

Resources, Statistics, and Observations

Most entries from [“Long Version Table of Contents”](#)
for [“Invitation Package for Possible Board of Advisors”](#)
(source references in “Invitation Package...” document)
(page numbers re: “Invitation Package...” provided for some references)

Sections

I. Brief Overview of the Potential for Solutions	2
II. Critical Challenges of Our Times.....	2
A. Monetary Debt.....	2
B. Population and Urbanization Trends.....	3
C. Critical Challenge Assessments Which Identify Unprecedented Challenges.....	3
D. Resource Depletion.....	4
E. Global Media, Entertainment, and Advertising.....	6
F. Violence.....	6
G. Greed.....	7
H. Obesity.....	7
I. Tobacco Use.....	7
J. Alcohol.....	8
K. Gambling.....	8
L. Incarceration.....	8
M. Interlude.....	8
N. Hunger and Food Waste.....	9
O. The Threat of Global Warming.....	9
--and the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	
III. Marginalization of the Treasured Wisdom of Religious, Spiritual, and Moral Traditions.....	11
IV. Re-considering the Urbanization Trend.....	12
Large Cities (with a Population of 1 million or more) vs. Villages, Towns, and Small Cities	
(Which models for human settlements are more likely to be ecologically sustainable, more likely to achieve carbon neutral economies—and more likely to achieve resolutions to most or all of the other challenges brought forward in this “Invitation” document?)	
V. Some Observations on the Cost of 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives.....	14
VI. Selected Resources.....	15
A. Summary Statement Documents.....	15
B. Critical Challenges Assessments.....	16
C. Community Visioning Initiatives/Maximizing Citizen Participation.....	16
D. Neighborhood Learning Centers.....	17
E. Stakeholder Engagement/Collaborative Problem Solving.....	18
F. Related Fields of Activity at Colleges and Universities.....	18

I. Brief Overview of the Potential for Solutions

The [“Invitation Package for Possible Board of Advisors”](#) (key CPCS Initiative document) has a section titled “Descriptions of People Being Formally Invited to Join CPCS Initiative Board of Advisors (272)”. And in the “Who will take these actions?” section of the [Tipping Point Action Proposal at the MIT Climate CoLab Platform](#), I list 35 organizations and initiatives I believe will be most helpful to the start up phase of a Tipping Point Action Campaign:

Pew Research Center; Dialogue by Design; D3Associates; Participatory Local Democracy Program; TckTckTck; Stakeholders Forum; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Teachers Without Borders; International Development Training; Doctors Without Borders; The Hunger Project; ICLEI; Heifer International; Oxfam; Habitat for Humanity; Rotary International; Mercy Corps; CARE International; Religions for Peace; Peace Corps; Sister Cities International; Skoll Foundation; Gates Foundation; Tides Foundation; Women’s Funding Network; Save the Children International; Fairtrade International; Ashoka; Katerva; Gaia Education; La Via Campesina; Global Ecovillage Network; Permaculture Research Institute; Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education; International Biochar Initiative

The Tipping Point Action Campaign could gain momentum with even a tiny fraction of the above advisors and organizations.

1000 time-intensive Community Visioning Initiatives, in communities around the world, would create an exponential increase in solution-oriented investment, an exponential increase in solution-oriented employment, and an exponential increase in our collective capacity to overcome the challenges of our times.

II. Critical Challenges of Our Times

A. Monetary Debt

- 1) Total Public Debt (United States) (\$16.747 trillion)
- 2) U.S. Government Debt, Liabilities, and Unfunded Obligations—\$67.7 trillion ([p. 204](#))
- 3) American Consumer Debt—\$11.1 Trillion
- 4) “Some might assume that bond markets are shielded from the effects of climate change, ecosystem degradation, and water scarcity. With more than \$40 trillion of sovereign debt in global markets at any given time, that is a very high-risk game.”
- 5) “Existing policies and market incentives have contributed to this problem of capital misallocation because they allow businesses to run up significant, largely unaccounted for, and unchecked social and environmental externalities.”
- 6) Derivatives Market—(est.) \$615 trillion (2009)
- 7) “Wall Street and the Financial Crisis: The Role of Investment Banks” (“...the jargon is complicated, the transactions are complicated—you’ve relied on that complicated situation to avoid a lot of scrutiny. “)
- 8) “... a sort of tolerance within the culture for this sort of irregular kind of self-enrichment...” ([p. 210](#))

9) Personal Wealth and Income Disparities—“Personal Wealth now totals \$241 trillion.”/“...the richest 10 percent hold 86 percent of the world’s wealth, and the top 1 percent alone account for 46 percent of global assets.”

10) “If you don’t believe that growth rate is going to be that great, then you have to ask yourself some very fundamental questions...”

11) “The world is on the brink of the ‘largest bubble ever’ in finance, because of the undisclosed value of high-carbon assets on companies’ balance sheets, and investment managers who fail to take account of the risks are failing in their fiduciary duty to shareholders and investors, Al Gore and his investment partner, David Blood, have said.”

B. Population and Urbanization Trends

1) World Population Milestones

“In 1804, the world population was 1 billion.

In 1927, the world population was 2 billion (123 years later).

In 1960, the world population was 3 billion (33 years later).

In 1974, the world population was 4 billion (14 years later).

In 1987, the world population was 5 billion (13 years later).

In 1999, the world population was 6 billion (12 years later).

In 2011, the world population was 7 billion (12 years later).”

2) Urbanization Trends

“In 1800, only 3 percent of the world’s population lived in urban areas.”

“By 1900, almost 14 percent were urbanites, although only 12 cities had 1 million or more inhabitants.”

