

Transition Cambridge
Vision for 2030
(Draft)



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Introduction

The Transition movement is all about building strong, sustainable, and resilient communities which gradually move away from using fossil fuels. Transition Cambridge is committed to making Cambridge a more sustainable city, and one which relies less heavily on heavily fossil fuels. In the process we want to make the city a more enjoyable place to live. We want to build stronger, more intimate communities based around sharing, where people have a sense of belonging and purpose. The steps we take today are crucial to changing Cambridge in the future. A small project started today, has the potential to spread around the city, and beyond, given the right strategy and the hard work and dedication from Transitioners.

An Energy Decent Action Plan (EDAP) is a process in Transition wherein we create a strategy for moving our communities away from dependence on fossil fuels. This plan is then used to guide and inspire Transition projects along the way. As each community is unique, each EDAP will be unique, and are many ways to construct an EDAP.

Central to the EDAP process is having a vision of the end goal. In order to make plans to bring about the changes we want to see in the world, it is vital that we have a clear vision of what we hope the future will look like. Therefore a crucial component of an EDAP is a vision of where we want it to take us. This document is that vision.

The visioning process also provides Transition Cambridge with ideas on new projects which we can explore to work towards our vision. If we want more public orchards for example, what steps do we need to take to make this happen? Throughout the document we touch on some of these strategies, however we have endeavoured to keep the majority of the content fixed on vision. So while we suggest that a good way to encourage a greater number of public gardens and public foraging spaces would be to get a city policy to plant food-producing plants in public spaces, we do not explore or elaborate on the steps which would be required to see this policy implemented.

Through visioning we can let our imaginations wander, to explore possibilities and invent our wildest wishes. The visioning process has uncovered a treasure trove of project, ideas, and concepts, which Transition Cambridge could use as springboards for deeper plans and strategies.

The Method and Process

As we have noted, the goal of the visioning process was to catch a glimpse of the future as we would like it to be. We wanted to focus on a future which was close enough to be realized in our lifetimes, but not too close so that our visions were clouded by short-term practicalities. As a result the year 2030 was chosen. Participants were asked, through various exercises conducted by our excellent facilitators, to imagine Cambridge in 2030, a Cambridge which had successfully transitioned away from fossil fuel dependence.

Central to this process and to gather as rich a data set as possible, we sought to maximize participation in the process itself. We arranged and conducted two meetings to allow a range of people to participate. Meetings were conducted by trained moderators who helped moderate discussion, facilitating the contribution from all those who attended.

The Visioning Document

The benefit of this document goes beyond simply facilitating the creation of an EDAP. Throughout the visioning process we had the opportunity to explore multiple visions of the future. Sometimes we discussed technical issues, looked into the practical application of ideas, and sometime we wandered into the realm of fantasy. The visioning process serves as a useful way to take measure of where our local Transition movement is, what we are doing, and where we want to go. We found that we often identified things we are already doing, and then explored how we could do them better, on a larger scale, or what was the next step after their successful conclusion.

One thing that we found when compiling this document, as well as when discussing various items and trying to categorize our thoughts, was the inter-related nature of many of the things we were discussing. Take locally grown food for example; while this obviously related to food, it also has a strong community aspect (with people collaborating to grow food in their communities), as well relating to energy (locally grown food is less energy intensive than imported food). This presented a challenge to writing up the final document. Therefore we have categorised visions into chapters which most related to them and have drawn attention to their relationship with other areas as well. And so while locally grown food is primarily discussed in the Food chapter, we have also drawn attention to it elsewhere.

We also had several themes which transcended categorization. A few of the messages which we drew from the vision overall were:

- Local if possible, global if necessary.
- The need to build strong and resilient communities.
- The importance of building and nurturing connections between individuals and between individuals and their community.
- And the overall need to remain positive and face the future with optimism.

Introduction

Through the visioning process we were also happy to learn that we are currently doing many of the things which people saw in their visions. Throughout the document we have tried to highlight some examples of the many great things Transition Cambridge is currently doing.

Overall, we found the process inspiring, and at times just a little adventurous. Too often we spend time worrying about the projects which we are currently working on, without taking pause and visualizing what we are working towards. We hope that this document will inspire Transitioners to work hard, improve and expand ongoing projects, start new initiatives and most of all continue to work together towards achieving our vision of the future.

