

When the oil runs out...

ATCM Summer School 2011, Cambridge



This presentation is adapted from a presentation made by Ben Brangwyn and freely available from the Transition Network web-site with speaker's notes: <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/resources/standard-transition-presentation>



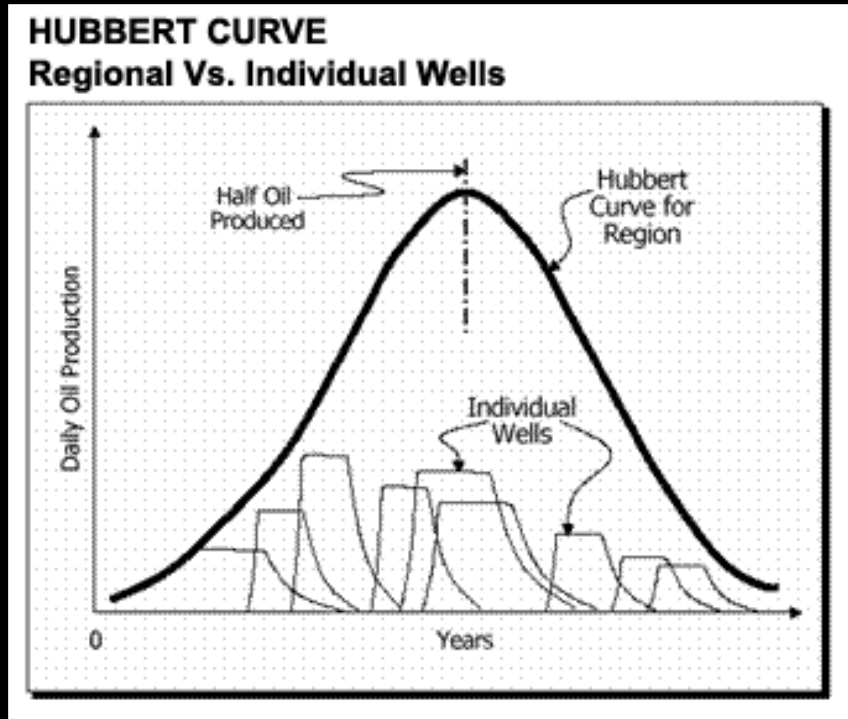
When the oil runs out...

- Peak Oil and its effects
- Climate Change
- Economic contraction
- PO + CC + EC \neq “business as usual”
- Responses at different levels
 - global, national, local, personal
- Building resilience,
reducing vulnerability



