

Doughnut Economics and Building a New Economy

Dr Michelle Maloney

10-11 April 2019

NENA East Gippsland Symposium

Framing our discussions about a 'new' economy

- ▶ The 'old' economy and ecological overshoot
- ▶ The challenge ahead - new economy and "living within the doughnut"
- ▶ Why we're building the New Economy Network Australia

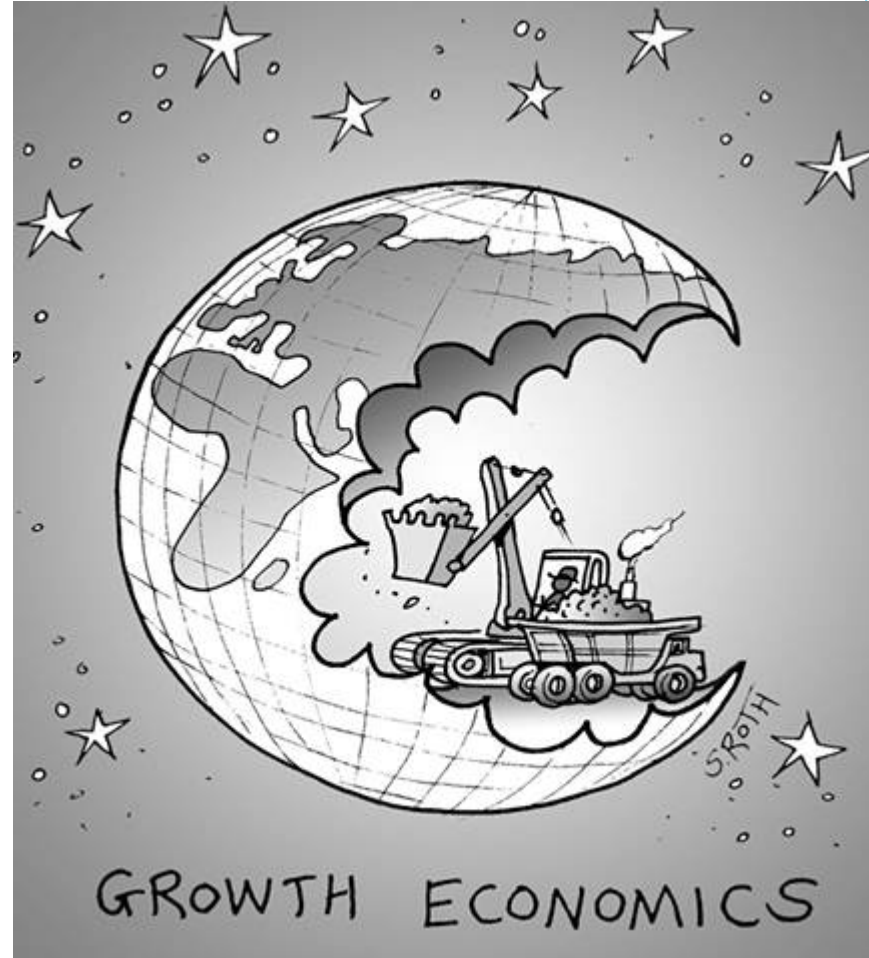


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The 'old' economy

Is our current, dominant economic system sustainable?

- ▶ Consumer capitalism is using up our Earth's resources faster than they can be replenished
- ▶ Global Footprint Network:
 - ▶ We're now using 1.6 earths
 - ▶ By 2030 we'll need 2 earths
 - ▶ For the global population to live like Australians, we'd need 4.8 planets
- ▶ “Humanity has used more resources since 1950 than in all of previous human history”
 - ▶ Alan Durning ‘How Much is Enough? The consumer society and the future of the earth’ (1992)



How did we get here?

- ▶ The shift from agricultural societies?
- ▶ European colonisation from 1600s?
- ▶ “Perfect storm” began with Industrial Revolution
- ▶ Eye of the storm mid 20th Century
 - ▶ Population growth
 - ▶ Technological innovation (powered by cheap fossil fuels)
 - ▶ Resource consumption/pollution
 - ▶ Global governance:
 - ▶ Post WW II western dominance
 - ▶ Remnants of Empire - corporations/governments
 - ▶ Rise of Neoliberalism
- ▶ “The Great Acceleration” from the 1950’s
- ▶ “Neo-liberal Tsunami” 1980s onwards
- ▶ Great books about how we got here
 - ▶ Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*
 - ▶ Robert Lekachman, *The Age of Keynes*.



