

Our Renewable Future: Communities and Infrastructure in a 100% Renewable

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

Speakers: Alicia Daniels Uhlig (International Living Future Institute), Hillary Brown, FAIA (City College of New York Spitzer School of Architecture), Warren Karlenzig (Common Current), Daniel Lerch (Post Carbon Institute)

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Our Renewable Future_2	Read Speaker bios here: http://ourrenewablefuture.org/the-future/#future-buildings-communities
Our Renewable Future_2	More on Hillary's work: http://www.postcarbon.org/our-people/hillary-brown/
Pamela	I would like to see LBC be more open to participation without needing to conform to (and pay for) existing categories.
Jim	100% renewable energy requires existing fossil fuel utilities to completely change their business model. They become energy managers rather than energy generators. They either create utility scale solar or buy from homeowner rooftops, or a combination. What can be done to foster this new type of model.
Our Renewable Future_2	More on Warren's work: http://www.postcarbon.org/our-people/warren-karlenzig/
Our Renewable Future_2	More on Alicia's work: http://living-future.org/alicia-daniels-uhlig
Ivan	Any comments about the need for a reversal of urbanisation in the long term and shouldn't all planning be targeted for long term steady state settlements?
Pamela	If, as we face the challenges of adapting to more efficient whole systems, these concerns have to be more important than making money. Even our expectations of personal income is generally anchored to an economic paradigm that needs to change.
Paul	Any comments on electrification of our highways for freight trucking?
Pamela	We need social/economic vehicles for co-creation.
Staci	How can states and local governments largely dependent on oil and gas revenues (GRT, royalties, leases, etc) shift their economies without massive disruption in a 100% RE scenario? ie. About one-third of New Mexico's general fund revenues come from oil and gas revenues. This year, the state came up short in revenues due to decline in oil and gas prices. Loss of revenue is impacting health care, education and social programs.
Eric	Q for Warren (and open to others). I'm a transportation planner and often run into people who are highly enthusiastic about technologies that are not yet available on a large scale. An example of this is battery only buses, which are promising but still in the pilot project stage and never yet used in bus rapid transit. People often resistant to proven technology like trolley buses. (see http://www.vancouverobserver.com/politics/commentary/humble-trolley-bus-reborn-climate-superhero?) How do we get past the desire to test the latest bling, and implement renewable tech that works NOW
Bharat Singh	Are there any examples of successful decentralized electricity grids designed as plug and play for small/medium scale renewable energy producers
Our Renewable Future_2	Some reading about transportation systems and current energy inputs: http://ourrenewablefuture.org/the-present/#present-transportation

Jerome	I am enjoying this presentation, thank you all.
Betty	I worry about the cost and the use of raw materials for electrification of highways and how to protect such a system from the wear and tear on such surfaces over time.. Wouldn't it be best to focus on efficiencies and higher performing infrastructure without having to totally replace structures.... think of raw materials... and expenses of such actions?
Pamela	How do we promote the values of innovation over revenue? Change is disruptive--creativity is disruptive. It also rewarding when participation is purposeful.
Ivan	Shouldn't current resources and investment be diverted to promote a reversal of urbanisation than attempting to support what may prove to be unsustainable cities ? www.ivanjohnstone.com/sustainability/
Our Renewable Future_2	http://living-future.org/ambassador
Our Renewable Future_2	We will send a recording and a chat transcript to everyone who registered
Betty	thank you.
Anis	Thanks for the recording I missed out the first 20 mins of the conversation
scott	Hi - great webinar, on APA, see also: https://apascd.wordpress.com/webinar-archives/APA-SCD Webinar # July 15, "Regenerative Urbanism Rising: Next-Generation Practice" YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJ9179bl7fc , PDF, http://www.ohioplanning.org/aws/APAOH/asset_manager/get_file/132050?ver=65
Lionel	We have to understand that it's not a choice between living nice or big corporations making money - we need both. We need an economic system that functions to provide employment, which enables each of us to participate in the production of the vast array of interconnected services that enable our society to operate. The biggest challenge we face is to develop an economic system that is able to function in a world of intermittent energy sources and the vast investment in infrastructure to make that operate. How do we enable that investment?
Vaidila	Any thoughts for city zoning regulations to move the renewable needle at a municipal level?
Russell	I just want to thank the panelists for some interesting thoughts today - some good concepts to consider - as what discharge water/emission from one building might have usage at a nearby facility. Just an observation the questions from the "audience" took longer to roll in today. But that's OK. Anybody can comment readily on consumerism or raising food - everyone has experienced that. But these are some new concepts for people to reflect on. Well done.
Craig	What about the price signals which undermine conservation? Like high basic charges and cooperatives are worse...
Our Renewable Future_2	Thanks Russell!
Eric	No mention of trolley bus as used today in Seattle, San Francisco and Vancouver in http://ourrenewablefuture.org/the-present/#present-transportation . . . most people don't know that almost all electric buses operating today are trolley buses. And if you don't know about a technology you can't choose for your community.
Josue	Thanks. Is there information on coastal communities and issues with rising sea levels with trying to benefit from this with RE
Pamela	Top down economics need to be responsive to innovation--not natural for mega-structures.

scott	true, but sunk costs should not prevent moving in the direction we need at the speed we need, especially if we're moving to zero carbon regenerative ecological economy. the need to get off carbon ASAP is an imperative that could override the sunk costs.
Craig	social acceptance of a significantly reduced lifestyle....will be the Achilles heal of change.
Pamela	Diverse and eclectic like nature.
Betty	How about along busy highways having smaller wind turbines that might be run by the air movement created by the cars moving...
Betty	can't wind turbines be used to generate energy from the turbulence created by moving vehicles?
Lionel	Top down economics is an absolute necessity for a society to function - we can live in a world where we are ALL reliant on an economic system that continues to function as a macro system . We cannot all live happily ever after if we grow our own veggies and generate our own power - we need the services provided by the interconnected economy. Top down economics is highly responsive to innovation - it's just that the innovator has to make money in order to attract investment.
David	Solar Sal, a 40 foot solar electric boat, took 4 tons of card board the length of the Erie Canal to recycle as paper at Mechanicville, on the Hudson River, to demonstrate practical solar electric marine propulsion.
scott	Good point Warren. Especially if we realize that nature is the ultimate technology (a la Bucky) and that shifting biomimicry (design) to bio"systems"mimicry is the next step and basis for the regenerative, ecological econ that we need as the material basis for sustainable cities, regions, and society in the biosphere!.
Betty	What is being done regarding building that covers the earth with impervious surfaces that prevent water from soaking into the soil, and what about planning for buildings that allow for space for growing food?
Steve	Reducing our reliance on petroleum depends on shifts in behavior more than on technology; how do we get more people to fly less?
Pamela	Abundance of creativity
Jerome	Great presentation, thank you and have an awesome day.
Anis	Thanks a lot. Great info.