



THE RESILIENCE IMPERATIVE

CO-OPERATIVE TRANSITIONS TO A STEADY-STATE ECONOMY

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The Resilience Imperative
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"... practical solutions for a cultural shift to solidarity, co-operation, and sufficiency, offering a future rich with possibilities."
Michael Toye

"... documents that as the top predator, we are most vulnerable to the crisis of the ecosphere and lays out a blueprint for departing from our biocidal path."
David Suzuki

"... puts flesh on the Occupy Movement's call for an economic alternative."
Robin Murray

"compelling and eloquent"
John Restakis

"A remarkable book, as far-ranging as it is deep, informed both by historical precedents and emerging innovations."
Clifford Rosenthal

Authors:

Mike Lewis, Canadian Centre for Community Renewal

Pat Conaty, new economics foundation

Forthcoming June 2012

With so many books being written about peak oil, climate change, and their implications for our people and planet, what's different about *The Resilience Imperative*? Its central thesis is that climate change and escalating energy prices compel us to reinvent our economic life on a much more local and regional basis. But how to do it? This is the vexing question. How do we forge a steady-state economy that is socially, ecologically and economically sensible and sustainable? Is it even possible, or just the naive notion of do-gooders?

The Resilience Imperative resonates with the possible! Using a range of theory and incisive historical and contemporary analysis for a launchpad, it presents case after case of creative, strategic action in the world of today. These strategic pathways demonstrate how people in Asia, Europe and North America are learning to meet basic needs for food, land, housing, energy, and finance more locally and regionally. Their example shows how we too might navigate transition and strengthen resilience where we live. Powerfully, the authors bring these innovations back down to earth by revealing the implications, in dollars and cents, for the cost of living of the average household.

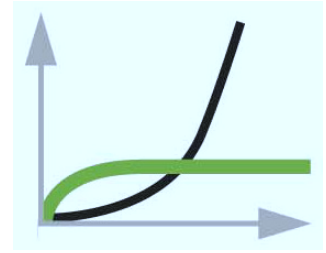
By defining connections more vividly and obstacles more clearly, this book helps readers see just what we can unleash once we put our shoulders to the common weal of innovation – locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

We can take on the status quo, practically and politically. Moreover, co-operatives, trusts, and the social economy are crucial to scaling up these innovations and powering down our economic lives to something sensible and sustainable. (*See contents, over page.*)



THE RESILIENCE IMPERATIVE

Contents



Chapter 1: Resilience: The 21st-Century Imperative

The Pedagogy of Transition • Progress and Growth • Strengthening our Capacity to Adapt • Reclaiming the Commons • Reinventing Democracy • Constructing a Social Solidarity Economy • Pricing as if People and Planet Mattered • Navigating the Transition to a Steady State Economy

Chapter 2: Wealth versus Commonwealth

The Demise of Moral Economy • From markets to The Market • The Struggle for Land Reform • The Ascendency of the Corporation • Banking Masters and Debtor Slaves • Living within the Planetary Commons

Chapter 3: A Path beyond Debt: Interest-Free Lending at Work

The JAK Co-operative Bank • The Local Enterprise Bank Innovation

Chapter 4: Uniting the “I” and the “We”: Affordable Housing in Perpetuity

Community Land Trust Model • The Champlain Housing Trust • CLTs in the Cities: Irvine California • Mutual Home Ownership

Chapter 5: Seeking Pathways to Energy Sufficiency

Yorkshire Energy Services at Work • Fossil Fuel Free Kristianstad

Chapter 6: Seeking Pathways to Sustainable Food

Seikatsu Consumer Club Co-operative • Transforming the Value Chain • From Old Garbage to Young Farmers • Solidarity and Succession: Securing Local Food • Restoring the Commons in Alaska

Chapter 7: Reweaving our Economies Close to Home

Core Economic and Social Functions • Constructing Development Systems • Ingredients for Transformation • RESO Transforms Montreal's Poorest Neighbourhoods • Maine's Coastal Enterprises Inc. • Integration of Sustainability into the Financing Function