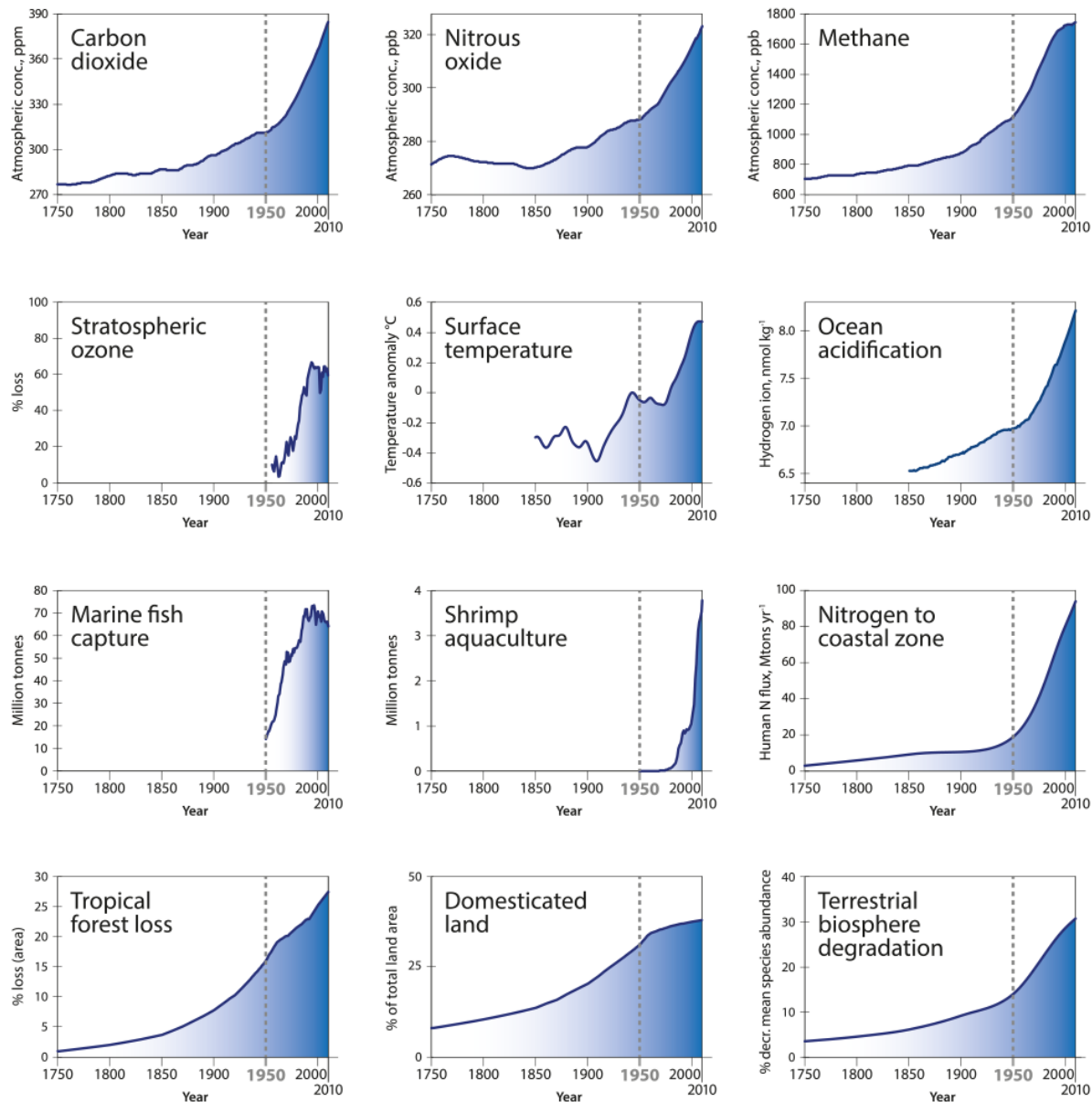
Earth system trends

The Great Acceleration

Since 1950s

Impacts on our planet

Professor Will Steffen,
Climate Council

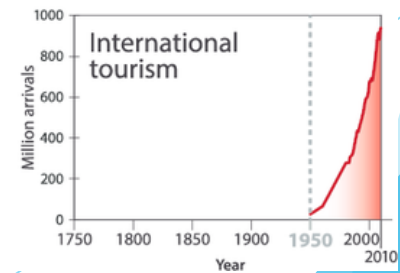
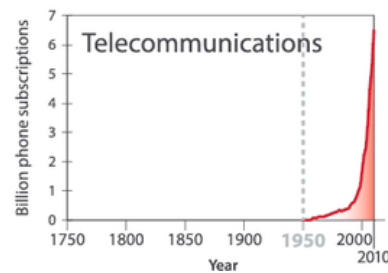
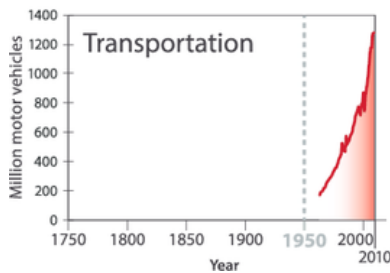
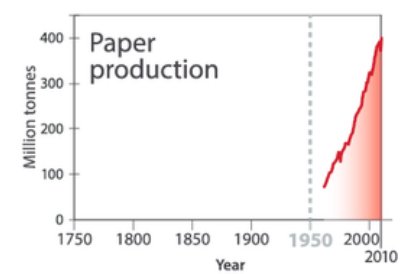
