If you've ever thought that the ecological pickle we're in seems especially difficult to navigate because federal and state governments are so dysfunctional, you're not alone. Even with a federal government interested in making progress on climate change, social safety nets and improving transportation options for all people, the magnitude of the challenge is daunting. The good news, however, is that millions of people around the United States and the world are interested in finding new ways to organize society that are more realistic, just and sustainable. The Transition Town movement has been around for more than a decade, and was conceived by Rob Hopkins (in the UK) as a way to address climate change, and other issues arising from our energy systems, at the local level by building strong communities. If you’re not already aware of it, Simply Living has been doing much of the work Transition engages in for the entire 27 years of its existence, just not in the exact same mold of Hopkins’ vision – the differences do not matter so much. The fact is, Simply Living has been an "official" Transition US Hub, recognized by the United States’ organizing body, since 2012. I'll lay out some background and principles below and I think you’ll see the mission and vision of Simply Living is very much aligned with folks engaged in Transition, and many of the other sustainability groups locally and around the world.

**THINKING ABOUT TRANSITION**

By Mac Crawford

If you’ve ever thought that the ecological pickle we’re in seems especially difficult to navigate because federal and state governments are so dysfunctional, you’re not alone. Even with a federal government interested in making progress on climate change, social safety nets and improving transportation options for all people, the magnitude of the challenge is daunting. The good news, however, is that millions of people around the United States and the world are interested in finding new ways to organize society that are more realistic, just and sustainable. The Transition Town movement has been around for more than a decade, and was conceived by Rob Hopkins (in the UK) as a way to address climate change, and other issues arising from our energy systems, at the local level by building strong communities.

If you’re not already aware of it, Simply Living has been doing much of the work Transition engages in for the entire 27 years of its existence, just not in the exact same mold of Hopkins’ vision – the differences do not matter so much. The fact is, Simply Living has been an "official" Transition US Hub, recognized by the United States’ organizing body, since 2012. I’ll lay out some background and principles below and I think you’ll see the mission and vision of Simply Living is very much aligned with folks engaged in Transition, and many of the other sustainability groups locally and around the world.

**TRANSITION US**

*The Transition Town Movement*

This is how the Movement is described by Hopkins: “The Transition Movement is comprised of vibrant, grassroots community initiatives that seek to build community resilience in the face of such challenges as climate change and economic inequality. Transition Initiatives differentiate themselves from other sustainability and ‘environmental’ groups by seeking to build community resilience in the face of such challenges as climate change and economic inequality. Transition Initiatives differentiate themselves from other sustainability and ‘environmental’ groups by seeking to mitigate these...

**Simply Living Book Club**

**Sunday, June 9, 3:30 - 5 PM**

Spring selection is Team Human, by Douglas Rushkoff. “A provocative, exciting, and important rallying cry to reassert our human spirit of community and teamwork.”—Walter Isaacson

Optional vegan buffet from 5 - 6 pm. Register free on Eventbrite.

Contact: Chuck.Lynd@gmail.com
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

The board recently welcomed Mac Crawford to the Board and we owe him a debt of gratitude for the "transition" theme in our Spring issue. Mac first met with us at our annual Winter retreat and explained the history of the Transition Town movement and Simply Living’s role as a Transition Hub in Central Ohio. Mac’s lead article reflects the Board’s intention to embrace this work as central to our vision and mission.

In the past 12 years Simply Living has welcomed, supported, and promoted efforts by our members and environmental advocates to “green” Columbus neighborhoods and communities. Sustainable Worthington was the very first initiative started by Lucie Pollard. Among their many successes - the City Council recognized sustainability in their charter, a FreeCycle program that is still active, and creating an Indoor Farmers Market to give access to local foods year round. The Clintonville Energy Collaborative, where Mac has been active, works to advise and assist neighbors to install solar panels and increase energy efficiency. Sustainable Delaware Ohio (SDO) was started by Sheila Fox after taking Simply Living’s Agent of Change course. Today Terry Hermsen is working with SDO, the City Council, and Ohio Wesleyan to make Delaware a Transition City with a Climate Action Plan to address climate change.

New “bottom up” initiatives are emerging like spring flowers. They inspire us to quicken our pace in the transition to a new ecological culture. Sierra Club’s Ready for 100 campaign is pushing the City Leadership to transition to a clean energy grid. Local Matters is working with Franklin County to assess and begin implementing a Food Action Plan to ensure healthy local food systems. Bexley recently announced a contract with Innovative Organics to collect food waste and turn it into compost. Green Columbus operates a nationally recognized Earth Week of volunteer actions. Their Earth Day Celebration this year is joined by numerous sister events in Bexley and Hilliard, Otterbein University, and White Castle.