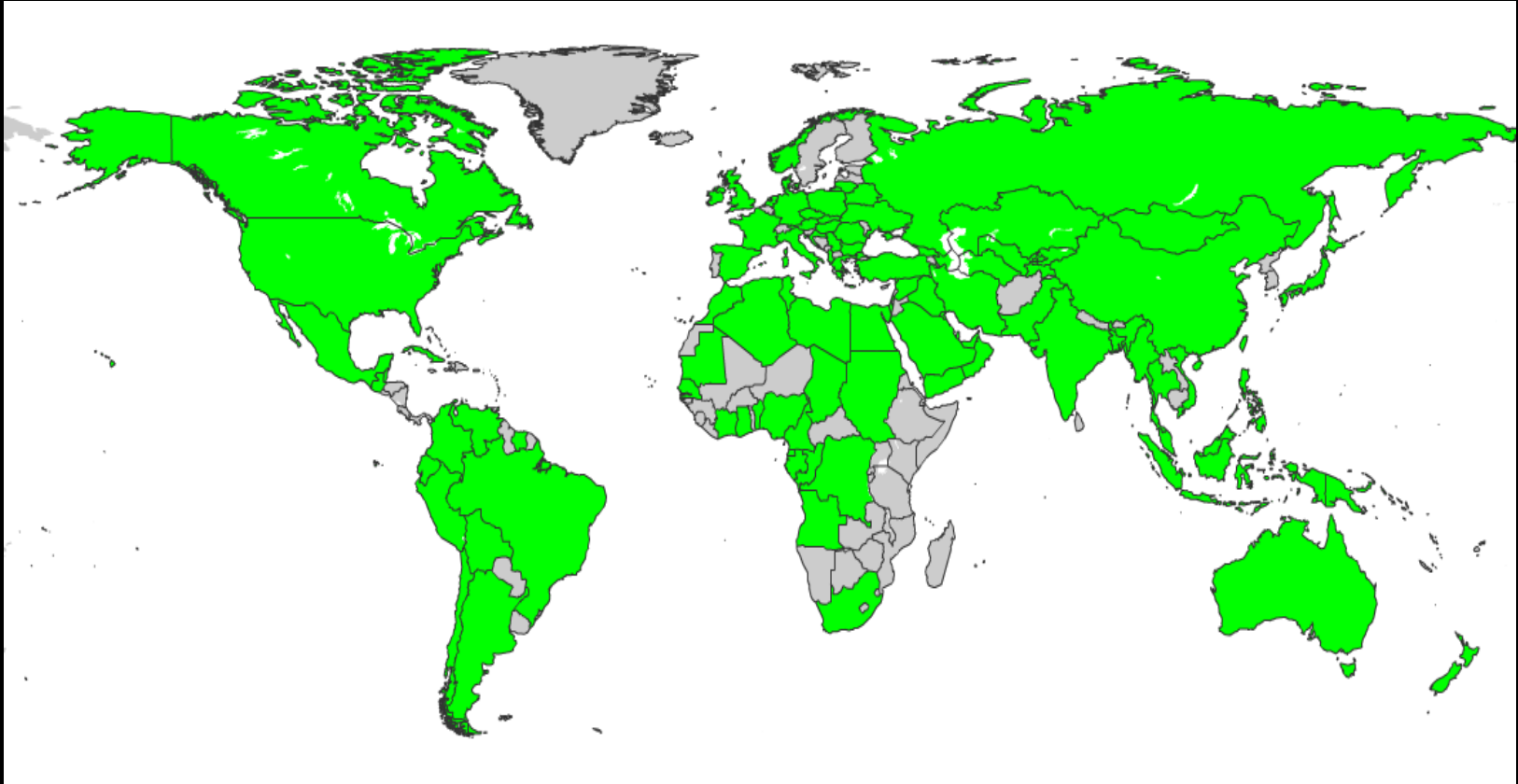
Peak Oil

- we'll never “run out” of oil
- we're running out of cheap, plentiful oil
- oil underpins
 - industrial development
 - agriculture
 - economics
 - population
- about 1/2 way through it...
- it's going to decline

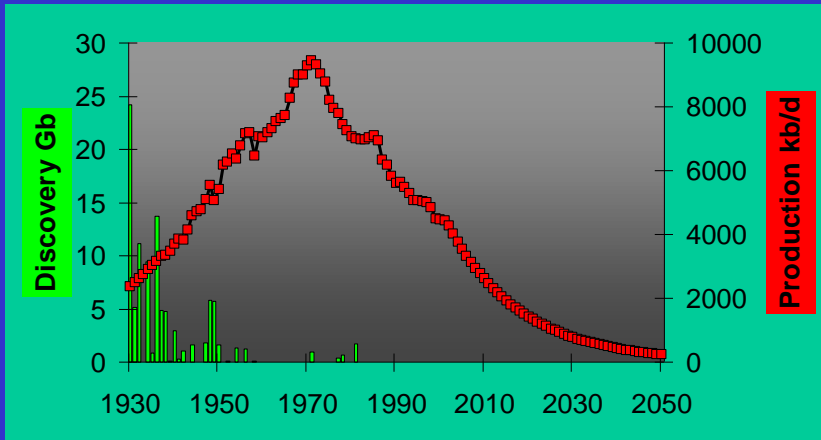


Peak Oil – a theory?