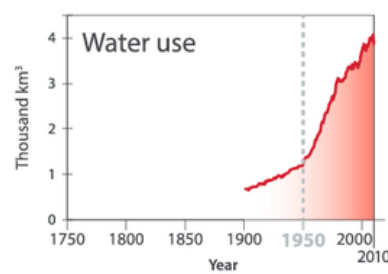
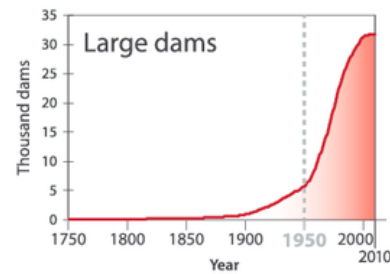
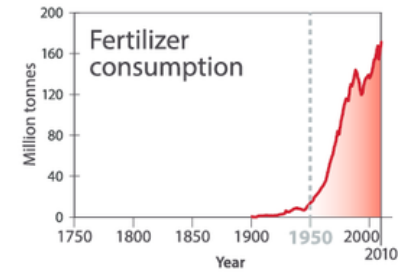
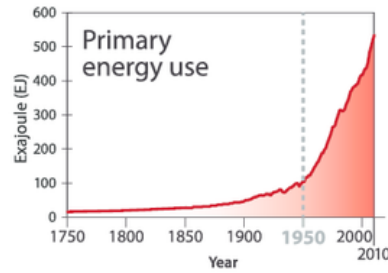
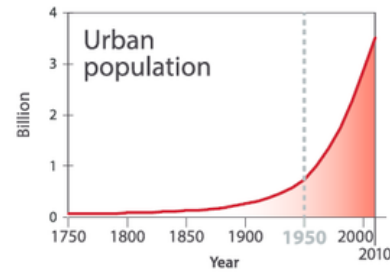
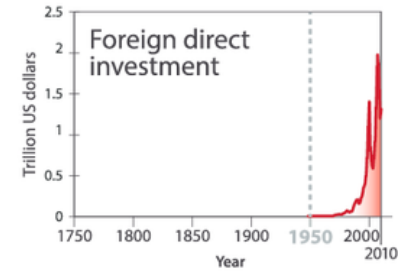
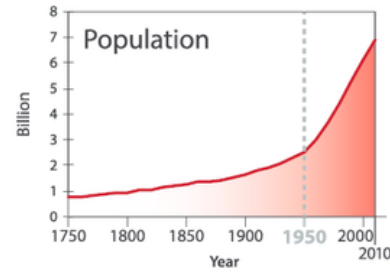