Our May film event, Paris to Pittsburgh, documents efforts in cities around the country to address climate change in spite of the Federal government’s withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement. In June we will be screening The Human Element, a documentary photographed by environmentalist James Balog (Chasing Ice). It focuses on the impact of climate change on ordinary Americans. We’re co-sponsoring this event with Green Energy Ohio, and we will be showcasing local efforts to address the crisis.

The New Green Deal and Job Guarantee is a Congressional resolution that proposes a plan to rapidly decarbonize the American economy and create millions of jobs. The idea of a WWII scale effort has excited many and put climate change as a top Federal priority for the first time ever. Proponents are encouraging discussion and engagement in local communities to better understand what such an approach will mean locally. Simply Living is organizing, with environmental partners, a Town Hall on the Green New Deal at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Clintonville on Sunday, June 23rd, from 3-5 pm. Mark your calendars!

– With gratitude, Simply Living Board
converging global crises by engaging their communities in home-grown, citizen-led education, action, and multi-stakeholder planning to increase local self-reliance and resilience.” (http://transitionus.org/transition-town-movement)

Note that this is not a self-sufficiency movement – we are not arming our bunkers and stockpiling them with food and water. We are a community-building movement that seeks to improve our relationships with our neighbors and the Earth. An important word in Hopkins’ description is “resilience,” or the ability of a system to take a shock and recover with a minimum of disruption. Hopkins specifies some principles that help guide us as we pursue Transition in our homes, streets, communities and the world.

Guiding Principles

Positive Visioning – We imagine life in 30 or 40 years after successfully navigating the social and ecological challenges we face.

Helping People Access Good Information and Trusting Them to Make Good Decisions – We know there is disinformation and outright falsehood being spread about the depth of the crises we face. People will make better choices if they understand the stakes and that there are practical ways to reorganize ourselves.

Inclusion and Openness – We want to be welcoming to all who share our vision and transparency in decision making.

Enabling Sharing and Networking – We are generous with our time and knowledge, and enjoy meeting people whose skills and knowledge complement ours.

Building Resilience – We want to bend with the forces acting on us, not break. We are organized at the local level in ways that allow us to absorb the shocks that come our way.

Inner and Outer Transition – We know that how we deal with stress and uncertainty is as important as the concrete steps we take to build resilience and sustainability.

Cheerful Disclaimer:

We truly don’t know if this will work. Transition is a social experiment on a massive scale.

What we are convinced of is this (my emphasis):

If we wait for the governments, it’ll be too little, too late

If we act as individuals, it’ll be too little

But if we act as communities, it might just be enough, just in time.

Some Numbers

(from www.transitionus.org)

There are:

164 official US initiatives (Simply Living is an official Transition Hub)

1199 initiatives worldwide

Initiatives in 37 US states,

50 countries, and among people speaking 13 languages

Why Transition?

We are living in an age of unprecedented change, with a number of crises converging. Climate change, global economic instability, erosion of community, declining biodiversity, and resource wars have all stemmed from the availability of cheap, non-renewable fossil fuels. The Transition Movement gives us a framework for building resilience as events unfold – let’s get to work helping our neighbors and ourselves get smarter, simpler and more resilient!
SIMPLY LIVING EVENTS

DOCUMENTARY FILMS + LOCAL SOLUTIONS

A showcase of independent, documentary films addressing a variety of current issues. Often followed by Q&A with experts representing local organizations.

For questions, contact Chuck Lynd at Chuck.Lynd@gmail.com or 614.354.6172

MEETUPS/SOCIALS

Join SIMPLY LIVING at gatherings held in a variety of different locations each month. We learn, network, and usually enjoy food or share refreshments. From our book club discussions to exploring local issues and annual community events, we value our times to ‘meetup’ in person. Always free and fun!

CARE + SHARE TIME BANK

Share food, network, participate! Each potluck includes a program or guest speaker. Topics vary each month. For more info, visit www.hourworld.org/bank/?hw=1057

APRIL

SUN 14
2-4 PM
Where To Invade Next

Studio 35, 3055 Indiana Ave Cols 43202
Michael Moore visits other countries to learn about innovative reforms related to work, health care, education, food, prisons. He discovers that the reforms were started in America but were rejected, only to be adopted abroad. We’ll have a panel and Q&A to look at local reform efforts in health care and our food systems.