“In 1950, 30% of the world’s population resided in urban centers. The number of cities with over 1 million people had grown to 83.”

“In 2008, for the first time, the world’s population was evenly split between urban and rural areas. There were more than 400 cities over 1 million and 19 over 10 million.”

“By 2030, China and India will have more than 221 cities and 68 cities, respectively, with populations of more than one million people each, according to research by the McKinsey Global Institute. By 2025, more than 70 percent of Chinese and 40 percent of Indians will live in cities of greater than one million people.”

C. Critical Challenge Assessments Which Identify Unprecedented Challenges

1) “...A strategy for eradicating poverty will not succeed if an economy’s environmental support systems are collapsing.” [Plan B 2.0 (2006)—Lester R. Brown]

2) “Plan B is shaped by what is needed to save civilization, not by what may currently be considered politically feasible ...It also involves cutting carbon dioxide emissions 80% by 2020...We must move at wartime speed, restructuring the world energy economy at a pace reminiscent of the restructuring of

the U.S. industrial economy in 1942 following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.” [Plan B 3.0 (2008)—Lester R. Brown] (p. 218)

3) “We are facing issues of near-overwhelming complexity and unprecedented urgency.”/“...the world is only one poor harvest away from chaos.” [“World on the Edge” (2011)—Lester R. Brown]

4) “Achieving such a deep transformation of the energy, industrial, and agricultural systems over the next few decades will represent one of the greatest technical, organizational, and financing challenges that humanity has faced.” (“An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development: Report for the UN Secretary-General”; October 23, 2013) (p. 299)

5) “The new reality,” says Brown, “is that the world is only one poor harvest away from chaos. It is time to redefine security. The principal threats to our future are no longer armed aggression but instead climate change, population growth, water shortages, spreading hunger, and failing states.” (from press release for “World on the Edge” (2011)—Lester R. Brown]

D. Resource Depletion

1) Oceans in Critical State from Cumulative Impacts (2013)—“...Professor Alex Rogers of Somerville College, Oxford, and Scientific Director of IPSO said: ‘The health of the ocean is spiraling downwards far more rapidly than we had thought. We are seeing greater change, happening faster, and the effects are more imminent than previously anticipated. The situation should be of the gravest concern to everyone since everyone will be affected by changes in the ability of the ocean to support life on Earth.’”

2) Our unsustainable relationships with forests and wood—“A growing world population, expanding industrialization, and rising incomes is driving materials extraction to an increasingly unsustainable rate.” (p. 221)

a) “For almost 3 billion people, wood is the main energy source for heating and cooking...”

b) “Over half the timber harvested for industrial use goes to North America, Europe and Japan, a figure that rises to 70 percent for paper.”

c) “At least 80% of the developed world's diet originated in the tropical rainforest.”

d) “...the last remaining rainforests could be consumed in less than 40 years”

e) “By 2001 the rainforest areas of Brazil were reduced by a fifth (respect of 1970), to around 4,000,000 km²; the ground cleared was mainly destined for cattle pasture - Brazil is the world's largest exporter of beef with almost 200,000,000 head of cattle

3) “The world is incurring a vast water deficit—one that is largely invisible, historically recent, and growing fast. Half the world’s people live in countries where water tables are falling as aquifers are being depleted. And since 70 percent of world water use is for irrigation, water shortages can quickly translate into food shortages.” (p.225)

a) “Today roughly 40 percent of the world grain harvest comes from irrigated land. It thus comes as no surprise that irrigation expansion has played a central role in tripling the world grain harvest over the last six decades.”

b) “Saudi Arabia’s growing food insecurity has even led it to buy or lease land in several other countries, including two of the world’s hungriest, Ethiopia and Sudan. In effect, the Saudis are planning to produce food for themselves with the land and water resources of other countries.”

c) "In developing countries, 70 percent of industrial waste is dumped untreated into waters where they pollute the usable water supply."

d) "Early cities relied on food and water from the surrounding countryside, but today cities often depend on distant sources for basic amenities. Los Angeles, for example, draws much of its water from the Colorado River, some 600 miles away. Mexico City's burgeoning population, living at an altitude of over 9,000 feet, depends on the costly pumping of water from 100 miles away that must be lifted over 3,000 feet to augment inadequate water supplies. Beijing is planning to draw water from the Yangtze River basin some 800 miles away."

e) "The oil used to move resources into and out of cities often comes from distant oil fields. Rising oil prices will affect cities, but they will affect even more the suburbs that surround them. The growing scarcity of water and the high energy cost of transporting it over long distances may begin to constrain the growth of some cities."

4) Unsustainable Fishing—"53% of the world's fisheries are fully exploited, and 32% are overexploited, depleted, or recovering from depletion"

5) "Unsettling Infographic Details the Impending Disappearance of World's Natural Resources" (p.232)

6) Food Waste--"About 1/3 of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year; approximately 1.3 billion tonnes gets lost or wasted. Industrialized and developing countries waste roughly the same quantities of food – respectively 670 and 630 million tonnes."

a) "Forty one per cent of the Ecological Footprint (2.80 gha) is accounted for by the food Londoners eat....In total, London consumes 6.9 million tones of food (per year), more than three quarters of which is imported. London throws away 560,000 tonnes of food (per year) as waste."

b) "New Yorkers produce 600,000 of food waste per year."

c) "Supermarkets, restaurants and other nonresidential establishments in Montgomery County throw away 96 million pounds of food a year."