Creating a sustainable local food system in Cambridge will undoubtedly be a patchwork of many different approaches. Our visions related to food are split up into sections related to production, processing and distribution.

Producing at the level of the Individual

- **Allotments can be used to grow food at a larger scale.** We have only begun to tap into the huge potential afforded by allotments. We can investigate how many allotments Cambridge could accommodate, and how much food allotments could contribute to the local food system.
- **Personal/home gardens can be used to grow food.** Conversion of front and back gardens to grow food can be another important source of local food.

Producing on a Community/City Level

Aside from gardens accessed by individuals (allotments and private gardens), there are a number of strategies to produce food in community settings within Cambridge are possible.

- **Community orchards provide fruit/nuts.** The Trumpington and Midsummer Common Orchards are current examples. There is huge potential to expand the number of community orchards, and also to diversify existing ones.
- **Community gardens build community.** Shared gardens are good for growing food, but also for building community and may be some people's first point of entry into growing food. They also provide community gathering places, seeds for the neighbourhood, and community resources which would be impractical for individuals to maintain within their own growing spaces, such as a community polytunnel or greenhouse. Transition Cambridge helped to start the Romsey Town Community Garden and St. Regis Community Garden, for example. There is ample potential for many more community gardens to be started across the city.
- **Food gardens can be planted where roads or parking spaces used to be.** We expect and hope that there will be fewer cars in 2030. Currently a considerable amount of space within the city is allotted to parking vehicles. With fewer cars these spaces can be put to other uses. They can be converted into small gardens, either through removal of concrete/asphalt and/or through the use of raised beds. Transforming streets into gardens can make streets safer places for children to play, and having gardens in the front of houses makes them more public and gardening more social than plots in back gardens behind walls and fences.
School gardens can be planted. These will be places where the children help to grow their own food and prepare their own lunches. These types of projects afford additional benefits and opportunities, including employment or a voluntary opportunity for taking care of the gardens during school holidays, opportunities for children to learn how to harvest and preserve food items, as well as to build community and a sense of responsibility in taking turns to prepare communal lunches for classmates. Gardens and growing projects can be incorporated into school curricula, which encourages students to spend more time outdoors and more time doing hands on learning.

Food

- **More co-ops (including chicken co-ops) can be created.** These are an excellent model for sharing the responsibility of food production as well as the results. Members of a cooperative take turns at tasks, such as taking care of chickens for a share of the eggs. Trumpington Allotments already has a chicken co-op that provides a good model for other communities.
- **More city farms and market gardens can be created.** These are likely to be present in 2030 and will play an important role in supplying local food. The number of city farms or market gardens Cambridge could support or will need in the future has not been explored. Nor has consideration been given to what size they will be, where they would be located or what in particular they might produce. This provides a great deal of opportunity for future Transition Cambridge projects.
- **More herbs, berries and fruit trees could be planted in public spaces.** These will offer foraging opportunities all over the city. Transition Cambridge's free fruit map offers a reference for locating current fruit and nut sources in public spaces, and Growing Spaces is currently expanding these opportunities. There is great potential for edible landscaping in public spaces and the expansion of existing Transition Cambridge projects.

Processing

- **Locally grown food can be processed locally.** If we re-localize food production, then basic food processing is will also need to re-localized wherever possible. This will further lower the carbon footprint of local foods, but also create local jobs and a broader range of foods from local growing projects. For example, milling wheat for flour could be done with minimal energy by utilising a water powered mill like the one at Anglesey Abbey. The range of products from a local community orchard can be increased by such things as brewing cider or making pies locally.
- **If new processing facilities are built, they should be positioned for optimal transport options.** Processing facilities should be built to take advantage of existing green transport methods. For example facilities along canals so that goods can be transported by boat, or along bike routes for easy access by employees and community members.

Distribution

Distributing locally grown food, whether from allotments, a city farm, or brought in from local small holdings and the surrounding region, is an integral part of a sustainable food system.

- **The Central Market Square** will continue to be an important market for the city, but by 2030 we would like to see more goods that are locally produced, including food, and on all days of the week, not just on Sundays. One way to encourage this would be for the City Council to give preference or a reduced rate to stall holders meeting these conditions.
- **Smaller dedicated markets can be established and promoted in Cambridge communities.** Local markets are important, as they provide access to local food, within walking or cycling distance of people. Markets can also serve as trading posts when residents have gluts of home grown produce and preserves, and serve as community hubs, fostering social connections. There is a great deal of work that can be achieved by Transition Cambridge in encouraging community markets for locally produced food and other goods.