“One of Moore’s best films. A surprisingly endearing set of suggestions for a better tomorrow.” ~ Eric Kohn, Indiewire

SUN 26
2-4 PM
Paris to Pittsburgh

Studio 35
3055 Indiana Ave., Columbus OH 43202

“Paris to Pittsburgh reveals the inspiring steps communities across the country are taking to confront the severe health and economic threats posed by climate change,” said Geoff Daniels, of National Geographic. “From innovative ways to improve our food supply chain through Fleet Farming, parking lots shaded by solar paneled roofs to passionate college students making an impact in sustainable energy jobs, this documentary provides a hopeful roadmap for the future.” Q&A panel with local community change makers.

MAY

SUN 13
4-6 PM
Otterbein Earth Festival

170 West Park Street, Westerville, OH 43081
In quad, btw Science Center & Battelle

SUN 20
12-8 PM
Earth Day Celebration with Green Columbus
Genoa Park. Downtown, west side of Scioto River behind COSI

SUN 27
11 AM-1 PM
Green Bexley Fair
Maryland Elementary School
2754 Maryland Ave, Bexley, OH 43209

SAT 13
4-6 PM
Comfest Weekend!

Drexel Theater
2254 E Main St., Bexley, OH 43209
In this riveting and visually rich drama, blending art and science, we follow renowned environmental photographer James Balog as he explores wildfires, hurricanes, sea level rise, a struggling coal mining community, and our changing air supply. With rare compassion and heart, The Human Element highlights Americans who are on the frontlines of climate change, inspiring us to re-evaluate our relationship with the natural world. Co-sponsored with Green Energy Ohio. Q&A Panel with local climate change activists.

FRI-SUN 28-30
Comfest Weekend!

Goodale Park in the Short North

Simply Living will be there every afternoon and evening! Visit us at our booth in Peace Village and hang out. We’ll be filling and refilling your water again this year. Come to our workshop on the Transition Movement and dive deep into how you can help re-envision a healthy, vibrant community. Volunteers are needed too. Contact VilviVannak@gmail.com if you can take a 2 hour shift at the booth.

JUNE

SUN 16
6:30-8:30 PM
Community Potluck

First UU Church, Fellowship Hall
93 W Weisheimer Rd, Cols 43214
IS THE TIME RIGHT FOR COHOUSING IN CENTRAL OHIO?

Cohousing communities are small residential developments designed and managed with significant input from the residents, creating a very close, supportive community and could be called “the old-fashioned neighborhood of the future”.

Each household has their own private lives, income and home with traditional amenities; typical legal structure is a condo association. Extensive shared facilities usually feature a common house with recreational spaces and a kitchen and dining area large enough for the whole community to gather for voluntary shared meals and events. Shared outdoor space may include nooks to gather and chat, open space, and organic gardens. Each community is unique and includes what they desire.

Cohousing provides a safe, secure, housing situation for all ages. Neighbors gather for parties, games, movies, workdays or other events. It is easy to organize carpooling, child and elder care and there is always a willing neighbor nearby in the event of an emergency.

It typically attracts those with a deep concern for social and environmental issues. Most groups choose as many sustainable features as possible:

- Smart-designed dwellings are usually clustered, saving open space.
- Homes can be smaller as common houses may include living rooms, guest rooms and laundry facilities.
- Many employ solar or geothermal technology.
- Low-maintenance native and/or edible plantings.
- Shared equipment may include gardening, other tools and mowers.

We have at least a couple of local efforts underway now; an intergenerational community inside 270 and an adult community where demand points. Others with different ideas are encouraged to chime in. Given the nature of the process, we will be combining some of our efforts, if not coalescing into one group. We’ll be talking to affordable housing developers to try and include help for those with low incomes, so don’t let that stop you. For more info and to help us gauge interest, email timjcooke@gmail.com.

CONTINUING OFFER . . .
GET A FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO YES! MAGAZINE! HOW?

BECOME A MEMBER OF SIMPLY LIVING

Fill out and mail in the form below along with a check OR sign up online at SIMPLYLIVING.ORG.

Please Print Clearly

Check One: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY   STATE   ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

By providing your email, you will be added to our Community Update weekly email unless you opt-out below.

☐ Do not add me to email list

In an effort to be both fiscally and environmentally responsible, we will send a full-color interactive newsletter via e-mail unless you request a hard copy be mailed to you.