7) "Growing prosperity and urbanization could double the volume of municipal solid waste annually by 2025—from today's 1.3 billion tons per year to 2.6 billion tons"

8) Ecological Footprint Analysis: "Ecological Deficit—The level of resource consumption and waste discharge by a defined economy or population in excess of locally/regionally sustainable natural production and assimilative capacity (also, in spatial terms, the difference between that economy/population's ecological footprint and the geographic area it actually occupies)."

a) "...However, our analysis of physical flows shows that these and most other so-called 'advanced' economies are running massive, unaccounted, ecological deficits with the rest of the planet (Table 1).... These data emphasize that all the countries listed, except for Canada, are overpopulated in ecological terms—they could not sustain themselves at current material standards if forced by changing circumstances to live on their remaining endowments of domestic natural capital. This is hardly a good model for the rest of the world to follow."

b) "These data emphasize that all the countries listed, except for Canada, are overpopulated in ecological terms—they could not sustain themselves at current material standards if forced by changing circumstances to live on their remaining endowments of domestic natural capital." (p. 234)

E. Global Media, Entertainment, and Advertising

As young children grow into adults, the everyday circumstances of community life and cultural traditions provide “frameworks” by which they “understand their experiences and make judgments about what is valuable and important”. These “frameworks” shape the way people come into contact with each other, and the way they interpret facts, issues, and events—and provide the context by which people decide what are appropriate responses to the circumstances of their lives. These “frameworks” are often the source of a person’s thoughts about who they are, how they feel about themselves, how they evaluate other peoples “frameworks”, and how other people might evaluate their “framework”.

- 1) Global media and entertainment industry revenues for 2012: nearly \$1,629 trillion
- 2) Worldwide Advertising Spending (2012)--\$557 billion
- 3) United States Advertising Spending (2012)--\$139.5 billion
- 4) Number of 30 second commercials seen in a year by an average child: (16,000) [\(p. 242\)](#)
- 5) “What is basic is that advertising...ultimately regards man as a consumer and defines its own mission as one of stimulating him to consume or to desire to consume.”
- 6) Popular Programming

“Popular programming reflects a level of acceptance and shared values among large numbers of people. People tend to watch programs that meet their approval. If they are truly offended by violent programs, they would not watch them. In that sense, media programming can be regarded as a text that reflects the attitudes, values, behaviors, preoccupations, and myths that define a culture.”

“At the same time, media programming reinforces cultural attitudes, values, behaviors, preoccupations, and myths. Media messages are communicated through the countless hours of media programming that repeat, directly or indirectly, the cultural script.”

“Finally, the media do not merely reflect or reinforce culture, but in fact shape attitudes, values, behavior, preoccupations, and myths.”

- 7) “Of 3,800 social media marketers, 76% cited YouTube and video marketing as their top area for investment in 2012; it was video’s second straight year in the top spot, as cited by Brainshark.”

F. Violence

- 1) Worldwide Military Expenditures—“Total world military expenditure in 2012 was \$1.75 trillion. This is equivalent to 2.5 per cent of global GDP.”
- 2) Global Drugs and Global Arms Trade--“The global drugs trade and the global arms trade are integral to violence in both developing and industrialized countries. Even modest progress on either front will contribute to reducing the amount and degree of violence suffered by millions of people. To date, however—and despite their high profile in the world arena—no solutions seem to be in sight for these problems.”
- 3) Intentional Homicides, Worldwide (2010)—468,000
- 4) Violence on Television—“Number of violent acts seen of TV by age 18: 150,000

- 5) "Video games, many of which involve players committing simulated violence, are increasingly popular with children... "
- 6) Conscientious Objector Status: Requesting to be excused from military service based on religious, spiritual, or moral convictions. Consider the following statement:

"Most people would consider it unusual for a person to request to be excused from military service based on their religious, spiritual, or moral convictions."

G. Greed

1) Personal Wealth and Income Disparities

- a) "Personal Wealth now totals \$241 trillion."
- b) "...the richest 10 percent hold 86 percent of the world's wealth, and the top 1 percent alone account for 46 percent of global assets."

H. Obesity

- 1) "...in 1997 the World Health Organization (WHO) formally recognized obesity as a global epidemic."
- 2) "Obesity is one of the leading health issues in US society, resulting in about 300,000 deaths per year in the United States."
- 3) "One of the main reasons Americans eat as poorly as we do may be the ubiquity of low-priced, unhealthy foods and their promotion...we are surrounded with tempting options that aren't good for us."
- 4) "65 percent of the world's population live in countries where overweight and obesity kills more people than underweight and malnutrition."

I. Tobacco Use

- 1) "Global consumption of cigarettes has been rising steadily since manufactured cigarettes were introduced at the beginning of the 20th century."
- 2) "Tobacco use is the world's leading cause of preventable death, according to the World Health Organization." (p. 246)
- 3) "Yet every year tobacco kills more Americans than did World War II — more than AIDS, cocaine, heroin, alcohol, vehicular accidents, homicide and suicide combined."
- 4) "Nearly 80% of those who die from tobacco-related illnesses are in low- and middle-income countries."
- 5) "In the USA alone over \$10 billion is spent a year on marketing cigarettes...."
- 6) Profits—"countries do not profit economically from tobacco production and consumption – in fact, they suffer great financial harm."

J. Alcohol

- 1) "Alcohol is the world's third largest risk factor for disease burden..." (p.251)
- 2) "The harmful use of alcohol is a global problem which compromises both individual and social development. It results in 2.5 million deaths each year. It also causes harm far beyond the physical and psychological health of the drinker. It harms the well-being and health of people around the drinker. An intoxicated person can harm others or put them at risk of traffic accidents or violent behaviour, or negatively affect co-workers, relatives, friends or strangers. Thus, the impact of the harmful use of alcohol reaches deep into society."
- 3) "Alcohol in America is big business. We spent \$162 billion buying beer, wine and liquor in 2011."
- 4) "In 2010, 10,228 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes (U.S.), accounting for nearly one-third (31%) of all traffic-related deaths in the United States."