- **Local markets can also be encouraged in surrounding villages** (or Cambridge communities as they may be in 2030). This will avoid unnecessary trips into Cambridge for village residents, and also strengthen local growing projects and communities in villages. The farmer's market organised by Fulbourn Forum is a great example of this happening today.
- **Veg boxes can be delivered within the city by cycle.** Cycles can also be used for the transport of products such as eggs produced at a city farm or fruit produced by a market garden, and then delivered to local markets or farm shops. Producing the food close to the point where it is to be sold makes transport by cargo bicycle possible.
- **Sharing and trading preserved and fresh food can be facilitated by online systems,** using already existing systems such as Lurish, or by in-person exchanges at community markets. Sharing amongst neighbours and at community meals is also likely to be common with more people producing their own food.

Preparing and Consuming Food

- **There will be more communal meals** and sharing our food will be more commonplace.
- **Slow food will be more common.** As one Transitioner put it, "slow food for conviviality." Slow meals will encourage good nutrition, the important social aspect of meals, and the appreciation of the food itself.
- **There will be less processing in our food.** Excessive food processing takes energy and additives. Depending more on locally produced food means a diet with more fruits and vegetables, more cooking from scratch, cooking seasonally and more cooking skills. It also means healthier diets and healthier people.
- **More solar cookers will be used.** These can be used for cooking in summer, and haybox cookers could be used to conserve energy as well.
- **Traditional food preserving will be important.** Preserving food will be as important as growing our food locally, as this ensures a year-round supply. We can use a wide variety of techniques to do so, including making jams and chutneys, smoking, drying, and possibly canning. We expect there to be a local trade of preserved food and that will offer new opportunities for employment and livelihoods.

Trends and Behavioural Choices

- **Avoiding exotic and foods which can only be imported,** is important. We could work to replace these energy intensive products with local varieties that could fill the same niche. For example local barley instead of imported rice. Of course we will still eat some imported food, especially items like coffee and tea, but the idea is for non-local food to make up a small part of our diets, rather than the majority.
- **Less meat in our diets.** Meat is energy and water intensive and takes up considerable resources and space. It isn't feasible to produce the huge amounts of meat currently consumed on a local scale.

Food

Wider Food System

- **We can depend more small holdings** within the region and the UK in general and less on industrial scale farms.
- **We can rely on Crop Sharing** or Community Supported Agriculture schemes, to help make small farms work while getting the consumer involved in the food production process. Transition Cambridge's Crop Share project entered its second year in 2012.

At the heart of Transition are strong, resilient communities. So many ideas discussed in our vision depend on community: food production within the community, local shops, and sharing resources amongst our neighbours, for example.

This presents a bit of a chicken and egg situation: do you build a strong community which gives you a good system, or a good system which gives you a strong community? It's probably a bit of both. Here we describe the aspects which we feel would lead to, and be a result of, strong communities.

Characteristics of Strong Communities

- **Communities are inclusive**, and each person contributes something to the community and is made to feel as though they belong.
- **There are many interactions between people in the community.** People care for each other, they know their neighbours. This is important for sharing things, such as growing spaces, but also for general wellbeing.
- **In strong communities people invest in personal relationships.** Communities are built on interpersonal connections, the stronger these connections, the stronger, more resilient the community.
- **Co-housing** allows us to create a strong sense of community. Affordable housing also has the effect of reducing the strain that expensive rent or mortgages put on people, which have a tendency to reduce their involvement in the community.
- **Children will be able to play in the streets**, indicating lower levels of vehicle traffic within communities. This encourages children to get outside and be healthy, and to build connections with neighbours.
- **Community facilities**, such as laundry facilities, orchards, gardens, and places to take meals will allow us to build those important interactions while sharing resources.
- **People are equal in each other's minds and valued.** A community which values people for who they are, rather than how much they make.
- **People are working actively at all ages** in inter-age, multigenerational communities. Communities made up of multiple generations allow people of all ages to become active parts in projects and in the community in general. Involving seniors in community projects, such as volunteering in school growing projects, is an important way to help support these projects and to share the experience and wisdom of elders with different generations. This would help build respect for seniors and create stronger communities.

Ways of thinking or values that would build and be present in strong communities.