Chapter 8: Convivial Banking Innovations: Seeds for Transition

Community Banking Partnerships • U.S. Credit Union Innovations: Beyond Micro-Credit: Integrated Approaches that Work • Equity Angels Grounded in Community • Co-operative Capital in the U.K. • Relationship Banking • Shared Interest in Action • Revolving Loan Funds and CLT Development Financing • Social Banks: Investing in the Unconventional

Chapter 9: Federating the Change Agents: Securing the Gains

Reinventing the Guild: : A Way Forward? • Constructing the Social Solidarity Economy in Québec • La Via Campesina: a Global Movement for Food Sovereignty • Transition Factors • Federating for Fair Trade Finance: A Transition Challenge

Chapter 10: Economic Democracy and Cooperative Capital

Outwitting Enclosure: The Mondragon Formula to Equity • Democratizing Social Care in Italy • Co-operative Energy Scaled Up: The Greening of Denmark

Chapter 11: Ownership Transfer: Accelerating Transition

Structural Dysfunction of the Global Investment Industry • The Corporate Tax System • “Trusteeship”: A Way out of Enclosure • The Trusteeship Model: Towards a Framework for Ownership Transfer • Transforming Property Rights: A Solution in Search of a Home • Establishing a Cooperative Land Bank

Chapter 12: From Cultural Captivity to Focused Intention

Beyond Eden: Our Disconnect from Nature • Transition: An Inner and Outer Journey • Breaking the Armor of our Cultural Captivity • The Price of Transition: Are we willing to Pay? • From Wall Street to Resilience • The Crucible of Home: Revisiting Household Economics

Epilogue: The Great Transition



inspire
innovate
incite
invent

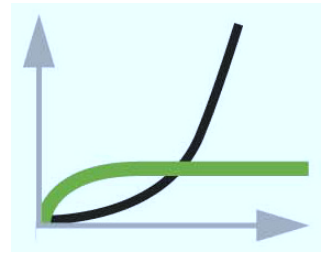
Read excerpts from *The Resilience Imperative* in *i/4*, the ejournal about community transition and resilience in this age of climate change and peak oil. Published by the Canadian Centre for Community Renewal, *i/4* explores the endeavour here in Canada and around the world to Inspire, Innovate, Incite, and Invent ways of life and work that permit both people and planet to thrive.

Go to <http://communityrenewal.ca/resilience-imperative> for excerpts from *The Resilience Imperative* and to explore hundreds of other select resources.

community resilience and transition in an age of climate change and peak oil

Price: \$26.95. [CLICK HERE](http://communityrenewal.ca/resilience-imperative) to order *The Resilience Imperative* at communityrenewal.ca/resilience-imperative

Praise for THE RESILIENCE IMPERATIVE



“This is a book that puts flesh on the occupy movement’s call for an economic alternative. Analytically it argues that there are four giants that have to be confronted – compound interest, land enclosure, concentrated ownership and cheap oil – and shows that for each of them alternatives already exist that now need to be generalised. It is a book in the tradition of Mill, Ruskin and William Morris, at once visionary and practical.”

Robin Murray, Professor, London School of Economics, author of *Co-operation in the Age of Google*

“*The Resilience Imperative* is the latest of dozens of books warning of the real need to rein in the unsustainable demands of our economies and to change the path of our species. *The Resilience Imperative* is an urgent call for recognition that human numbers, technology, consumption and globalization are undermining the very life support systems of the planet. This book documents that as the top predator, we are most vulnerable to the crisis of the ecosphere and lays out a blueprint for departing from our biocidal path.”

David Suzuki, scientist, author, Companion to the Order of Canada, recipient the Kalinga Prize for Science (UNESCO)

“A remarkable book, as far-ranging as it is deep, informed both by historical precedents and emerging innovations. The authors do not content themselves with the vital but necessarily narrow initiatives many of us specialize in. This book gives us a compelling, overall framework for a cooperative, sustainable future. Those of us working in nonprofit finance in the United States will benefit enormously from their perspective.”

Clifford Rosenthal, President and CEO of the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions (1980-2012)

“There’s nothing as powerful as case studies, examples, anecdotes. A new kind of world is clearly possible – this book makes that clear. The question is whether we’re willing to do the work to get there.”

