

Kyneton Transition Hub



Vision, values and strategy

Vision and Values

We are working together to make our community stronger, happier and more resilient as we deal with the impacts of peak oil and climate change.

We the residents of Kyneton environs care about our community, our local environment and our world. Our strengths are our diverse skills, interests and experiences as well as our friendliness and sense of community. We support a sustainable future for our community, our children and our earth. We value the contribution of each individual to our community, whatever age, ability, family status, or origin.

Aims

To raise community awareness of the issues associated with the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change and the consequent need to develop a low carbon, sustainable future through relocalisation and ethical, social, cultural, economic, environmental and community action.

To provide members, other groups, and individuals with the encouragement, information and support necessary to make the transition to a low carbon, sustainable, ethical future.

To support and work with other Transition initiatives, similar community-led initiatives and the Transition Network.

To engage with local individuals, community groups, service clubs, schools, colleges, businesses and local government in pursuit of our aims.

To honour and learn from those who experienced life before the cheap oil period.

To promote the health and well-being of the residents of the area, and to work together as residents regardless of age, ethnic origin, ability, sex, belief or political affiliation, recognising the value of our many differences.

To celebrate our community's achievements as we move through Transition.

Activities

Ensure core group and committee members have an understanding of peak oil and climate change as well as the principles of the Transition movement.

Start raising awareness around peak oil, climate change and the need to undertake a community-led process to rebuild resilience and reduce carbon. This may involve film nights, guest speakers and other events.

Connect with existing groups in the community, including local government. Acknowledge, respect and build on the work already completed or underway by other groups and individuals in our community.

Engage in a community-wide visioning process to identify the future we want for ourselves rather than waiting for someone else to create a future that we won't like.

Host a Transition Town "unleashing" to propel the initiative into the larger community.

Form groups to look at all the key areas of life (food, energy, transport, health, restoration of country, heart & soul, economics & livelihoods, etc)

Kick off practical projects aimed at encouraging community engagement and building people's understanding of resilience and carbon issues.

Facilitate community re-skilling through networking with skilled individuals and groups, and through sponsoring workshops and similar opportunities for skill exchanges.

Eventually launch a community defined, community implemented "Energy Descent Action Plan" over a 15 to 20 year timescale.

Sustain a co-ordinated initiative that strives to rebuild the resilience we've lost as a result of cheap oil and aim to drastically reduce the community's carbon emissions.

Core group roles

The KTH core group will have two co-convenors, and a treasurer. At times other roles may include: media officer, events coordinator, information officer, representative to MRSG, liaison with local government, etc. Sometimes these roles may be undertaken by a small team.

Core group vs. working groups

The core group (CG) provides the required executive roles and functions and represents the group within the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group. It plans the overall policy and coordinates activities across the working groups. It represents the KTH in the community on general issues and may be the initial point of contact for new members and external organisations. The CG initiates, plans, runs and evaluates activities which are not limited to one working group's field.

Working groups (WGs) may have themes such as energy, food, waste, education, youth, water, restoration of country, local government, health and well-being, transport, building, local economy, recycling, transition tales, heart and soul, etc. The WGs plan, undertake and evaluate activities related to the theme of the group that are compatible with the vision and aims of the CG. The WGs may represent the KTH to third parties in their themed area. Finances and legal issues are coordinated through the CG.

Two-way communication between the CG and WGs is imperative. As each WG is formed, it must have at least one representative on the CG.

The CG starts as the initiating group, and in the second stage becomes the continuing core group. This will be implemented when there are sufficient WGs for their representatives to form the CG (around four). The initial group will disband and be reformed as a group of these WG representatives. Members not directly related to a WG who have valuable expertise for the effective running of the CG may be invited to be members of the CG for a limited period but do not have an automatic right. (This may be most appropriate during the changeover period).

Role of Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSG)

The relationship between the MRSG and KTH is fully detailed in the MOU.

In brief, the MRSG is the “parent” body for the KTH initiative. KTH will maintain corporate membership of MRSG, and provide regular financial and activity reports, and advice of special events. A member of the KTH core group will also be a member of the MRSG committee.

In turn, MRSG covers insurance and other needs for KTH, such as legal, governance, etc. MRSG and KTH will support each other’s work and may work together on relevant projects.

KTH and other groups

KTH will also maintain a close relationship with the Kyneton Community Learning Centre, and Kyneton Connections.

Meeting agreement for both the core group and the working groups

- Respect each other (this includes active listening)
- Respect time
- Speak up
- Mobiles off
- Take responsibility for yourself
- Be positive and flexible
- Confidentiality of sensitive issues

How will we measure our success?

These measures relate to the work of the initiating phase of the core group. Further measures will be developed by the re-formed core group in the next stage, and the EDAP (Energy Descent Action Plan) will include appropriate resilience indicators to measure success.

- Continuing membership and involvement of initiating group during awareness raising until the “unleashing”. (number of members, attendance at monthly meetings, involvement in activities outside monthly meetings)
- Understanding of peak oil, climate change and the transition movement by the core group.
- Number of core group members completing Transition Town Training.

- Community and local business awareness and understanding of peak oil, climate change, KTH and the transition movement.
- Number of community groups directly contacted by KTH members. Number of presentations to these groups. Number requesting follow-up.
- Demonstrated success at working cooperatively with groups already involved in environmental and resilience activities.
- Relationship with local council and local businesses.
- Frequency of media coverage of KTH and related issues.
- Attendance and engagement at Sunday afternoon sessions. Repeat attendance. Growth of attendance.
- Formation of working groups and progress of their work.
- Number of re-skilling initiatives started.
- Visible signs of KTH activity.
- Inclusiveness of active members and activities.
- Degree of engagement in practical relocalisation work by local community
- Hold "unleashing" within 12 months of group's formation
- Start community-wide visioning process.

20th July 2011