- **Channelling frustration** with the status quo into involvement with the community. Channelling energy into constructive projects which seek to address the initial source of frustration.
- **Have positive role models** who are actively engaged in the community. Young people especially need local role models who are locals and involved in the community. Projects such as mentoring programs can encourage this, but also things such as multi-generational activities expose young people to a wider range of potential role models.

Community

- **Positively engage with at risk members of the community.** We might use the **Circle of Courage** idea/philosophy to build community. The Circle of Courage is a model for youth empowerment developed for at risk youth in communities. Using North American First Nations symbolism and language this model seeks to foster four core values: belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. The central theme of this model is that a set of shared values must exist in any community to create environments that ultimately benefit all.
- **Valuing elders and ancestors.** Creating projects in such a way as to facilitate the transmission of wisdom from elders within the community, for example multi-generational education programs.
- **Creating a feeling of belonging within communities.** Feelings of belonging can be fostered in newcomers and outsiders through rites of passage and community events.
- **Thinking of volunteering as a duty to the community.** Encouraging volunteering for all ages and making volunteering the norm.
- **Technology can be used to network and create inclusion,** rather than separation. Local digital networks can be used to coordinate shared resources, for example online checkouts for tool libraries.
- **Investing more time and energy in building relationships.** Strong relationships do not happen overnight
- **Making connections to the land.** Local growing food projects, education programs increasing knowledge of the local ecosystem, and simply encouraging children to play outdoors help foster stronger connections to the land.

Events for Stronger Community Ties

Community events are one way to build community through shared experiences and the opportunity to interact with one's neighbours. The following are suggestions for a few types of events and activities to foster ties within a community, but the list is not exhaustive:

- **Community theatres and localised art shows** for entertainment.
- **Community events that value major events** in people's lives, such as births or honouring age and ancestors.
- **Community celebrations** for holidays, and community-specific important dates and anniversaries.
- **Local seasonal celebrations,** especially ones around harvest and the completion of local projects. For example a local celebration could be held at the completion of the local fruit harvest, or the planting of a new orchard. These events also have the effect of strengthening people's connection to the land.
- **Shifting physical activity towards active community sports** sessions rather than individual gym sessions where people rarely interact. These can include both non-competitive and competitive events and offer a wide range of choices. In addition to building ties between community members, these events also encourage fitness and healthy lifestyles.

Property and Sharing as a Basis for Community

Sharing resources and objects is an ideal way to use fewer resources while interacting with others in your community. Sharing tends to work better with those who are geographically closer, to minimise the need for transport, especially for large or heavy items. These are a few ideas for how we can facilitate sharing within a community:

- **Tool libraries** – a communal repository of tools.
- **Swap shops** – a place for people to exchange or borrow goods.
- **Free shelf/karma shelf/free box** – methods for the free exchange of household objects, clothes, etc. Works well in communal laundry rooms. These can be run for blocks of flats but also for streets and communities in general.
- **Regular community meals** – shared meals in the preparation and/or consumption.
- **Joint ownership or use of facilities or land** – for example, community natural resources, energy, mills, workshops, shops, gardens, forests, orchards, community buildings/centres, etc.
- **Community Workshops** – which in addition to providing tools and workspaces could also serve as places of learning and skill development. For example Reworks, the Cambridge Art, Bike & Sustainability Workshop.

There is great potential for each community in Cambridge to place more emphasis on establishment of community spaces, such as gardens, orchards, workshops, etc. There are already excellent examples of these types of spaces in Cambridge, for example, the Romsey Town Community Garden and Reworks. Establishing more of these spaces and facilities in communities across the city will be important for building community and sharing resources.

Housing and Community Planning

Housing is an important part of any community as is community planning. The way communities are laid out can have an important impact on the resilience of a community. One need only look at the relationship between urban sprawl and personal vehicles. Our vision for the future is of strong and cohesive communities, and an important way of encouraging these is in community planning. Many of the ideas put forward in this document will require community spaces (for example land for orchards and growing spaces or areas for public festivals), easily accessible community centres (for example for shared meals or educational programs), multi-use zoning (for example swap shops attached to homes or tool libraries). Cambridge of the future should include some of the following:

- **Secure housing** and legal secure tenure, which encourage people to put down roots in the local community. The provision of secure housing is an important part of building strong communities and fostering feelings of belonging within members of those communities. When people are assured of their accommodations, they are more likely to invest in the local community and become involved in the kind of long-term projects which can help the

Community

community flourish. Other tools such as rent control and rent tenure can be used to assure housing security.