K. Gambling

- 1) Gambling—"...gambling activities generated US\$ 419 billion in revenues across the world in 2011."
- 2) "In 2007, gambling activities generated gross revenues (the difference between the total amounts wagered minus the funds or "winnings" returned to the players) of \$92.27 billion in the United States."
- 3) "State lotteries have become a significant source of revenue for the states, raising \$17.6 billion in profits for state budgets in the 2009 fiscal year (FY) with 11 states collecting more revenue from their state lottery than from their state corporate income tax during FY2009."

L. Incarceration

- 1) "At year-end 2007 the United States had less than 5% of the world's population and 23.4% of the world's prison and jail population (adult inmates)."
- 2) "In 2007, around \$74 billion was spent on corrections. The total number of inmates in 2007 in federal, state, and local lockups was 2,419,241. That comes to around \$30,600 per inmate."

M. Interlude

- 1) "This is not the life of simplicity but the life of multiplicity that the wise men warn us of. It leads not to unification but to fragmentation." (p. 256)
- 2) "We can imagine that they (people in developing countries) can improve their standard of living without increasing their fossil fuel consumption, but what do we have to point to in order to show that it can be done?"

N. Hunger and Food Waste

As young children grow into adults, the everyday circumstances of community life and cultural traditions provide “frameworks” by which they “understand their experiences and make judgments about what is valuable and important”. These “frameworks” shape the way people come into contact with each other, and the way they interpret facts, issues, and events—and provide the context by which people decide what are appropriate responses to the circumstances of their lives. These “frameworks” are often the source of a person’s thoughts about who they are, how they feel about themselves, how they evaluate other peoples “frameworks”, and how other people might evaluate their “framework”.

1) Hunger—“The world produces enough food to feed everyone.”

- a) “22,000 children die each day due to conditions of poverty.”
- b) “Undernutrition contributes to 2.6 million deaths of children under five each year - one third of the global total.”
- c) “More than 11 million children die each year from preventable health issues such as malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia.”)
- d) “Hunger and malnutrition are in fact the number one risk to health worldwide — greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.”
- e) “Between 780 million and 1.3 billion people in the world go to bed hungry each night.”
- f) “The vast majority of hungry people (98 percent) live in developing countries, where almost 15 percent of the population is undernourished.”

2) Food Waste

- a) “About 1/3 of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year; approximately 1.3 billion tonnes gets lost or wasted. Industrialized and developing countries waste roughly the same quantities of food – respectively 670 and 630 million tonnes.”
- b) “Forty one per cent of the Ecological Footprint (2.80 gha) is accounted for by the food Londoners eat....In total, London consumes 6.9 million tones of food (per year), more than three quarters of which is imported. London throws away 560,000 tonnes of food (per year) as waste.”
- c) “New Yorkers produce 600,000 of food waste per year.”
- d) “Supermarkets, restaurants and other nonresidential establishments in Montgomery County throw away 96 million pounds of food a year.”

O. The Threat of Global Warming—and the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

1) Introductory Information—

“What causes global warming? We do
Who can reduce global warming? We can.”

- a) “These findings are recognized by the national science academies of all major industrialized nations.”

- b) “Carbon dioxide enters the atmosphere through burning fossil fuels (coal, natural gas and oil), solid waste, trees and wood products, and also as a result of certain chemical reactions (e.g., manufacture of cement). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (or "sequestered") when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.”
- c) “Tropical deforestation, also by human hands, is another major contributor. When these forests are burned, they release huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere and because the forests no longer exist, they are no longer available to absorb CO2.”
- d) “Because of slow removal processes, atmospheric CO2 will continue to increase in the long term even if its emission is substantially reduced from present levels.”
- e) “...it will take many decades for an equilibrium temperature to be reached between the air and the sea.”
- f) “Although the range of uncertainty for future temperatures is large, even the lower end of the range is likely to have many undesirable effects on natural and human systems.”

2) Graphs and Charts—(Note: A fair use for educational purposes—and fair use in circumstances where there is a urgent need for greatly accelerated solution-oriented activity—policy has been adopted) (p. 263)

- a) Carbon dioxide records for the past 400,000 years
- b) Global Surface Temperature Analysis (1880-2007) (in degrees Centigrade)
- c) Sea Surface Temperature (1880-2012) (in degrees Fahrenheit)
- d) Arctic Sea Ice Volume (1980-present)
- e) Sea Level Rise—and Causes (1994-2012)
- f) “...glaciers worldwide have been found to be shrinking significantly”
- g) Key Indicators Summary Page (NASA) (p. 268)
- h) Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector (p. 269)
- i) “Everything That's Causing Global Warming, In One Handy Graph”--“The useful thing about this graph, though, is that we're then treated to a window of how these carbon sources are tied to crucial industrial and social functions, and how closely interlinked and therefore how massively difficult to unlink they are.” (p. 270)
- j) Top-10 cumulative energy-related CO2 emitters between 1850–2008
- k) List of Countries by 2008 Emissions

3) A 28 point Timeline of Reports, Articles, and other Educational Materials Warning About Global Warming (1988—2013) (p. 273-301)

[Note: This timeline is not meant to be a comprehensive list that includes every significant contribution—just an indicator suggesting that a large number of reports, etc have been issued by a variety of organizations, initiatives, and individuals on this most important subject.]

4) Selected Global Warming Issues in More Depth

- a) “If we turn to these dirtiest of fuels, instead of finding ways to phase out our addiction to fossil fuels, there is no hope of keeping carbon concentrations below 500 p.p.m....”

