

HUMANITY FACES A PROFOUND DILEMMA

The economies of virtually all nations require growth to function. People with plenty are induced to acquire more and those in debt are induced to borrow more.

Yet more growth makes the wealthiest even wealthier, while unemployment, hunger and violence are widespread. And human economies are already far larger than Earth's commonwealth of life can continue to support.



How can the economic system be changed to create more jobs for people who need them, to produce fewer things using fewer resources, and to do less damage to the Earth?

The Growth Dilemma Project's agenda:

“...to plant seeds for future harvest.”

Build awareness among Friends about the economy's systemic failures.

Convince Friends Committee on National Legislation to address the Growth Dilemma.

Communicate about the growth dilemma with policy makers, policy allies, and staff in Washington D.C.

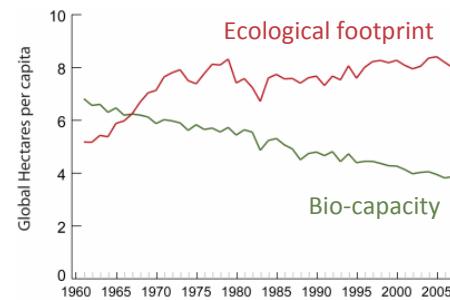
Promote a Yearly Meeting minute that calls for “a paradigm shift in perspective” about ecology and the economic system.

Collaborate with Quaker Institute for the Future on publications about the failures of, and alternatives to, the growth economy.

TOWARD A QUAKER WITNESS...

Ecological Footprint: the amount of biologically productive land needed per person to sustain a particular standard of living.

United States



Ecological Footprint (acres per person) in 2007:

US: 19.8 acres

World average: 6.8 acres

China: 5.5 acres

Bio-capacity: 4.4 acres

"Let us seek and speak truth..."

You can be involved:

Browse the discussion materials, articles and links at our web page on the PYM website.

Use our questions, queries and graphics for a discussion at your monthly meeting.

Invite a GDP resource person to your monthly or quarterly meeting for a presentation.

Become a GDP Contact from your monthly meetings to a national network of Friends.

Come first Tuesdays, 7 pm at Friends Center to Gatherings for Discussion and Discernment. ALL ARE WELCOME!

For more information about GDP:

- on internet, search for “GDP at PYM”
- or call Pam Anderson 215-241-7230



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
1515 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102—1479



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

*...toward a Quaker Witness on Ecology and the Economy—
in pursuit of justice & a world with a future.*



THE GROWTH DILEMMA PROJECT

helping Friends learn about the growth dilemma and alternatives to our growth-based economy, and

fostering a national dialogue to reform our economic system so it serves justice and the commonwealth of life.

**“Let us seek and speak truth...
more openly and boldly.”**

CORE PRINCIPLES OF A QUAKER WITNESS ON ECOLOGY AND THE ECONOMY

As Quakers, we recognize our interconnectedness with the living earth. Yet, we see that humans are exceeding the earth's carrying capacity and damaging its commonwealth of life.

We value equality. Yet we see economic inequality increasing dramatically.

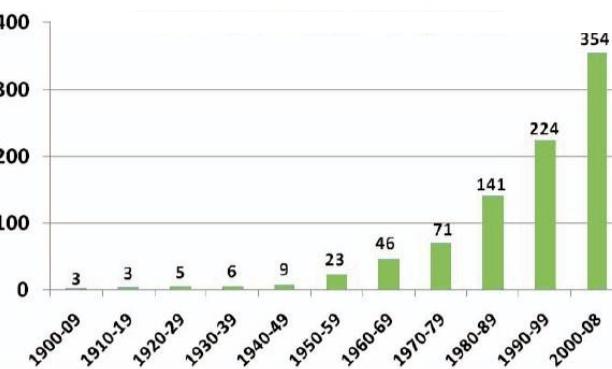
We value integrity. Yet Gross Domestic Product is a false measure of prosperity.

We value simplicity. Yet our "growth economy" requires ever-increasing consumption, debt, and intrusion on the natural world to sustain itself.

We value community. Yet those without adequate employment, without food security, and confined to prisons grows, while God's community of life is diminished.

We value peace. Yet the violence and devastation caused by our economic system's exploitation of people and planet is alarming.

Extreme Weather Events: average per year by decade



WHAT IS OUR ECONOMY FOR?

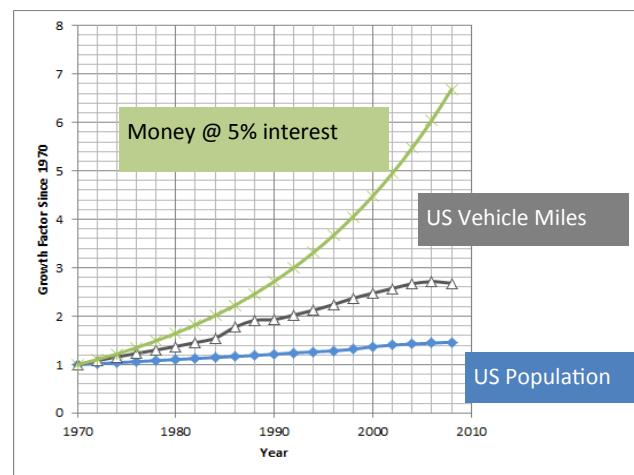
Surely it is not to steadily increase the wealth and power of the wealthiest.

Surely it is not to convince us we need things we are better off without.

Surely it is not to maximize profits by eliminating jobs that people need.

Surely it is not to strip the earth of resources, pollute it with wastes, and diminish its ability to sustain life?

Three Population Explosions: Mouths, Machines and Money



Increases from 1970 to 2008:

US population: 205 million to 301 million

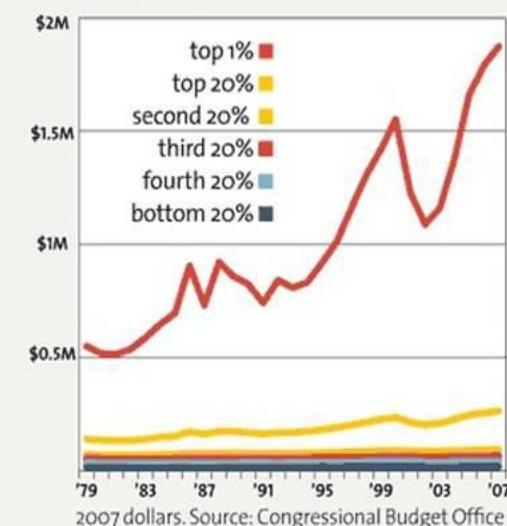
US vehicle miles: 1.1 trillion to 2.9 trillion

\$1 million invested at 5% = \$7 million.

US lower income households: income unchanged.

Global Extreme Weather Events: 71 to 354.

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME before taxes



"Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist."

-Kenneth Boulding

QUERIES FOR DISCUSSION AND DISCERNMENT

What is a morally acceptable basis for "right sharing" of Earth's bounty?

How do we distinguish what we need from what we want? How do we balance what we want with its impacts on the commonwealth of life?

Should everyone in a market economy have a right to a suitable and gainful job?

If we come to understand that many destructive trends are inherent in the way our current economic system functions, how can we be faithful to the Light of Truth?