

# *Let's Schmooze*

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## **Economic Slow-Downs ~ Good or Bad?**

In economic circles, if there ever was an actor consistently portrayed as a horrible monster, it would have to be the specter of economic slow-downs. For conventionally trained economists, the prospect of economic slow-downs makes their blood run cold.

However ~ let's think outside of the box and look at the bright side of economic slow-downs, especially given today's environmental challenges.

Think about it for a minute. An economic slow-down means less consumer product consumption. Less consumer product consumption means less product manufacturing. Less product manufacturing means less industrial pollution being poured into our atmosphere, waterways and soils.

That's good! And in today's quickly deteriorating environment, that's a bright and shiny aspect of what an economic slow-down can offer to us.

It's time to think outside of the box. A sustained period of economic slow-down would be a wise thing to have while we come up with ways to continue our way of life without further poisoning the planet that we inhabit.

Seriously, environmental pollution is so bad that it is becoming a matter of life or death for humanity. An economic slow-down could both literally and figuratively give us a much needed breathing spell.

It seems that the consumer base has started to realize this. Consumers are saving more and spending less, especially for unnecessary items. Profits might be going down at big

retailers, but the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink are far more important than someone's cold-blooded economic profits.

True, profits are important in a capitalistic economic system, but not if those profits are going to kill us in the long run.

What humanity needs is a sustainable way of living ~ not a way of living that destroys the home planet that we live on.

Unbridled capitalism seems to leave a poisonous footprint everywhere it goes, at least as far as our environment is concerned.

~ 'til we meet again ~