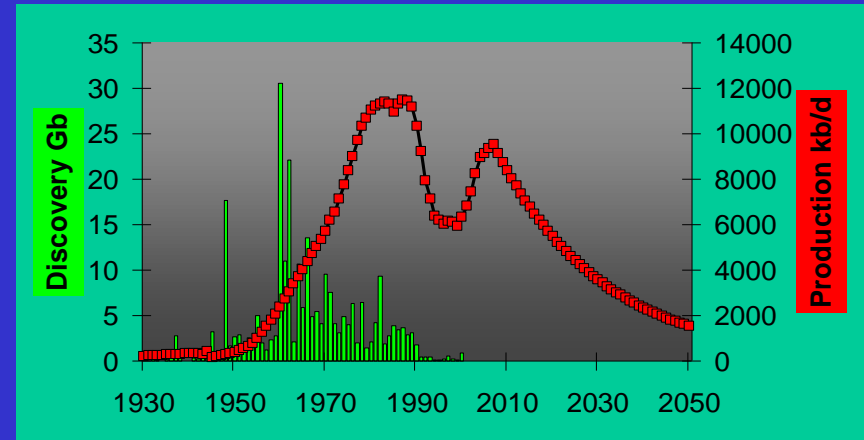
- 98 oil producers



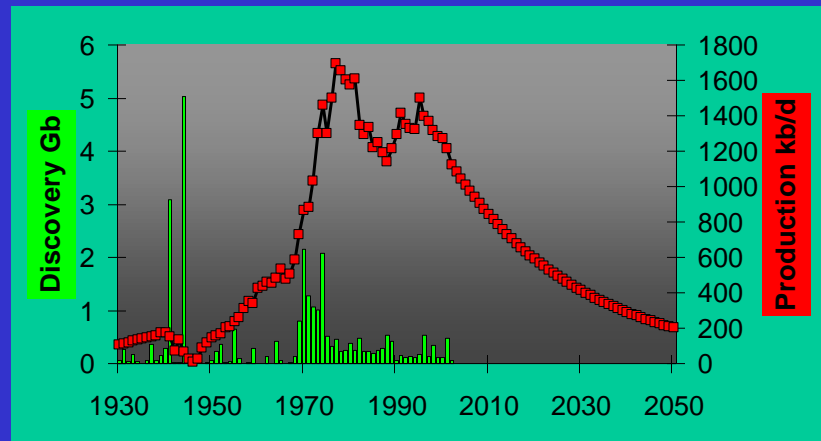
USA



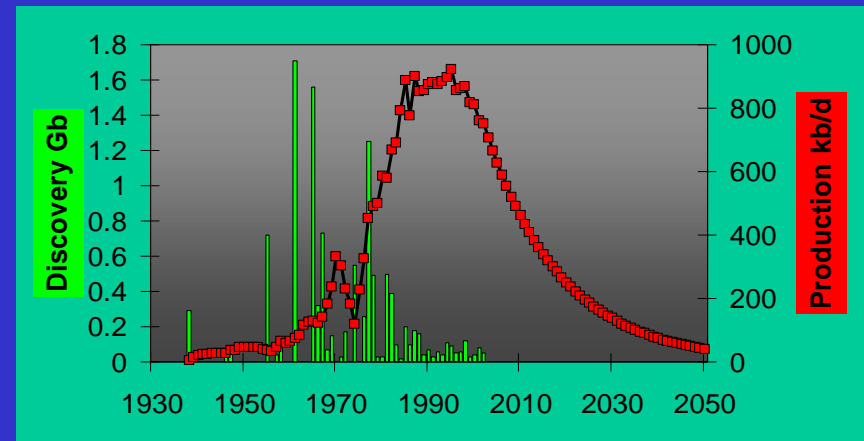
Russia