- **Home sharing locally**, vacationing and travel in 2030 should be different, and people who travel will want to experience the local community as well as see the sights. Promoting projects, such as Air B&B, where locals rent out rooms or beds in their homes to visitors, benefits everyone involved. Those renting their space receive additional income and meet new people. Visitors don't just visit the city, they visit the community; they are able to borrow from their hosts existing social networks and become involved in the community even for the short period of time they are visiting. This also reduces the costs of travel (as accommodations can often be the highest cost), allowing people to travel for longer, and therefore get to experience local communities in greater depth.
- **Housing co-ops** provide people with cost-effective housing. They also create small communities which can engage in projects relating to their housing co-op. As a community project themselves, housing co-ops help spur on additional projects in other areas, such as food growing, or collaborative consumption/resource chasing projects such as car shares.
- **Promoting housing in relation to needs and multigenerational neighbourhoods**. Today, the families which need large homes (typically young families with children) are the families which are least able to afford such homes. As a result, young families tend to live in suburban housing, far away from the city centre. Gentrification of inner cities leads to the doughnut effect. The peripheral communities in such a model lack diversity as all of the members are of the same age cohort, income level, etc. Strong communities require
- diversity, and encouraging a mix of multi-use, multi-generational and variable cost housing in a community helps promote this diversity.
- **Communities of the future will be more diverse**. Mixed housing development should be encouraged, with co-op housing mixed with single family homes, condominiums and affordable housing.
- **Multi-use zoning to encourage active and functional communities**. Mixing commercial, recreational and housing in one community reduces the need for travel (for work, needs, and recreation) and also results in people interacting more with members of their immediate community.
- **Promote 50 year mortgages**. Purchasing a home is typically the single largest expense anyone can undertake, as it places a high financial burden on people. People with large debts are required to work longer hours to pay off those debts and as a result have less time to become involved in the community. However, home ownership is also an important way for people to become invested in their community, in the future longer term mortgages can be offered, lightening the financial burden of home ownership.

Re-localising the economy in our towns, villages and cities is another key goal of the Transition movement. Members of Transition Cambridge discussed the overall themes and more specific aspects of what they felt would be key aspects of a successful local economy in Cambridge in 2030.

Themes that can support or are characteristic of a strong local economy

- **Foster fulfillment in work**, so that people work because it makes them happy (or gives them feelings of satisfaction) not just because they make money doing it.
- **A local currency and LETS systems could be used.** There would be different ways of rewarding a person for their work, one of which may be money, but could also be in kind goods or produce, or an exchange of time or work. Local currencies are a good way of keeping the products of community members work local.
- **Community supported enterprises** are key. For this we require legislation, policy and community planning which supports social and community supported enterprises. Any profit the community makes could then be invested into other enterprises.
- **Classes in shops** are a creative way of encouraging shops to give back to a community and could even be a condition of the lease on their property. For example, a fabric store could give classes in sewing.
- **The central market square** will remain an important part of Cambridge, in addition to local community markets. Hopefully the emphasis will be on goods and services that local people need regularly, not just for tourists.
- **It's important to train people for different skills**, not necessarily professions. We must expect people to change their jobs more than once in their lives. Rather than training for one career, people will develop broad ranges of skills, some of which will help the local community. People will change careers many times to learn more and have different experiences. This adds to quality of life and encourages life-long learning.
- **Encouraging skilled youths and professionals to work in the community.** There could be incentives where the community pays grants to young people to get training (for example, medical or agricultural training) and they return specifically to work in that community. These people would be more in-tune with the community they are responsible for. They also have a deeper relationship with the community.
- **Localized grass-roots governance** ensures communities have more direct control over issues that affect them most. Empowering people politically makes them feel that their local government is working for them, making their lives better and to positively change things which matter to them.
- **More livelihoods can be made around production and processing local goods** than in the present day. In addition to helping the local economy, this also increases wellbeing and quality of life, working locally means less commuting which is stressful and wasteful.

Local Economy

Shops and Services that can be key to a local economy

Many of these are already present in Cambridge in one form or another, but in some cases we will require more, we shift to an economy with lower consumption, for example, repair shops and swapshops. In addition, it is important that all communities within Cambridge have their own access to these shops and services within walking or cycling distance. As mentioned above, many of these could be run as community supported enterprises or cooperatives.