Bill McKibben, educator, environmentalist, and author of *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*

“Mike Lewis and Pat Conaty have assembled examples from around the world, both current and from the arc of history, of how the economy can be re-embedded in the natural limits of the earth, while creating healthy and inclusive communities. Their practical solutions to enhance democracy are signposts for a cultural shift to solidarity, co-operation, and sufficiency, offering a future rich with possibilities.”

Michael Toye, Executive Director, Canadian Community Economic Development Network

“At last, a comprehensive, hands-on guide to all the viable cooperative community-building options inherent in the Great Transition to cleaner, greener, more equitable economies. In this 21st century, emerging Solar Age, we are seeing all the many examples of the ways humans can help in reshaping societies and regenerating the Earth for our common future.”

Hazel Henderson, futurist and author of *Ethical Markets: Growing the Green Economy*

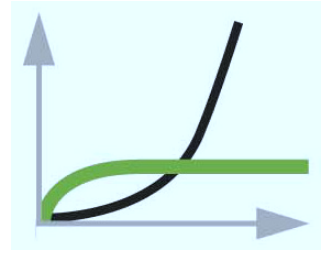
“This book is a beacon of hope. It sets out so clearly why ‘business as usual’ is disastrous for both us and the planet, and spells out the necessary solutions. It then goes much further by demonstrating brilliantly the many positive changes that are already happening and which point the way to a resilient, fair and flourishing future. It ends by challenging each of us to look at what we are going to do personally to advance the Great Transition. This is a primer for life and how to live it.”

Stewart Wallis, Executive Director, new economics foundation

“A wonderful gift to all concerned about creating a more sustainable, non-fossil-fueled presence of humankind in Mother Earth. From solid historical analysis, excellent research, and specific examples of transition and resilience, it examines energy, housing, food, banking, democracy, and a just economy. *The Resilience Imperative* is one of the most compelling books available in pointing the way to a necessary, new way of living with respect in Creation.”

Very Rev. Dr. Bill Phipps, moderator, United Church of Canada 1997-2000, chair of Faith and the Common Good

More praise for THE RESILIENCE IMPERATIVE



“Whether our leaders properly understand resilience will be one of the key factors that defines the future our children inherit. *The Resilience Imperative* offers a guide for these leaders to draw from as they shift their focus to the importance of resilience.”

John Fullerton, Director, Capital Institute, and former JPMorgan Managing Director

“Exceptionally valuable – in vision, in strategic understanding, in concrete ways to build forward. A hand book for a morally meaningful and sustainable future!”

Gar Alperovitz, author of *America Beyond Capitalism*, and Lionel R. Bauman, Professor of Political Economy, University of Maryland

“... offers both policy-makers and practitioners a wealth of ideas to guide the rethinking – and reforming – of the capitalist paradigm. The authors offer a compelling and eloquent case for reshaping our economies to meet the needs of people and a livable environment, in direct challenge to the prevailing ideology of endless growth. Most importantly, *The Resilience Imperative* pays attention to the necessity of democratizing and localizing our economic systems as key elements in a new paradigm that puts sustainability before profits.”

John Restakis, Executive Director, BC Co-operative Association, author of *Humanizing the Economy: Co-operatives in the Age of Capital*

“If you, like me, are searching for something practical and inspiring to counter and replace the social and economic destruction towards which this world seems rushing, *The Resilience Imperative* is your book. Grab it, read it, think about how you and your friends can use it. It describes *real-life* and *successful* experiments by committed communities for sensible ways to handle the critical realms of food production and distribution, finance and banking, affordable housing, and much else. The experiments are already working in the US, UK, Japan, and other countries. You and I can handle them just as adroitly to make the world better *today* and for the future.”

Stewart E. Perry, author of *Communities on the Way: Rebuilding Local Economies in the United States and Canada*

“*The Resilience Imperative* tells us that it is ok to dream in the daytime. The authors are practical pioneers with an unrivalled track record of co-operative innovation. In this book, they show how they have done it. First, reject all the rules you are told about business and markets - they are leading us to a barren world. Secondly, and most beautifully, get on and invent some new ones.”