Indonesia



Egypt

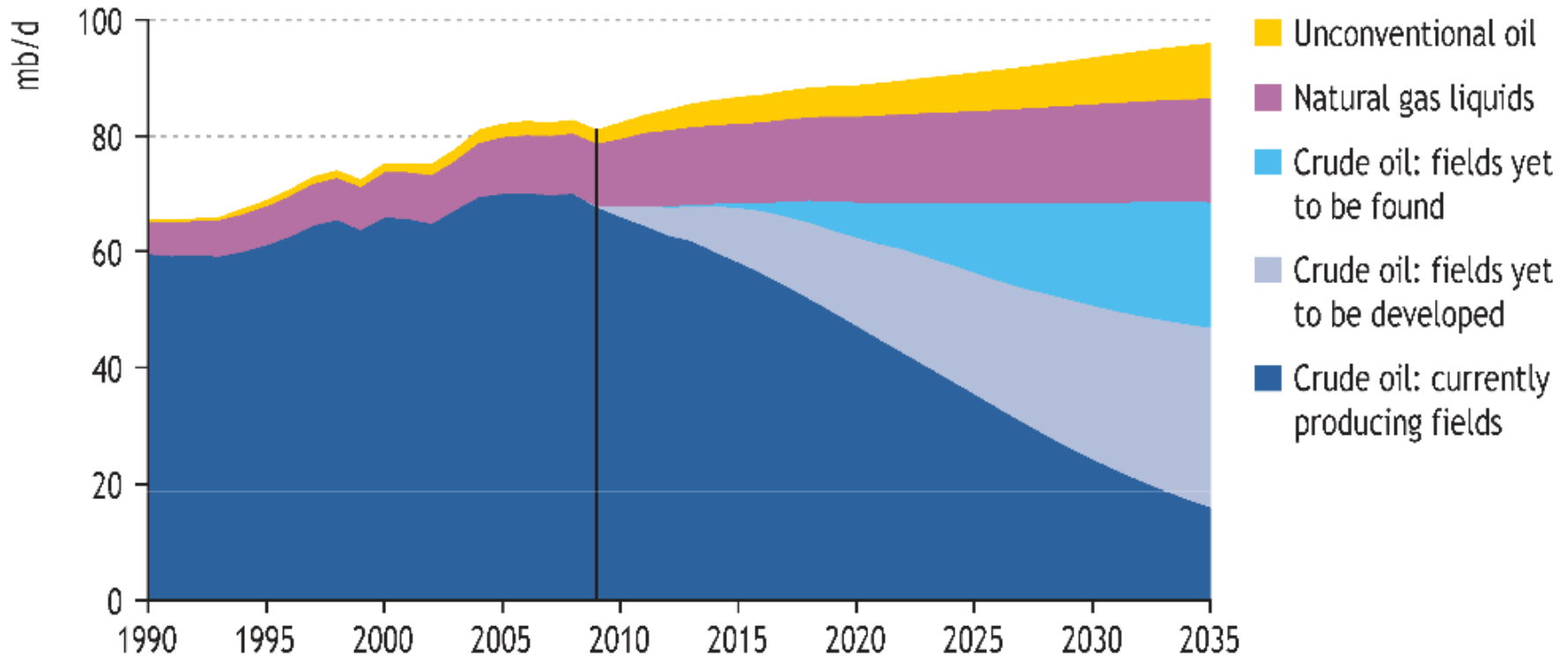


A peak in production predictably follows a peak in discovery.

Peak Oil – when did it peak?