Shops

- **Swapshops** allow people to trade or exchange items such as clothing and house hold items, and would allow people to trade their own good-condition or repairable items for others.
- **Freeshops** offer used goods that people no longer want, for free. They could be temporary, or virtual (Freecycle), and could be as simple as a box of excess produce at the front door, or a piece of furniture with a note that it is free to take. These already occur in Cambridge on occasion, but central organisation or a permanent location could assist in moving resources from places where they are not used to places where they could be useful again.
- **Community cafés** are important meeting places for communities and also for each community to have at least one of its own.
- **Promote and increase the number of local food shops.** Cambridge already has several local food shops. Challenges for the future include increasing the percentage of local produce in these shops and catering towards seasonality, rather than importing produce to match the selection supermarkets have. It's also important that people be able to sell or trade their own produce at these shops.
- **Bike shops** for sale and service of bicycles, will be increasingly needed as cycling makes up an increasingly greater percentage of transport. Some of these could be community run, and run as social enterprises.
- **Bicycle coops will flourish.** In bike coops, the space and tools are communally owned and members may use them at any time, as well as getting advice from more experienced members of the coop. Communities also spring up alongside coops, as coops tend to bring together like minded individuals, or at the very least individuals who share at least one common interest.
- **Tool Libraries** are communal repositories of tools which can be signed out or used by members. There are many ways to run a tool library, and they're very useful as tools are essential but also something we use only on occasion. On average, an individually owned power drill is used for only 20 minutes over the course of its lifetime, tool libraries allow tools to be used to their full potential.
- **Used Book Shops** are always useful and essential. It is important that people have access to affordable books.

Services

- **Repair** is a skill and service that we have a big demand for which is being unmet. Partly this is due to the way products are designed to be easier to replace rather than repair, but also stems from lack of knowledge. This extends from clothing, household items, electronics, bicycles and much more. If goods begin to be designed more with recycling and repair in mind, rather than planned obsolescence, these repair shops will have more business and demand.
- **Doctors and community health practitioners**, fostering preventative medicine. Preventative medicine and healthy lifestyle choices should be encouraged as all possible times.
- **Taking care of community projects**. For example, someone needs to take care of school gardens during school holidays. Generally an increase in community projects will create a demand for services maintaining them, for example tool libraries will require people who are able to maintain, repair, and sharpen tools on a regular basis.
- **More networks of skills and workshops**. Transition Cambridge is getting a good start on this with the Greeniversity/Cambridge Skills Share website, which is due to launch in the Autumn of 2012. Encouraging people to learn hands on skills which can help the community benefits everyone.

Jobs, Livelihoods and Skills

In order to localise our economy, more of our jobs and livelihoods must also be based on meeting the needs of local people. As we expect more jobs to be focused on locally producing goods made from local materials, there are many skills which will need to be relearned. At the same time, this provides a host of new fulfilling career and volunteer options. More jobs will also be done locally, and the age of the bedroom community will end.

Community

As communities become stronger and tighter, and as a result of needing to make our communities stronger and tighter, new roles will emerge within communities. For example:

- **Mediators** – for running community meetings, groups, and resolving issues which arise during collaborative projects.
- **Community coordinators and organisers** – to arrange communal activities such as meals, sports and transport, and to facilitate the use and maintenance of communal resources such as tool libraries and community gardens.
- **Vibe watchers/morale officer** – who would sense the overall feeling in the community, to ensure everyone is being included.
- **Childcare** – this can be multi-generational. Easily accessible childcare in general and at community events helps allow and encourages young families to get involved in their communities.

Food

As we urbanise aspects of our food system, and attempt to source as much of our food as possible from local sources, many new roles as unique food producers will open up. For example:

- Edible Landscape gardeners
- Beekeepers

Local Economy

- Orchard watchers
- Herbalists
- Beekeepers
- In food processing, such as making preserves
- Barefoot agricultural scientist – scientists remain active in the local community sharing their knowledge and incorporating locals into some of their projects.

Nature and Ecology

Integrating more with local nature and utilising the space within our city for growing food will require new roles to emerge, such as:

- Soil building and Earth repair
- Representatives for non-speaking components of the environment (eg. species, river) when decisions about land-use and planning are to be made.

