

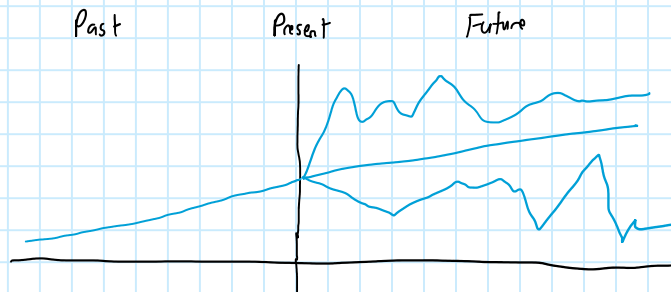
Module 7 Lesson 1 — Envisioning a Sustainable Future

Monday, November 28, 2022 9:03 AM

7.1.1 Introduction to Leading Sustainability

Scenario Planning

- > Instead of predicting the one future that will occur, it might be possible to consider multiple possible futures at once
- > Based on the idea that organizations are better at planning than predicting
- > Way to prepare for multiple potential futures



7.1.2 Visions of a Sustainable Future

Alex Steffen, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Worldchanging
Editor of Worldchanging: A User's Guide for the 21st century

- > Cities will be at the centres of change and a sustainable future
 - Look at cities as centres of transformation
 - Politics are changing on energy use, fuel standards
 - Advocates for a greener future as compared to people in the suburbs advocating for maintaining the status quo, urban sprawl, high energy use as the basis of the economy
- "Bright Green Solutions"
 - Don't need to think of decline or erosion of things we love
 - Reinvent what prosperity looks like
- Biggest barrier to bright green future is in our heads
 - Most of the time, when we think of the way things can be, we in fact think about the way things are
 - If we think in terms of the system as it exists now being a given, it's really hard to imagine the kinds of shifts that we need to see happen
- We can rebuild our cities to make them more compact communities with more choices in terms of how to get around, or walkability
 - Live in smaller spaces more comfortably
 - Use less energy
 - Spend less money on stuff
- > Technology & information can help us change the way we think about and use energy
 - Bringing intelligence to decision-making systems and transparency allows users to see what is happening and systems can change how they act
 - We are able to measure things if we use them differently
 - e.g. if one has an energy meter in the house, they can see their energy use on a daily basis.

> Technology alone is not the solution to a sustainable future

- Progress in technology \neq Progress in Sustainability



Robert Costanza, Co-founder of the field of ecological economics
Editor-in-Chief of Journal Solutions

- Our current system is neither sustainable nor desirable
- We need to create a new economy, a new system that can sustain itself, that can prevent damaging the ecological life support system and allow it to repair itself and allow human flourishing and prosperity within those biophysical constraints
- Need to create a positive vision first
- Negative visions are not motivating
- Studies show people who are more materialistically oriented suffer from higher rates of physical and mental illness
- Consuming more → "it's not making people better off."
→ happiness goes down
- Balancing act — we need material consumption to survive
- Making a transition to a new system requires more than just wanting to do it. Needs inertia & investment
 - Worst thing to do: tell them they're doing a wrong thing and you have to stop ...
→ immediately causes a defensive action
 - Better way: it's not doing the wrong thing, here's something better ...
→ need to have a positive vision
- Can we have an economy that is not growing in terms of GDP but is growing in terms of well-being?
 - Yes
 - Requires fewer working hours per person
 - More leisure time
 - > could be used to interact with family and friends
 - > improve social capital
 - involves stabilization of population
 - involves investments shifting away from consumption goods and towards public goods
 - shift away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy
 - > more efficient transportation systems, etc.
 - investing in human capital, infrastructure
 - > education, healthcare, population stabilization, reducing income gap
 - > rewarding participation in communities
 - "We need everyone to change the world"
 - Change minds across the whole spectrum
- Problem: Isolation of different academic disciplines
 - need dialogue

7.1.3 A Carbon-Neutral Economy

Gross National Happiness (GNH) Bhutan

- a holistic and sustainable approach to development
- balances material and non-material values with conviction that humans want to search for happiness
- Objective
 - achieve a balanced development in all facets of life that are essential for our happiness

THE FOUR PILLARS

- Good Governance

THE FOUR PILLARS

- Good Governance
 - determines conditions in which Bhutanese thrive
- Sustainable Socio-economic Development
 - a thriving GNH economy must value social and economic contributions of households and families, free time and leisure given the roles of these factors in Happiness
- Preservation and Promotion of Culture
 - developing cultural resilience (culture's capacity to maintain and develop cultural identity, knowledge, and practice)
 - ability to overcome challenges and difficulties from other norms and ideals
- Environmental Conservation
 - environment provides critical services such as water and energy
 - environment contributes to aesthetic and other stimulus that can be directly healing to people

THE NINE DOMAINS

- Living Standards
- Education
- Health
- Time Use
- Cultural Diversity & Resilience
- Good Governance
- Community Vitality
- Ecological Diversity & Resilience
- Living Standards