- US discovery peaked in 1930s
 - production peaked in 1971
- UK discovery peaked in 1975
 - production peaked in 1999
- world discovery peaked in 1960s
 - production peaked in 2006

World oil production by type in the New Policies Scenario

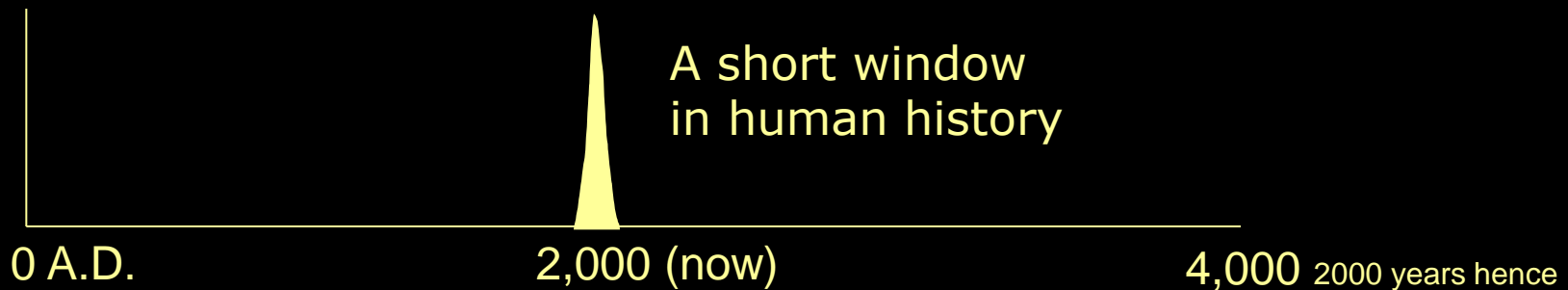
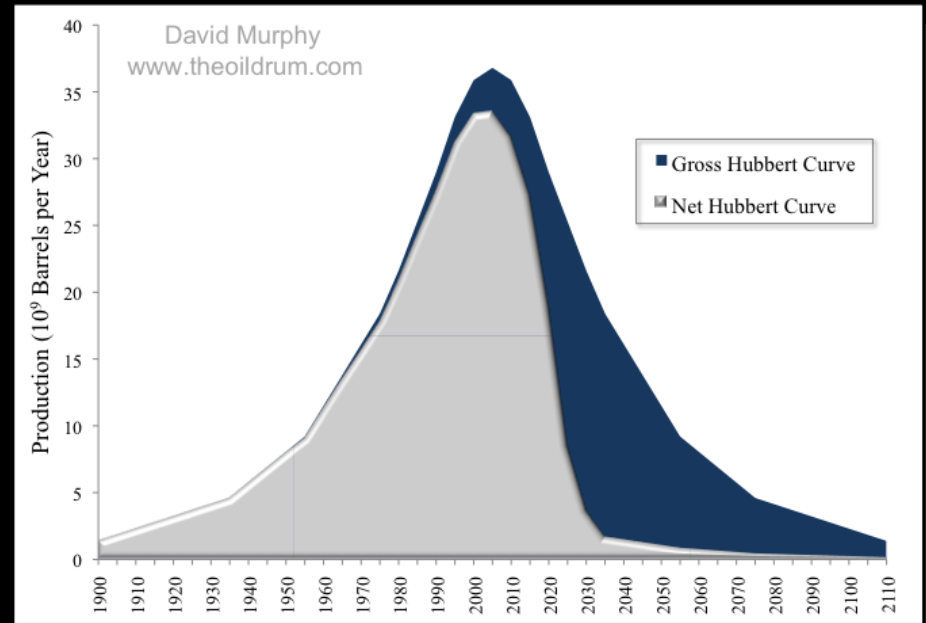


From World Energy Outlook 2010

<http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/>

Note the 3rd segment which makes it seem as if the oil supply can continue increasing. It shows oil fields yet to be found. Discovery has been going down, so it's unclear where these are going to be found...

Peak Oil – the downslope



Peak Oil – what's it like?

- terminal decline?

Not if we prepare!