- b)_ Again—for emphasis-- our unsustainable relationships with trees and wood/"...the last remaining rainforests could be consumed in less than 40 years." (p.303)
- c) "Coal—The Ignored Juggernaut" (p. 305)
- d) Transport—"Nearly a quarter of total of the global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions can be attributed to the transport sector. Globally, carbon dioxide emissions from transport have increased 85 per cent between 1973 and 2007."/ "The number of cars on the world's roads surpassed one billion last year..."; "Earlier this year, the OECD's International Transport Forum forecast that the number of cars worldwide would reach 2.5 billion by 2050."
- e) Livestock—"More than 18% of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are attributed to livestock and livestock-related activities such as deforestation and increasingly fuel-intensive farming practices."
- f) "Why the Arctic sea ice death spiral matters" (p. 309)
- g) Institutional Investors—"Quite simply, if institutional investors do not systematically reallocate capital from high-carbon to low-carbon investments, particularly in corporate equity and debt, a transition to a low-carbon economy will be virtually impossible."

III. Marginalization of the Treasured Wisdom of Religious, Spiritual, and Moral Traditions

A. What is being marginalized?

("... there are truths which none can be free to ignore, if one is to have that wisdom through which life can become useful. These are the truths concerning the structures of the good life and concerning the factual conditions by which it may be achieved....)

- 1) "As young children grow into adults, the everyday circumstances of community life and cultural traditions provide 'frameworks' by which they 'understand their experiences and make judgments about what is valuable and important'. These 'frameworks' shape the way people come into contact with each other, and the way they interpret facts, issues, and events—and provide the context by which people decide what are appropriate responses to the circumstances of their lives. These 'frameworks' are often the source of a person's thoughts about who they are, how they feel about themselves, how they evaluate other peoples 'frameworks', and how other people might evaluate their 'framework'."
- 2) "The meaning of life, therefore, of its purposes and values as understood by the educator, primarily determines the nature of his work. Education aims at an ideal, and this in turn depends on the view that is taken of (human beings) and (their) destiny, of (their) relations to God, to (their) fellowmen, and to the physical world. The content of education is furnished by the previous acquisition of humankind in literature, art, and science, in moral, social, and religious principles. The inheritance, however, contains elements that differ greatly in value, both as mental possessions and as means of culture; hence a selection is necessary, and this must be guided largely by the educational ideal."
- 3) "Human morality is not a constant—it is not something which is the same throughout the centuries of human existence; and thus it is something which can become degraded or raised up, depending on the leanings of human aspirations."

4) "... every article in the bazaar has moral and spiritual values attached to it..."

5) Honesty is the best policy.

"Oh! What a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive."

6) "The satisfaction of one's physical needs must come at a certain point to a dead stop before it degenerates into physical decadence."

7) "If many people can learn to find contentment and quality of life while consuming much less, this limiting of desires at the 'root' will save much trouble trying to respond to the symptoms as they materialize worldwide. This is part of the 'spiritual teachings' element which often gets overlooked..."

8) "And what is possible along the lines of wisdom and compassion? How many of us would say that we are fully aware of what is possible along the lines of wisdom and compassion? What would the everyday circumstances of our community life be like if many of us *were* fully aware of what is possible along the lines of wisdom and compassion? Many of us *could be* much more familiar with what is possible... unfortunately, much of the real treasured wisdom of religious, spiritual, and moral traditions now seems to be hidden—and thus in need of being re-discovered. These "hidden" resources include teachings which inspire and encourage people to:

- a) place a high priority on the development of truth, virtue, love, and peace—and on living disciplined lives for the purpose of adhering to truth, cultivating virtue and love, and maintaining the pathways to enduring peace
- b) sacrifice personal desires for the greater good of the whole
- c) find contentment and quality of life while consuming less material goods and ecological services
- d) prefer peacebuilding which supports and actualizes mutually beneficial understandings, forgiveness, and reconciliation—and *which abstains from violent conflict resolution*—as a way of bringing cycles of violence to an end
- e) use resources carefully, so that there is surplus available for emergency assistance
- f) support community life and cultural traditions which "... bring to the fore what is often hidden: how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help, as well as to those who receive it".

9) "Popular programming reflects a level of acceptance and shared values among large numbers of people. People tend to watch programs that meet their approval. If they are truly offended by violent programs, they would not watch them. In that sense, media programming can be regarded as a text that reflects the attitudes, values, behaviors, preoccupations, and myths that define a culture."

IV. Re-considering the Urbanization Trend (p. 393)

Large Cities (with a Population of 1 million or more) vs. Villages, Towns, and Small Cities

(Which models for human settlements are more likely to be ecologically sustainable, more likely to achieve carbon neutral economies—and more likely to achieve resolutions to most or all of the other challenges brought forward in this "Invitation" document?)

