quote Duncan Law, is "a tipping point in consciousness". One of the few people who has attempted to confront, accept and take action on a large scale is Rob Cook and his Energy Descent Pathways Programme. Have a look at [www.transitionculture.org](http://www.transitionculture.org) there is also a link to Duncan Law's YouTube film, *Another End of the World is Possible*. Also [www.energyBulletin.net](http://www.energyBulletin.net) for the latest round-the-world digests and references.

Interestingly enough, the Lib Dems' policy document is the only publication by a major political party that really seems to have engaged with the realities of the situation. [www.libdems.org.uk/media/documents/policies/zerocarbon.pdf](http://www.libdems.org.uk/media/documents/policies/zerocarbon.pdf)

So what can we do - read, learn, organize, act, share - I'd like to hear from members what they are thinking and doing about all this. Coming back to Martin Spray and the polar bears - I honestly think it is too late for the bears - I hope I'm wrong. Their summer ice, it seems, will soon be a thing of the past, making food-finding almost impossible. Recently Jeremy Clarkson was seen on TV triumphantly conquering polar wastes in a four-wheel drive. Oh well then - Let Them Eat Cars!

Jeff Higley