



Signs of Change

A national e-conference showcasing transition

15-16 November 2010

Call for Change Reports and Expressions of Interest

'Change Report' Outlines are Now Invited

The *Signs of Change Conference 2010* is a national meeting for anyone to attend. The conference focus is on the wide variety of practical ways that change toward environmental, social and economic sustainability is already happening. Key indicators of a society that works to sustain social, civic and environmental wellbeing may include environmental protection, transport reduction, local reclamation, active education, energy demand management, organic farming, establishing local participatory markets ... you tell us! We are seeking presentations – which we call 'change reports' - that showcase breaks away from 'business-as-usual' and toward future sustainability.

If you are involved in, or have observed a 'sign of change', we want to hear from you. We welcome presentation outlines from engineers, scientists, business people, council workers, educators, students, Transition Town members ... anyone who wants to share information about an initiative in sustainability. The initiative might be in business management, social action, research, technical innovation, education, governance practice, institutional organization, or any other aspect of work, home or play.

Conference Organisation

Several organizations are making the conference their annual event:

Engineers for Social Responsibility, Sustainable Energy Forum, and NZ Centre for Sustainable Cities	National Conference Chair:	Associate Professor Susan Krumdieck, Canterbury University
Christchurch:		Dr. Shannon Page, Canterbury University
Dunedin:		Associate Professor Bob Lloyd, University of Otago
Wellington:		Jan Logie, NZ Centre for Sustainable Cities
Auckland:		Professor Thomas Neitzert, Auckland University of Technology
Hamilton:		Professor Frank Scrimgeour, Waikato University
Palmerston North:		Professor Ralph Simms, Massey University
Conference Administration:		Dr. Pip Lynch, Rebecca Morgan

'Change Report' Outlines

The Conference Committee invites titles and outlines of about 250 words that describe a *Sign of Change* in any field. The outlines will all be included on the conference website where they will make up a national collection of change initiatives. The change report outlines to be presented at the conference will be selected by the committee to provide a diverse programme. We are aiming for at least 40 'change report' presentations. Presentations may also be short documentary videos.

We are seeking outlines for change reports that provide a description and assessment of how a particular change is fundamental to the break away from 'business-as-usual' and towards sustainability. The emphasis is on the practical steps taken toward sustainability, rather than on the rationale for sustainability or what is currently unsustainable.

Deadline for 'Change Report' Outlines: 30 July 2010

Outlines can be sent by email, as attached pdf or Word files. Send to: signsofchangeconf@gmail.com
Alternatively, you can post your outline to: Signs of Change Conference Committee, c/- Ass. Prof. Susan Krumdieck, Dept of Mechanical Engineering, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch.

Change Report Outline Template

Target Date: 30 July 2010

If you are not familiar with submitting outlines for conference presentations, use this template as a guide. If you would like advice on how best to document the signs of change in your work/project, contact the conference organizers.

(For researchers and professionals familiar with submitting conference papers, 'Change Report' outlines may be considered as an abstract. Please ensure that your abstract covers the points listed above.)

The aim of the 'Change Reports' is to describe a change you have been involved in, or observed, giving evidence that makes it clear what is different from business-as-usual and why it leads to a better future. The **focus should be on the practical steps** taken toward sustainability, rather than on the rationale/s for sustainability.

Title: Please select a brief title that describes the change

Reporters: Please give the names of those involved in preparing and/or presenting the report

Contacts: Please provide contact details for the person who is taking responsibility for the report (phone, email, post)

Overview: In no more than 250 words, please include the following information -

- Give brief background on what was unsustainable before
- Describe the change, who was involved, how they decided what to do
- Provide some observations, measurements, and scale for the change (how big was the change)
- Provide an analysis of how this change improves sustainability – what about this new development would provide sustainable benefits?
- Give an assessment of the costs and benefits involved, if possible
- Include a diagram or pictures illustrating the change (where possible and appropriate)

No change is too small if it's in the right direction

We have a target of 40 'change reports' to be presented, so don't be shy. We want to hear from you. The length of presentations will be determined by the change report content. Reports can be given from any of the hubs, so you don't have to travel to Christchurch to present.

Video Presentations

If you know of a 'sign of change' you would like to see included in the conference, but you don't want to present it in person, you might like to produce a video instead. **We will still need a written outline (as above).** If your outline is selected for presentation, you could then create a 10-minute video and we will play this during the e-conference. Your completed video should include all the information given in the template (above).

Lasting Signs of Change

Dr. Krumdieck will be writing a book during 2011 which looks at the path to sustainable land use, energy, transport... society in New Zealand. It is intended that some of the examples presented at this conference will be further explored and presented in the book to be published by ESR. It is also possible that this conference could become an annual national discussion.

For more information about *Signs of Change Conference*, go to: www.signsofchange.org.nz

Or contact the Conference Organiser: signsofchangeconf@gmail.com