A. Selected Resources and Observations

- 1) “Many rural and urban development schemes have overlooked the importance of locally specific ways of meeting needs for food, health, shelter, energy, education and other fundamental human needs...”
- 2) Small-Scale Sustainable Farming—“...the answer to a more food secure world isn’t bound to complicated or sophisticated technology. Rather, it lies in organic, environmentally conscious farming practices that nourish the Earth.”
- 3) Global Ecovillage Network—“GEN provides information, tools, examples and global representation to the expanding network of those dedicated to developing and demonstrating sustainability principles and practices in their lifestyles and communities around the world.”
- 4) Gaia Education--“Gaia Educations’ flagship curriculum is the Ecovillage Design Education course...developed over a number of years by a group of Ecovillage educators from around the world... The programme is a 4 week holistic introduction to designing sustainable settlements.” [\(p. 398\)](#)
- 5) Permaculture--“It should be possible to design land use systems which approach the solar energy harvesting capacities of natural systems while providing humanity with its needs. This was the original premise of the permaculture concept.”
- 6) “Village Earth (originally called the Consortium for Sustainable Village-Based Development)—Appropriate Technology Library “...contains the full text and images from over 1050 of the best books dealing with all areas of do-it-yourself technology.”
- 7) Findhorn Ecovillage—“is a tangible demonstration of the links between the spiritual, social, ecological and economic aspects of life and is a synthesis of the very best of current thinking on human habitats.” [\(p.404\)](#)
- 8) Centre for Alternative Technology—“...an eco-centre in Powys, mid-Wales, dedicated to demonstrating and teaching sustainable development....”“Our site is a unique and valuable practical demonstration centre, a living laboratory with an enormous range of live examples of sustainable solutions.” [\(p. 407\)](#)
- 9) Local Food Policy Councils--“Many organizations, both local and national in scope, have developed tools, informational resources, or successful model policies that support an integrated, sustainable and equitable food system at the city or regional level. We have collected a sample of those experiences and resources to provide community advocates with practical tools and ideas for creating local food policy change.” [\(p. 412\)](#)
- 10) Community Supported Agriculture—“LocalHarvest has the most comprehensive directory of CSA farms, with over 4,000 listed in our grassroots database.” [\(p. 414\)](#)
- 11) “In India, people have lived for thousands of years in a relative harmony with their surroundings: living in their homesteads, weaving homespun clothes, eating homegrown food, using homemade

goods..."/"The satisfaction of one's physical needs must come at a certain point to a dead stop before it degenerates into physical decadence." (p. 416)

12) "There is hardly anything of daily use in the home which the villagers have not made before and cannot make even now. If we perform the mental trick and fix our gaze upon them, we immediately put millions of rupees into the pockets of the villagers, whereas at the present moment we are exploiting the villagers without making any return worth the name."

13) J.C. Kumarappa—"We do not live unto ourselves, and the more we realize the repercussions of our actions on our neighbors and strive to act according to the highest we are capable of, the more shall we advance in our spiritual development." (p. 418)

14) Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne—Sarvodaya Shramadan Movement—"Awakening' means developing human potential, and is a comprehensive process taking place on the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, economic and political levels. Sarvodaya strives for a model of society in which there is neither poverty nor excessive affluence."/"Shramadana' means 'sharing work, knowledge, talents, and time.'" (p. 419)

15) 125 Related Fields of Activity—agrarian reform, alleviating hunger, community visioning initiatives, ecovillages, employment training, food autonomy, holistic education, inspiring role models, local currency, low impact transport systems, peacebuilding, permaculture, renewable resources, right livelihood, socially engaged spirituality, voluntary simplicity, zero waste, etc (p.422)

16) "A Modern Agriculture-Based Village can contribute to community and regional decision-making--by giving anyone the opportunity to experience first hand what products and innovations are basic and essential to individual, community, and regional well-being."

17) Visualizing a Reversal of the Urbanization Trend: 52 megacities to 13,000 ecologically sustainable small cities and towns (p.426)

V. Some Observations on the Cost of 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives

Rough estimate: \$10 million for a time-intensive (year or more) Community Visioning Initiative (introduced by Preliminary Surveys, and supported by many Community Teaching and Learning Centers) (p.502)

Thus, 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives might cost \$10 billion.

Below are 8 different ways of looking at where 10 billion dollars might come from. These observations will illustrate that wisely directed, the way each of us "votes" with our time, energy, and money can result in countless ways of earning a living which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to drastically reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and to also (at the same time) mitigate many other related challenges.

1) \$10 billion is only .005% of the \$207 trillion in personal wealth held by the richest 10 percent.

- 2) \$10 billion is only .57% (a little more than half of 1%) of \$1,750 billion in military expenditures in 2012.
- 3) \$10 billion is 1.8% of (est.) \$557 billion in worldwide advertising spending in 2012.
- 4) \$10 billion is 2.4% of the \$419 billion of worldwide gambling revenues in 2011.
- 5) \$10 billion is 6% of the \$162 billion people in the United States spent on beer, wine, and liquor in 2011.
- 6) If 18% of cable TV subscribers in the United States unsubscribed from cable TV, they could re-direct that money to finance 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives.
- 7) Companies marketing cigarettes in the United States could use that \$10 billion per year to fund the costs of implementing 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives.
- 8) “Many hands make much work light.”—The result can be that there are countless “ways to earn a living” which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

VI. Selected Resources

A. Summary Statement Documents

- 1) [“Invitation Package for Possible Board of Advisors”](#) (589 pages; 3.65 MB) (compilation of excerpts document, and summary statement). The “Threat of Global Warming” section is, unfortunately, only one of many sections which provide evidence of trajectories continuing to move in a dangerous direction. Includes a 78 page section titled “A Constellation of Initiatives Approach to Collaborative Problem Solving and Citizen Peacebuilding”.
 - 1a) [“20 page introduction” \(to the “Invitation Package” document\)](#) [(with three sections: “A. In this ‘Invitation Package’ document, readers will find—“B. This 589 page document is an invitation to—“ and “C. This ‘Invitation Package’ document can encourage awareness and insights relating to many critical issues, and accelerate many different kinds of solution-oriented activity. Here are examples of some hoped for outcomes—“; many examples of solution resources and statistics—and a subsection “More People who...” (as part of the “hoped for outcomes” section); created as a kind of “executive summary” of the “Invitation Package for Possible Board of Advisors (at cpcsc.info)”]
 - 1b) [“Appendix 7: We have the resources necessary to overcome the challenges of our times”](#) (from the document “Invitation Package for Possible Board of Advisors (at cpcsc.info)” (A response for people who think the “1000 Community Visioning Initiatives” Campaign is setting unrealistic goals)