- demand destruction

- examples:

- 1990s: North Korea
- 1990s: Cuba
- 2000: UK fuel crisis
- Now: Poor countries



Climate Change – weather extremes



Peak Oil & Climate Change

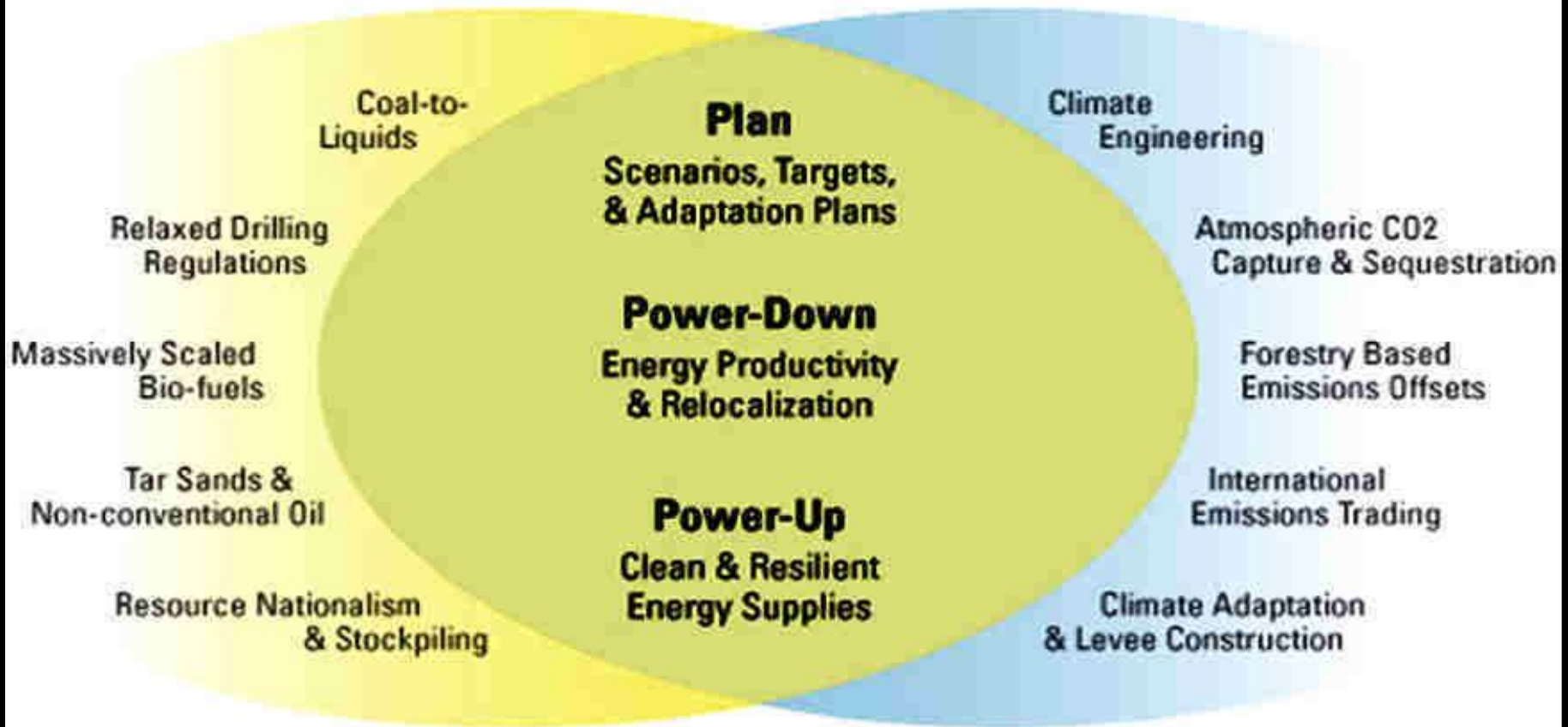
Peak Oil Priorities

Targeting energy security

+

Climate Change Priorities

Targeting climate stability



What can be done?