Education

- Educators who can teach practical skills for running a local economy, for example:
 - Community economics
 - How to set up and run a coop
 - Consensus decision making
 - Gardening and smallholding
 - Community event facilitation and organization
- Preventative health measures.
- Experts, such as permaculturists embedded in the community.
- Education continues through adult life through workshops, mentors, etc.
- Smaller class sizes are preferable.

Producing materials and goods

- Coopers, blacksmiths, potters, glass maker
- Could produce hemp, flax, wool locally for use in making clothing
- Sewing clothing
- Coppicing with a 7 year rotation for wood
- Willow and hazel for basketry.
- Milling, for example wheat into flour

Producing energy

- Energy experts/re-skills, for example in use and installation of solar panels
- Experts in waste heat and heat recovery: co-generation.
- Energy holders for community

Repair

- Repair technicians for machinery/electronics
- Clothing repair

Housing and buildings

- Greywater engineer
- Toilets: composting in newbuilds, rainwater systems in old.
- Houses: new builds requirements are eco-friendly.
- Building work

Other

- Alternative and preventative medicine/herbalists
- Cycle mechanics, teaching people to cycle
- Craft vendors, artists
- Barges (e.g. for delivering goods), cycle transport and couriers
- Equestrian services, e.g. primarily for ploughing and some transport, though not a large part of the local economy as they require water and food resources as well.

Skills Important to Everyday Life

Too many valuable personal skills which should be commonplace are rare. Today, people rely heavily on experts and professionals to get things done which they could easily do on their own if given some training. Likewise, learning is often thought to end with school. Learning, knowledge and new skills should be a lifelong process, where people gain new skills at all stages in their lives. This makes them more useful and active members to the community.

Many of the visions presented here, require people to experiment with doing things a different way, or changing aspects of their lifestyles. And a lack of skills can often be a barrier to doing this. For example having more communal meals is a great way to build stronger communities, but it requires people be confident in their cooking abilities. Likewise, for people to reduce the amount of meat they consume, they will need to become proficient in vegetarian (or vegan) cooking, and people are much more likely to make this transition if they are confident and have the skills necessary.

Part of our vision is that people will become active in the community in a wide range of projects. Many of these projects require skills and in the future everyone will have skills such as:

- Gardening, growing your own food
- Household and community skills, individual and collective
- Vegetarian cooking
- Social and communication skills
- Teaching cooperatives.
- Farmers/woodland men
- Schools teaching about grow your own (GYO) food
- Vegetarian and seasonal cooking
- How to cycle safely

Transport

During our visioning sessions, one thing was common to everyone's vision of our transport in 2030: there would be vastly fewer cars. Public transit and cycling however, are key. We imagine cycling to be commonplace and with a city the size and geography of Cambridge, this is a great option for transport.

Transport within Cambridge

- **Reduction in the amount of vehicle traffic will lead to calm roads.**
- **Video conferencing and telecommuting** can be used to reduce commuting and travel.
- **We can turn unused roads and parking spots into gardens** to increase the amount of space available for urban agriculture and edible landscaping.
- **Cycling will be an important modes of transportation.** As cycling would be a key mode of transport, teaching others to cycle, as well as bicycle maintenance would be an important job. As mentioned in other sections, the need for bicycle repair shops, tool libraries and bicycle coops would be high.
- **Buses and car-sharing** will be widespread for those who are unable to cycle or for longer distances, especially in villages near Cambridge so people can make their way into the city.
- **Community taxis or minibuses** could be made available for carpooling to events.
- **The development of a cycling and sustainable transport culture.** Since bicycles would be one of the main forms of transport, we may see cycling culture expand to include side by side bikes which can accommodate multiple riders as well bicycle art.

Transport to and from Cambridge

- **Slow travel.** Travel will need to be more patient. Looking at the old pilgrim networks may provide inspiration and we might use group slow travel for social and safety advantages.
- **Walking/running/cycling paths connecting cities** are important.
- **Make better use of the canal system,** for distribution of goods, as it was intended to do.
- **Slower long distance travel, making the journey part of the trip.** Longer distances across the UK, and even into Europe can still be travelled by cycle, you would just spend a longer time away. This would also allow people to visit a greater number of places and also bring tourists to a wider range of villages and towns rather than concentrating them in large central cities.
- **Replace motorway use with train use.** An increasing emphasis on train travel and increase in train infrastructure.
- **More availability of travelling by ship,** especially via cargo vessel as an alternative to air travel. Again, making the voyage part of the trip, this allows people to relax on vacations, take their time and appreciate different parts of the world.