Ed Mayo, Secretary General of Co-operatives UK

“Resilience is the watchword for our dawning era of economic and environmental instability. This timely book offers a wide range of practical suggestions and inspiring examples to help us build more resilient communities. *The Resilience Imperative* is exactly what’s needed to get us moving in the right direction.”

Richard Heinberg, author of *The End of Growth*, Senior Fellow, Post Carbon Institute

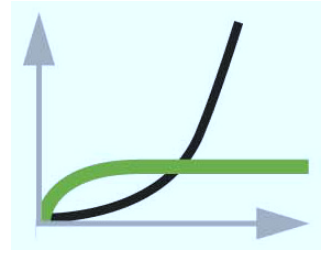
“Where one-dimensional shareholder-owned enterprises rule supreme, capital is on top rather than on tap and people and planet suffer. Stakeholder democracy is denied and, ultimately, investors also lose. *The Resilience Imperative* charts co-operative forms of enterprise which work for the benefit of all rather than the enrichment of the few. For those interested in a vibrant alternative and sustainable economics that maintains a free market without exploitation, it is an essential read.”

David A Rodgers, President, International Co-operative Alliance Housing Sector Organisation

“The current global economy is no longer viable. Speculation and the delusion of effortless financial gain always trump sound, sustainable development based on renewable energy and strong communities. *The Resilience Imperative* offers a route through: practical innovations for individuals and communities to help transition to a more humane, steady-state economy. Realistic, accessible, and uplifting, it is an important contribution to debates about our global future.”

Ann Pettifor, Director of PRIME Economics and author of *The Coming First World Debt Crisis*

More praise for THE RESILIENCE IMPERATIVE



“There are books that describe the desirability of a good society and others the feasibility – *The Resilience Imperative* is unique in that it achieves both. It does so by unifying means and ends. Through systems of cooperation and democracy the authors describe a way of being that creates a better world in the areas that matter most to us as human beings – heating, food and housing. It’s a book you should read and then go away and do.”

Neal Lawson, commentator, Chair of the pressure group Compass, author of *All Consuming: How shopping got us into this mess and how we can find our way out*

“*The Resilience Imperative* will make a vital contribution to the liberation of local economies, helping to free people and communities worldwide to meet more of their own needs for themselves ... that will be an essential feature of a reformed and modernized global money system that stops driving our species to self-destruction.”

James Robertson, author of *Future Money: Breakdown or Breakthrough?*

“What is exceptional about *The Resilience Imperative* is that the persuasiveness of its arguments is enhanced by the incredible range of practical examples which show both what needs to be done, as well as the arguments and policies required to ensure these beacons can be replicated to become the norm. It will be an invaluable resource ...”

Colin Hines, Convener UK Green New Deal group

The Authors

At 25 **Michael Lewis** founded what is now known as the Canadian Centre for Community Renewal. Ever since he has been engaged in community economic development (CED), development finance, and the social and co-operative economy. He is a prolific author and a respected practitioner. From entrepreneurial development to building national networks, from strategic assistance to CED organizations in impoverished settings to designing tools and curriculum to strengthen community resilience, Mike has led hundreds of projects over the last 35 years. Drawing on this diverse experience, motivated by his grandchildren, and increasingly conscious of the interplay of climate change, peak oil, and the outrageous excesses of the global finance industry, Mike considers the issues and innovations outlined in *The Resilience Imperative* as the core focus of his vocation.

Pat Conaty is a Californian working in England and Wales. He is a Fellow of new economics foundation in London and a Research Associate of Co-operatives UK. He specializes in action research and knowledge transfer to develop innovative forms of economic democracy and community ownership. He has co-founded a number of national organizations in relation to financial services, including National Debtline and UK Sustainable Investment and Finance, where he worked in the 1990s as part-time Executive Director. He has played a lead role in researching, setting up and developing loan products and services for several Community Development Finance Institutions in the UK. He has worked with the University of Salford to research and produce *Community Land Trusts - A practitioner's guide* and to develop regional training courses for the National CLT Network.