

An Urban Planner's Challenge

# *Life After Oil in Longroad Smokes*

It's the year 2035.

Across the world, people are in panic after the announcement of the closure of the last petrol wells. Over a century, our civilisation has grown dependant on fossil fuel and long-distance transport to access food, health, work, education and entertainment. Alternative energy technologies are available but haven't been deployed.

You are an Urban Planner for the suburban community of Longroad Smokes, a suburb of 2,500 people in the outskirts of the city. Your team has been tasked with adapting the town to the new realities.



## *General rules*

- Form teams of 4–5 people.
- The oldest person in each team will act as The Mayor & Time–Keeper.
- The rest will act as Town Planners.
- Town planners will propose solutions to 3 consecutive challenges.
- Each time, the Mayor will choose which solution to implement.
- The Mayor's decisions are irreversible. However, team members can express discontent by drawing signs of contempt in the map.
- There are no right/wrong answers. Imagine wildly and have fun.
- A good Mayor manages time well to complete all 3 challenges before the next elections (30 minutes).



## *How to Play: Town Planner*

In each round:

1. **Listen** carefully to the Mayor's instructions.
2. **Think** of a solution to the given challenge, individually (2 minutes).
3. **Present & justify** your solution to the team (30 seconds).
4. **Follow** the Mayor's instructions to finalise the challenge (1 minute).
5. **Express your disagreement** at any time by drawing a sign of contempt in the map.



# How to Play: The Mayor

## YOUR GOAL

To complete all 3 challenges in under 30 minutes.

## CHALLENGE 1

### 1. **Read aloud** to your team:

“The government has secured the Country’s last reserves of oil to be used for strategic and survival purposes. Longroad Smokes has been allocated a small amount of fuel for collective use over the next year. You have 2 minutes to work individually on a solution to Challenge number 1”.

### 2. **Allow 2 minutes** for individual work.

### 3. **Ask** each Urban Planner to present their solutions to the team in 30 seconds. Listen carefully to their proposals.

### 4. **Choose** one proposal and explain your reasoning.

### 5. **Record** the approved option in your book.

### 6. **Ask** the proponent of the chosen option to draw the new/desired facility in the map. Allow 1 minute. Simple sketches are fine.

### 7. **Progress** to the next challenge.

## CHALLENGE 2

### 1. **Read aloud** to your team:

“One year from now, the last reserves of oil will run out for good. Now it’s the time to start developing alternative sources of energy. The technical team has narrowed our infrastructure options down to two. What should we build?. You have 2 minutes to work individually on a solution to Challenge number 2”.

### 2. **Repeat** steps 2 to 7 from Challenge 1.

## CHALLENGE 3

### 1. **Read aloud** to your team:

“Congratulations. It seems like we will be able to survive the end of oil after all. However, the Town Plan no longer reflects our way of living and aspirations. We need to come up with a new vision for the future. You have 2 minutes to work individually on a solution to Challenge number 3”.

### 2. **Repeat** steps 2 to 7 from Challenge 1.

# challenge 1: Survive

Until now, the people of Longroad Smokes relied on fuel to:

- (1) commute to work,
- (2) supply local shops with food, and
- (3) collect their garbage.

Unfortunately, the new fuel allowance is enough to meet **ONLY ONE** of these needs. **Which one will you spend the fuel on?**

commuting  
to work

–OR–

transporting  
food  
supplies

–OR–

garbage  
collection

TWO other needs remain unmet. Luckily, the town has allocated some budget to build **ONE** of the following facilities within walking distance. **Which one will you build? Where?**

employment  
hub

–OR–

farm and  
abattoir

–OR–

recycling &  
composting  
facility

There is no fuel left, and no budget. With **ONE** need still unresolved, it's time to tell the community the bad news. **Each household is now responsible for...**

walking or  
cycling to  
work

–OR–

hunting and  
gathering  
their own  
food

–OR–

managing  
their own  
waste

# challenge 2: Strengthen

Option 1



**Project:** Nuclear plant

**Title:** Diamond Tower

**Size/location:** 1 small block,  
any location

**Community:** 98% in favour

**Economy:**

500 new technology jobs

50 new tourism jobs

100% increase house prices

**Environment:**

Radioactive sludge into  
river

Option 2



**Project:** Wind turbine park

**Title:** Turbine sunset

**Size/location:** Wind turbines  
to occupy all available  
vacant/green space

**Community:** 2% in favour

**Economy:**

50 new technology jobs

30% drop in house prices

**Environment:**

Clean energy, some bird  
casualties

# challenge 3: Thrive

What will it take for people to want to stay and thrive in this suburb? Create a compelling vision for the future of this community.

1) Propose a new name and slogan for the suburb:

*Welcome to \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
where \_\_\_\_\_ !*

2) What new building or facility would make this suburb an awesome place to live? Where would you place it?

*The new Town Plan will encourage the future  
development of a \_\_\_\_\_  
to be built at /near the \_\_\_\_\_.*