

Open Letter to Warren Buffett

From: Stefan Pasti--Founder and Resource Coordinator, The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative at www.cpcsi.org

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Subject: "... the well-known bargain-hunting 'value' investor has admitted struggling to find a place to put those earnings to work and resorted to buying back \$928 million in his own company's stock"

In the article "[Buffett's Berkshire doubles profit, repurchases \\$900 million stock in third quarter](#)" [by Trevor Hunnicutt, published by Reuters (online) 11/3/18], I read the following (in paragraph 2):

"... the well-known bargain-hunting 'value' investor has admitted struggling to find a place to put those earnings to work and resorted to buying back \$928 million in his own company's stock in the latest quarter."

Since many people, including myself, are very convinced that the extremely serious consequences of climate breakdown are accelerating, and there is a closing window of time (12 years by the latest IPCC SR15 report) to limit warming to 1.5°C, I would like to suggest--as I have been suggesting to many other people on Twitter--a way for you to discover where to find very reliable investments for that \$928 million.

Below is a brief summary of my suggestions.

Pilot Projects: Time-Intensive Community Visioning Initiatives...

Use \$50 million to fund five time-intensive (18 months) Community Visioning Initiatives in five of the most progressive regions/communities you can find on Planet Earth [there are people who will have very practical suggestions for which regions/communities would fit that description (Possibilities: May East (Chief Executive, Gaia Education) ("Based at the UN Habitat Best Practice Designation, Findhorn Ecovillage, since 1992, May has been leading a whole generation of sustainability educators delivering capacity building activities in 48 countries in both urban and rural contexts and in different stages of development"); AASHE--The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education; GEN--Global Ecovillage Network; Albert Bates (director of the Global Village Institute for Appropriate Technology since 1984 and of the Ecovillage Training Center at The Farm in Summertown, Tennessee, since 1994); Geoff Lawton (Managing Director of The Permaculture Research Institute in Australia) ("Since 1995 he has specialised in permaculture education, design, implementation, system establishment, administration and community development").]

[Note: In other circumstances, I would suggest a global survey first of key informants on challenges perceived and solutions advocated for... however, progressive communities (like the Cascadia/Portland/Vancouver region, for example) have already been doing something like that (informally) for themselves.]

... with the goal of exponentially increasing solution-oriented activity

Global surveys are meant to give impetus to local surveys, both of which would highlight the need for Community Visioning Initiatives and Neighborhood Learning Centers. Community Visioning Initiatives are a series of community meetings designed to maximize citizen participation in identifying challenges, and solution-oriented activity. Neighborhood Learning Centers are multi-purpose support centers for implementing Community Visioning Initiatives; meeting places; workshop centers; and part of a low cost lifelong learning education system. Colleges and universities assisting with carrying out local Community Visioning Initiatives plus many supporting Neighborhood Learning Centers equals an exponential increase in solution-oriented activity.

For an example Community Visioning Initiative, watch the 13 minute documentary “Chattanooga: A Community with a Vision” <https://vimeo.com/9653090> (and imagine such a strategy being “re-set” to engage whole communities in responding to the challenges ahead). The 1984 Chattanooga Community Visioning Project “Vision 2000”, organized by the non-profit organization Chattanooga Venture, attracted more than 1,700 participants, and produced 40 community goals--which resulted in the implementation of 223 projects and programs, the creation of 1,300 permanent jobs, and a total financial investment of 793 million dollars.

What will you, and many other people, learn? (cutting edge solutions; perspective...)

What will you--and many other people--learn from the five Community Visioning Initiatives in five of the most progressive regions/communities you can find on Planet Earth? You will learn what solutions are on the cutting edge of building resilient human habitats in response to the most unprecedented cultural transformation ever attempted by 7.4 billion people on a Planet with deteriorating ecosystems stability. And you will learn how social cohesion can be maintained so that people can implement such cutting edge solutions.

Note: Although I believe there are many people who are aware of most of the solutions which are needed at this critical time, there are (in my view) too many people who are charging ahead with technological solutions which have not been very closely examined for “significant, largely unaccounted

for, and unchecked social and environmental externalities”. A mixed economy approach—which includes regions/communities with much more downsizing (ecovillages); less complex infrastructure (appropriate technology); less complex vulnerabilities; which are more wisdom/compassion friendly; and which may prove to be more sustainable in long run—would complement (especially now, when we are entering uncharted territory, with 1.5°C or more in global warming) the rush to retrofit modern societies so we can have every technological advantage we enjoy now, *even though much of the technological advantages we have now have many downsides (“significant, largely unaccounted for, and unchecked social and environmental externalities”).*

... millions and millions of dollars represents potential which should not be on the sidelines at a critical time like this

When you see what five of the most progressive regions/communities do as a result of region/community wide Community Visioning Initiatives, you, and many other people, will have a much better idea of what to do with millions and millions of dollars--*potential which should not be on the sidelines at a critical time like this*. Many more Community Visioning Initiatives would be the suggestion I would make. Hundreds more.

Key Documents from The CPCS Initiative

Both the website of The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative and my profile page (@StefanPasti) on the Twitter platform, provide access to key CPCS Initiative documents--as in the 2 page “Unprecedented Challenges Ahead” <http://bit.ly/2kiaEjZ> ; 78 page “13 Steps for Long Term Culture Change” <http://bit.ly/2GFaVJ4> ; 15 page “Tweet Series for ’13 Steps...” <http://bit.ly/2vdz350> ; 85 page “Recalibrating Our Moral Compasses....” <http://bit.ly/2fAhapG> --all of which summarize what I am advocating for here, and provide more in-depth considerations.

Confidence will be built up when...

Especially important is the “Unprecedented Challenges Ahead” document. Though I have not yet incorporated the IPCC SR15 report findings into that 2 page assessment, I urge you to carefully consider the summary observations in that document. We are at one of the most critical crossroads humans have encountered in the history of life on Planet Earth. Confidence will be dimmed by a lack of clarity until there is truthful public discourse on the full dimensions of the critical challenges ahead. Confidence will be built up when people believe that the efforts of everyone working together is a greater force than the challenges they are facing.