2) Many books and articles by Lester R. Brown ([Earth Policy Institute](#)) a) "...A strategy for eradicating poverty will not succeed if an economy's environmental support systems are collapsing." [Plan B 2.0 (2006)—Lester R. Brown] b) "Plan B...involves cutting carbon dioxide emissions 80% by 2020...We must move at wartime speed..." [Plan B 3.0 (2008)—Lester R. Brown] c) "Half the world's people live in countries where water tables are falling as aquifers are being depleted." ["World on the Edge" (2011)—Lester R. Brown]

3) ["A Four Page Summary of the IPCR Initiative"](#) (2011) Primary outreach document for outreach associated with The Interfaith Peacebuilding and Community Revitalization (IPCR) Initiative (2011) (Note: The IPCR Initiative now has a homebase at the website of The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative (see <http://cpcsc.info/the-ipcr-initiative/>).

B. Critical Challenges Assessments

1) ["A List of Ten Critical Challenges"](#) (1 page) (this writer). Condensation of evidence from many documents; describes convergence of many critical challenges.

C. Community Visioning Initiatives/Maximizing Citizen Participation

1) ["Chattanooga: A Community with a Visioning"](#) (video documentary) As a way of visualizing the potential of Community Visioning Initiatives to revitalize the experience of working together with our neighbors for the greater good, this writer recommends the 13 minute documentary "Chattanooga: A Community with a Vision". The documentary includes many interviews and how-to details. The 1984 Chattanooga Community Visioning Project ("Vision 2000") 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.

2) ["The Potential of Community Visioning Initiatives \(in 500 words\)"](#) (this writer)

3) ["The '1000 Community Visioning Initiatives' Proposal"](#) [submission to the "Sustainable Development Goals E-Inventory (crowdsourcing proposals for post-2015 to feed into the intergovernmental process on SDGs) (link goes to proposal at SDG E-Inventory website) (6 pages) (November, 2013)

4) ["A 15 Step Outline for a Community Visioning Initiative"](#) (28 pages) (2008) [Many details in this "how-to" outline, including how residents would "vote" in different phases of the process. Ex: For prioritizing challenges identified, "residents are encouraged to submit one (1) 'Final Version' document for this step. The document for this step should include a list of 10-20 items, and must be limited to 4 well-organized and easily read pages (to help with the compilation and summary process)." Thus, the process encourages residents to give careful thought to what they submit as a "vote".]

5) ["15 Sample Preliminary Survey Questions \(as preparation for implementing a Community Visioning Initiative\)"](#) (One very important lead-in for the kind of Community Visioning Initiatives this writer

advocates for are well thought out surveys sent to 150 key leaders in local communities. At this critical time, citizens will be looking very carefully at the responses these leaders make to questions about challenges, and possible solutions—and will learn from these responses why there is a need for a Community Visioning Initiative, and for many Neighborhood Learning Centers.)

6) [“Much Unrealized Potential for Community Service”](#) (2 pages) (March, 2012) [Part of the outreach carried out relating to the "Critical Challenges Assessment" document (see document describing "Major IPCR Outreach Efforts" document in the IPCR Initiative section). Excerpt: “If most ordinary citizens are going to have meaningful roles in an ongoing transition from dysfunctional systems which are very complex to functioning systems which are much less complex—there will need to be local institutions which they can trust to provide common points of reference... to provide some kind of “moral compasses” which people can rely on through a time of constantly changing cultural landscapes. There is now a need for those local institutions which can provide such leadership to do so.” This brief paper suggests critical assistance could be provided by the following institutions (and offers ideas about what that assistance could be): 1) Universities and Colleges 2) Local Newspapers 3) Places of Worship]

7) ["Evaluating the Effectiveness of Community Visioning Initiatives"](#) (7 pages) (By giving much importance to developing evaluation procedures, organizers of Community Visioning Initiatives will have the tools necessary to maximize the lessons which can be learned from the experience)

D. Neighborhood Learning Centers

1) [“The Potential of Community Teaching and Learning Centers \(in 500 words\)”](#)

2) [Community Centers for Meeting Basic Needs](#)—“The Hunger Project’s (THP’s) Epicenter Strategy unites 5,000 to 15,000 people in a cluster of villages to create an “epicenter,” or a dynamic center where communities are mobilized for action to meet their basic needs...The Hunger Project has mobilized more than 121 epicenter communities in eight countries in Africa.”

3) [“Gaia Education Design for Sustainability: Incorporating Transition Towns Training”](#) (4 Oct. - 7 Nov. 2014) “Gaia Education curriculum draws on experience and expertise developed in a network of some of the most successful ecovillages and community projects across the Earth.”

4) [Community Centers for Meeting Basic Needs](#)—“The Hunger Project’s (THP’s) Epicenter Strategy unites 5,000 to 15,000 people in a cluster of villages to create an “epicenter,” or a dynamic center where communities are mobilized for action to meet their basic needs...The Hunger Project has mobilized more than 121 epicenter communities in eight countries in Africa.”