Resources and Energy

Re-localising our economy also means sourcing resources as close to home as possible, while minimising the amount of energy we need. We also must try to make the energy we do use as clean and renewable as possible and generate it locally as much as possible. Re-localisation must occur not only in Cambridge but in the surrounding villages and rural areas as well, to minimise the need to transport materials and people in and out of Cambridge. We can use Cuba as inspiration for local resilience, when they needed to re-localise in response to a sudden shortage of oil in the 1990s.

Attitudes towards and use of energy and resources

- **We value our resources**, we treat them with respect and don't waste them.
- **We would rethink the idea of "necessary."**
- **We must source things locally if possible, globally if necessary.** This is key as we won't be able to source absolutely everything from within Cambridge and the immediate area, but it's vital to our resiliency that we do as much as possible, especially essentials such as food and clothing.
- **We expect technology such as computers, GPS, washing machines, solar panels to still very much part of our lives:** there's an emphasis on local agriculture and reverting to low-energy local production of many goods but that doesn't mean we may not need to source these items from elsewhere or that we won't be using them. Hopefully they would use minimal energy and be able to be repaired and fully recycled as much as possible.
- **There will be an emphasis on home-made (locally produced) energy**, especially at our own homes if possible.
- **We can make our own clothing** and as a result, the way we dress could reach new levels of creativity. Likewise clothing would commonly be swapped and repaired. Making own clothes also allows for greater self-expression and can be done in social groups, further strengthening communities.
- **Sharing is essential** to making our resources go further. We could utilise swap shelves/shops, and create libraries for everything from tools to toys.
- **Education is key** to people knowing the benefits about and how things work which might not be familiar today, such as composting toilets or using hemp to make material for clothing. But also giving people the confidence and skills to make positive changes in their lifestyles.

Suggestions and practices to encourage better use of resources

- **Homes should be well insulated** to minimise energy use and eliminate waste.
- **Solar panels** can provide some of our electricity, and could be made standard for new builds.
- **Items we do use would be valued, decorated, treasured and made to last.**
- **Composting toilets** should be included in new builds.
- **Install rainwater capture** in existing and new homes/buildings, then use this rainwater capture to feed crops.
- We can install localized **wind power in optimal places.**
- We can install **small scale hydro power** in the River Cam at appropriate/optimal places.

Resources and Energy

- We could use **waste heat/heat recovery**, wherever heat is used, e.g. for cooking and other efficient co-generation methods
- **Wood burning stoves** are another option, which goes hand in hand with ensuring a sustainable supply of local wood for fuel.
- Energy could be generated by **rowing machines** in boat houses.
- We could **reuse cooking oil** for fuel.

Resources which we could produce or source locally

- **Hemp, stinging nettle, wool, flax** for clothing
- **Willow hazel, chestnut, reeds** for basketry, bags and storage.
- **Coppiced wood** for building, sculpture, toys, fuel, etc
- Creams and other locally made/handmade soaps from **beeswax**, preferably in solid form so there is no need for packaging.
- **Herbal teas/remedies/medicines** to complement conventional medicine

We conclude this visioning document with eleven haikus (short Japanese poems) that describe some of the first things that came to mind when we envisioned Cambridge in 2030. The authors have kindly given permission for them to be published here.

Farming in the Fen
Silence is all around us
the world is so peaceful

I cycle to work
to teach others to cycle
no cars go past me

No food is processed
We share in preparing it
We know what we eat

Local fruit and veg
Grown in small well-tended fields
All I can buy now

Helping my neighbours
in gardens where cars once were
time free and unfixed

We value our resources
Cuba is our inspiration
Growing and sharing our

Footpaths are wending
where once concrete scarred the earth
the roads are blooming

Home-made energy
Slow convivial supper
Nourishes the soul

Working actively at all ages
Dog sleeping in the road by night
children playing in the street by day

Family near by
close community will help
whatever you need

Silence. A quiet breeze
Sounds of people and nature
Gone oil powered transport

This visioning process has only been the beginning; Ideas from this document may spin off projects and strategizing and perhaps one day the construction of a full EDAP for Transition Cambridge. We welcome comments and edits on this document, to deepen and clarify it in the coming months.