

# THE TRANSITION TOWNS MOVEMENT

In Devon (United Kingdom), the birthplace of the Transition movement, the inaugural [Transition Network International Conference](#) will be held from 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September with 350 Transition representatives from across the globe expected to be in attendance at the event.

The Transition Towns Network was founded in 2008 in United Kingdom by British permaculture educator Rob Hopkins to support people involved with Transition initiatives. In 2004, Hopkins started applying permaculture principles to the concept of peak oil, adapting them in the fields of energy production, health, education, economy and agriculture as a "road map" to a sustainable future for the town. Developing these concepts in Totnes (UK) into the transition model, in 2006 [Transition Town Totnes](#) become the first Transition initiative.



Transition Town Totnes is today an umbrella organization consisting of different theme groups, for example food, building and housing, business and the local economy, and with over 20 local projects.

Transition Network's role is to inspire, encourage, connect, support and train communities as they self-organize around the Transition model, creating initiatives that rebuild resilience and reduce CO2 emissions. Central to the Transition Town movement is the idea that life without oil could be far more enjoyable and fulfilling than the present.



The main aim is to raise awareness of sustainable living and build local resilience in the near future. Communities are encouraged to find ways of reducing energy usage as well as increasing their own self reliance a slogan of the movement is Food feet, not food miles!

To reduce dependency on fossil fuels, Transitions Towns community develops an Energy descent action plan (EDAP), in collaboration with people, local institutions, local agencies and the local council. The first comprehensive plan was created for Totnes in 2010, entitled *Transition in Action: Totnes & District 2030*.



Depending on local situations and priorities, the Plans can include activities in the following areas:

- Transportation. Communities adopt methods for reducing energy usage as well as reducing their reliance on long supply chains that are totally dependent on fossil fuels for essential items.



- Food production. Food is a key area for transition and communities realize initiatives to implement community gardens or replacing ornamental tree plantings with fruit or nut trees, to grow food.
- Waste exchange and recycling. Industrial practices of use waste materials are promoted as well as practices of repairing old items rather than throwing them away.
- Introduction of own local currency which can be spent in local shops and businesses, helping to reduce food miles while also supporting local firms.

The initiative spread and by May 2010 there were over 400 community initiatives recognized as official Transition towns in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United States, Italy and Chile. The Network involves villages, neighborhoods of cities through council districts, cities and city boroughs.

By 2013, there were 1130 initiatives registered in 43 countries. The Conference organized in September 2015 will be an important opportunity to know more about the practices realized by the communities associates in the Transition Towns Movement.

#### To know more

[Transition Network website](#)

[Transition Network Map](#)

[Transition Totnes website](#)

[Transition Brixton website](#)

[Transition Town Dorchester website](#)

[Transition Culture website](#)

[Transition France website](#)