5) [Teachers Without Borders](#) (TWB)—“TWB aims to enhance education globally by supporting local teacher leadership. TWB activities are conceived and run by educators and local leaders who best understand the requirements and goals of their colleagues and communities. Based upon this premise, we provide free resources and tools to help teachers around the world learn, connect, collaborate, and create online; in schools or community centers, in workshops and seminars. We remove barriers to availability, accessibility, acceptability, and adaptability, through high-teach, high-tech, and high-touch programs and platforms.” [From <http://teacherswithoutborders.org/about-us/mission-and-vision>]

6) [“125 Related Fields of Activity”](#) This writer has identified 125 fields of activity related to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts. These fields of activity are examples of topics which can be explored through workshops at Community Teaching and Learning Centers (CTLCs). This list is offered as a way of illustrating how providing affordable workshops in neighborhood community centers can help citizens participate in identifying challenges, and solution-oriented activity during a Community Visioning Initiative. Many educational resources can be shared in CTLCs, resulting in maximum educational benefits for minimum cost. In addition, if readers consider the number of organizations, initiatives, and individuals associated with efforts in these fields of activity, they will likely share this writers’ view that there are countless number of “things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives” which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in our own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.

E. Stakeholder Engagement/Collaborative Problem Solving

1) [Dialogue by Design](#) specialises in running public and stakeholder engagement processes using online, paper-based and face-to-face methods. [From <http://www.dialoguebydesign.net/>]

2) [“D3 Associates](#) is committed to promoting excellence in dialogue, deliberation and decision making. We support leaders in organizations and communities around the world who are wrestling with tough issues that require working together with others from different backgrounds and perspectives. We have over 20 years of experience and have worked with heads of state and corporate executives as well as leaders of communities and indigenous groups, government institutions, inter-governmental organizations and a variety of civil-society organizations, from local to international.” [From <http://d3associates.net/>]

3) [Participatory Local Democracy: A Global Community of Practice](#)--“Participatory, decentralized local government is key for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and many practitioners are undertaking exciting experiments in its development and promotion...The Hunger Project is working in partnership with the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) on a two-year project to cultivate a global community of practice among individuals working to build capacity for effective, responsive local governance with a particular focus on impoverished rural areas.” [From <http://localdemocracy.net/about/>]

F. Related Fields of Activity at Colleges and Universities

1) [Responsible Endowments Coalition](#)

“...divestment alone is not enough. What kind of world do we envision for the future? In this workshop we are going to build tools and knowledge for incorporating a demand for reinvestment into a fossil fuel divestment campaign. Reinvestment means investing in our communities and in businesses committed to creating just and equitable solutions in areas like energy, manufacturing, and technology.”

“Responsible investment means recognizing that our finances have major social and environmental impacts worldwide — from peoples' working conditions, to their health, to the very land they live on. Colleges and universities, controlling over 400 billion dollars, have a responsibility to make a more sustainable and socially just endowment a reality, and some already have.”

“Responsible Endowments Coalition, in coalition with the Sierra Student Coalition, Energy Action Coalition, California Student Sustainability Coalition, and 350.org, is joining the student movement calling for universities to divest their holdings from coal and fossil fuels.”

“College students and alumni at over 300 colleges and universities across the United States are demanding universities: a) Stop: Freeze new investments in the fossil fuel industry b) Drop: Divest and implement screens to ensure their portfolios are fossil free within the next 5 years c) Roll: Reinvest 5% of their endowment into community and energy solutions like credit unions and revolving loan funds.”

Lauren Ressler, National Organizer

“Lauren currently supports the national student responsible investment movement as National Organizer for the Responsible Endowments Coalition.”

Dan Apfel, Executive Director

“Dan is an expert at supporting and implementing responsible investment strategies on campus. He works with allies in advocacy organizations, industry, and the university community, to learn about and stay on top of the newest strategies in responsible investing.”

[From <http://neweconomy.net/content/stop-drop-and-roll-fossil-fuel-divestment-reinvestment> , <http://www.endowmentethics.org/> , <http://www.endowmentethics.org/ffdivestment> , and <http://www.endowmentethics.org/staff-board>]

2) [New Economy Coalition](#)

“Rachel Plattus is Director of Youth and Student Organizing at the New Economy Coalition. She coordinates the Youth and Student Network and works to build community, organizational and funder engagement in the New Economy.” [From <http://neweconomy.net/staff>]

3) [Interfaith Youth Core](#)

“Our engagements help build campus ecologies that promote interfaith cooperation, equip campus leaders to set a vision for interfaith efforts, and inspire students to take action.

“We partner with campuses through engagement opportunities that include training, development, research, and consultation in a variety of areas:

a) strategic visioning and asset mapping b) aligning interfaith cooperation with campus mission and values c) assessment of campus climate, student attitudes, and behaviors d) student, staff, and faculty capacity building e) supporting the President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge and the Better Together campaign.”

“Better Together is a student led campaign for interfaith action. This means across the county, students are mobilizing their campuses for interfaith cooperation by voicing their values, engaging with others, and acting together to make the world a better place for everyone.”)

“Abhishek Raman, campus engagement manager, develops new campus partnerships, implements campus engagements, and conducts strategic outreach to institutions in the U.S. higher education network.”

[From <http://www.ifyc.org/engagements> , <http://www.ifyc.org/better-together> and <http://www.ifyc.org/team>]

4) [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#)

“AASHE’s mission is to empower higher education to lead the sustainability transformation. We do this by providing resources, professional development, and a network of support to enable institutions of higher education to model and advance sustainability in everything they do, from governance and operations to education and research. AASHE envisions a prosperous, equitable, and ecologically healthy world. In such a world, higher education plays a vital role in ensuring that people have an understanding of the interdependencies between environmental, social, and economic forces and the skills and abilities to meet sustainability challenges.”

[From <http://www.aashe.org/about/aashe-mission-vision-goals>]

[Note: This “Resources, Statistics, and Observations” document (part of the Tipping Point Action Campaign Press Kit) was written and compiled by Stefan Pasti, Campaign Coordinator for the Tipping Point Action Campaign.]