- Global

 - Oil Depletion Protocol

 - Contraction and Convergence

 - Kyoto

- National

 - TEQs, Cap & Share (energy rationing)

- Community

 - Transition Towns, cities, villages, rural

- Personal

 - “The work that reconnects”
self directed re-education



Town Centres

Transport

Visitors/Shoppers

Deliveries/Refuse collection

Workers (shop workers/local business employees)

Energy

Heating getting more expensive (gas also approaching a peak)

Food

Price rises (as oil-based fertilizers / pesticides / machinery / transport becomes more expensive)

Shortages? (climate change)

Businesses / Shops

Expect more to go out of business (rise in oil prices contributes to recession)

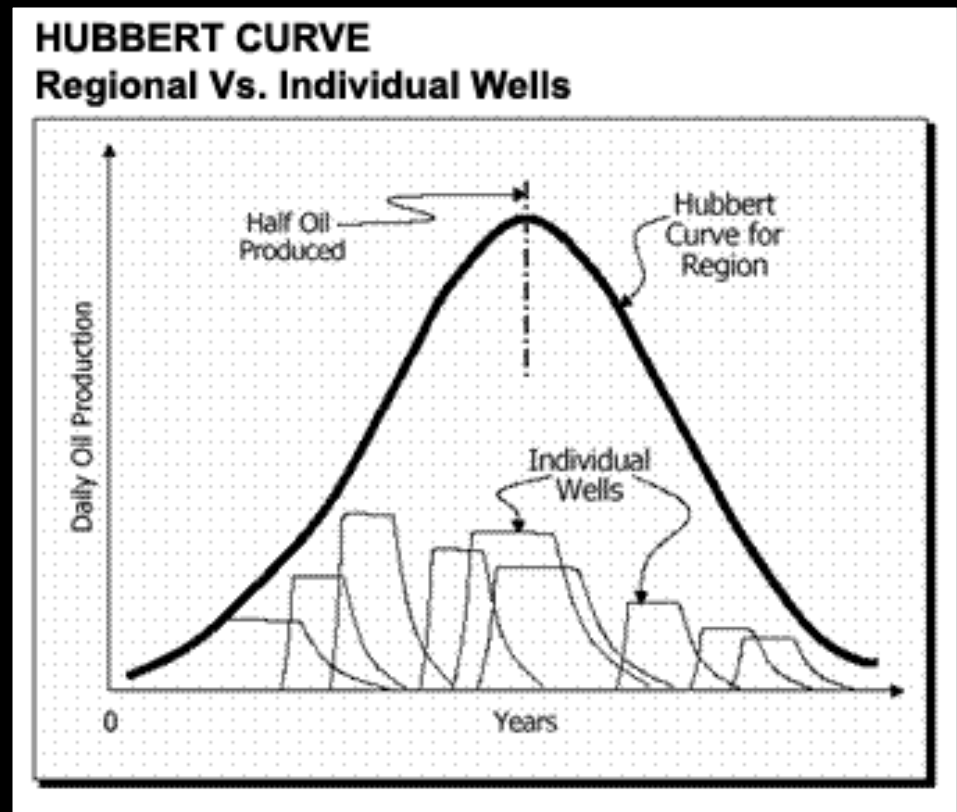
Most products that shops sell involve oil in their manufacture and transport

Climate

Very hot / cold / other weather extremes

Can we respond?

- Going up the energy slope, we used
 - ingenuity
 - creativity
 - adaptability
 - cooperation
- Going back down...
 - if we're early enough
 - if we're cooperative
 - the future could be a whole lot better...



What kind of things are people doing...?

Typical activities of Transition Towns

- skillsharing
- local food directories
- local currencies
- oral history archives
- planting fruit trees
- starting up locally owned renewable energy companies
- garden share schemes
- energy saving advice for the community
- central buying of trees for “city orchards”
- mending courses
- loads of reskilling events, eg Dr Bike, composting toilets, reedbeds
- working with local schools
- cutting out plastic bags and holding workshops on how to make fabric ones out of scraps
- getting sustainability books into their libraries
- car share schemes
- permaculture courses