☐ I prefer a hard copy of newsletter

Make checks payable to SIMPLY LIVING and Send to:

Simply Living
PO Box 82273
Columbus, OH 43202

LOCALIST LEVELS

☐ $35 Individual
☐ $50 Family
☐ $20 Young Adult (<30) or Senior (>60)

SUSTAINER LEVELS

☐ $500 Community Builder
☐ $250 Idea Launcher
☐ $100 Friend

☐ Monthly Pledge ($8.50 or more) _________
☐ Please send “YES!” Magazine (Monthly Pledgers)

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

Our members and the community at large refer to SIMPLY LIVING for relevant and current resources. Join us as we build a vibrant local and supportive community for a resilient future! Questions? Contact Chuck Lynd at Chunk.Lynd@gmail.com or call 614.447.0296 for more details.

SIMPLY LIVING is a 501(c)(3) organization. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.
SIMPLY LIVING'S
BUSINESS MEMBER DIRECTORY

Please support SIMPLY LIVING’s local business members. In addition to yourselves, they help support our efforts to “build local.” You might also mention that you saw their listing in our directory!

AUTOMOTIVE

TONGDA AUTO SERVICE
3395 & 4100 Indianola Ave
Cols, 43214
614.262.1426
Auto Service | Sales | Lease | Rental
TongDaAuto.com

BANKING

KEMBA FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION
614.235.2395
Kemba.org

COMMUNITY MARKETS

BEXLEY NATURAL MARKET
508 N Cassady Ave
Bexley, OH
614.252.3951
BexleyNaturalMarket.org

CLASSES / WORKSHOPS

SIMPLY LIVING SUSTAINABLE U
Community Education for Sustainable Living
Sustainable.SimplyLiving.org

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

ECO-SOLUTIONS

COMMUNITY SHARES OF MID-OHIO
1699 W Mound St.
Cols, 43223
614.262.1176
CommunityShares.net

EcoHouse Solar
614.456.7641
Kevin Egle
Creating Solar Energy For Central Ohio
EcoHouseSolar.com
Green Energy Pioneer Award Winner

DESIGN

PIINK IINK STUDIO
Columbus, OH
330.285.2569
piinkiink.design

HEALTH & WELLNESS

KARYN DEIBEL
Certified Senior Trager® Practitioner
614.284.7167
judyfasone.com

KELLER CHIROPRACTIC
422 Morse Rd
Cols, 43214
614.885.4480
KellerDC.com

JUDY FASONE, RN, MSN
Certified Senior Trager® Practitioner
614.284.7167
judyfasone.com

KAREN DEIBEL
Certified Senior Trager® Practitioner
614.284.7167
judyfasone.com

DENTAL ALTERNATIVES
150 E Wilson Bridge Rd
Worthington, 43085
614.888.0377
Dentistry for better health
DentalAlternatives.net

DESIGN ENERGY
421 W State St, Cols, 43215
614.507.3073
Community Power Builders
design-energy.net
Green Energy Pioneer Award Winner

TONGDA AUTO SERVICE
3395 & 4100 Indianola Ave
Cols, 43214
614.262.1426
Auto Service | Sales | Lease | Rental
TongDaAuto.com

SPEAKING PEACE
2350 Indianola Ave
Cols, OH 43202
614.558.1141
SpeakingPeace.org
OUR MISSION:

SIMPLY LIVING is a community organization that celebrates and connects people to learning opportunities that promote community sustainability, environmental awareness, and our local economy through educational outreach and partnerships within our community.

INTRESTED IN SIMPLY LIVING BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP?
Contact us at hello@simplyliving.org or 614.447.0296 for more details.
Simply News, a publication of SIMPLY LIVING, is published on a quarterly basis.

SAVE THE DATE!

2019 SUSTAINABLE LIVING & GARDEN TOUR

When: Saturday, July 27

Green living is on everyone’s mind! What's next for you? Learn from the pioneers who are using native plants in rain gardens, attracting butterflies and wildlife, homesteading with beehives, raising chickens, going solar, driving electric, and loving it all.

SAVE THE DATE!

TOWN HALL FOR GREEN NEW DEAL

When: Sunday, June 23  3 - 5 pm
Where: Unitarian Universalist Church
93 W Weisheimer Rd, Cols OH 43214

This Town Hall will present experts on the Federal proposal and how it might work in Columbus. Simply Living is sponsoring the event with the Justice Action Ministry of the First Unitarian Universalist Church.