Socio-economic trends

The Great Acceleration

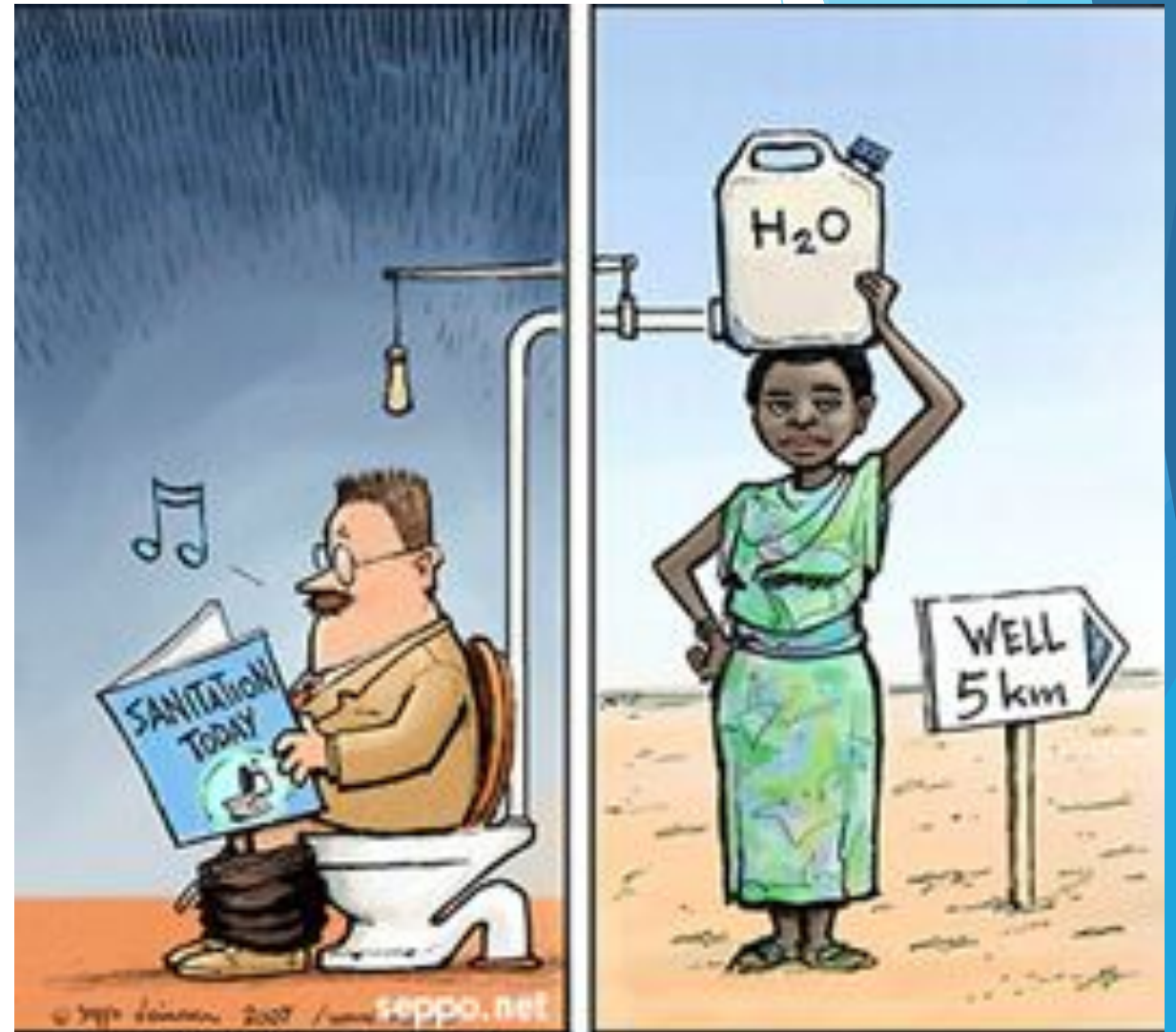
Since 1950s

The causes



Is the current economic system fair?

- ▶ Profound inequality
 - ▶ Obesity v starvation
 - ▶ Over consumption and under consumption
- ▶ “The 1%”
- ▶ Tim Jackson - ‘double dividend’ benefits



Who consumes what? The inequity of global consumption classes

Category of consumption	Consumer class (1.7 billion)	Middle income (2.5 billion)	Poor (2.8 billion)
Diet	Meat, packaged food, soft drinks	Grain, clean water	Insufficient grain, unsafe water
Transport	Private cars	Bicycles, buses	Walking
Materials	Throwaways	Durables	Local biomass

<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/810> This table structure is from Durning, p.26 with updated data from World Watch Institute (2010). *The Rise of the Consumer Class*, <<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/810>> 2013

The problems are now global

- ▶ Inequality
- ▶ Injustice
- ▶ Climate Change
- ▶ Biodiversity loss
- ▶ Loss of 'the wild'
- ▶ Welcome to the Anthropocene

Photo: Dubai; National Geographic

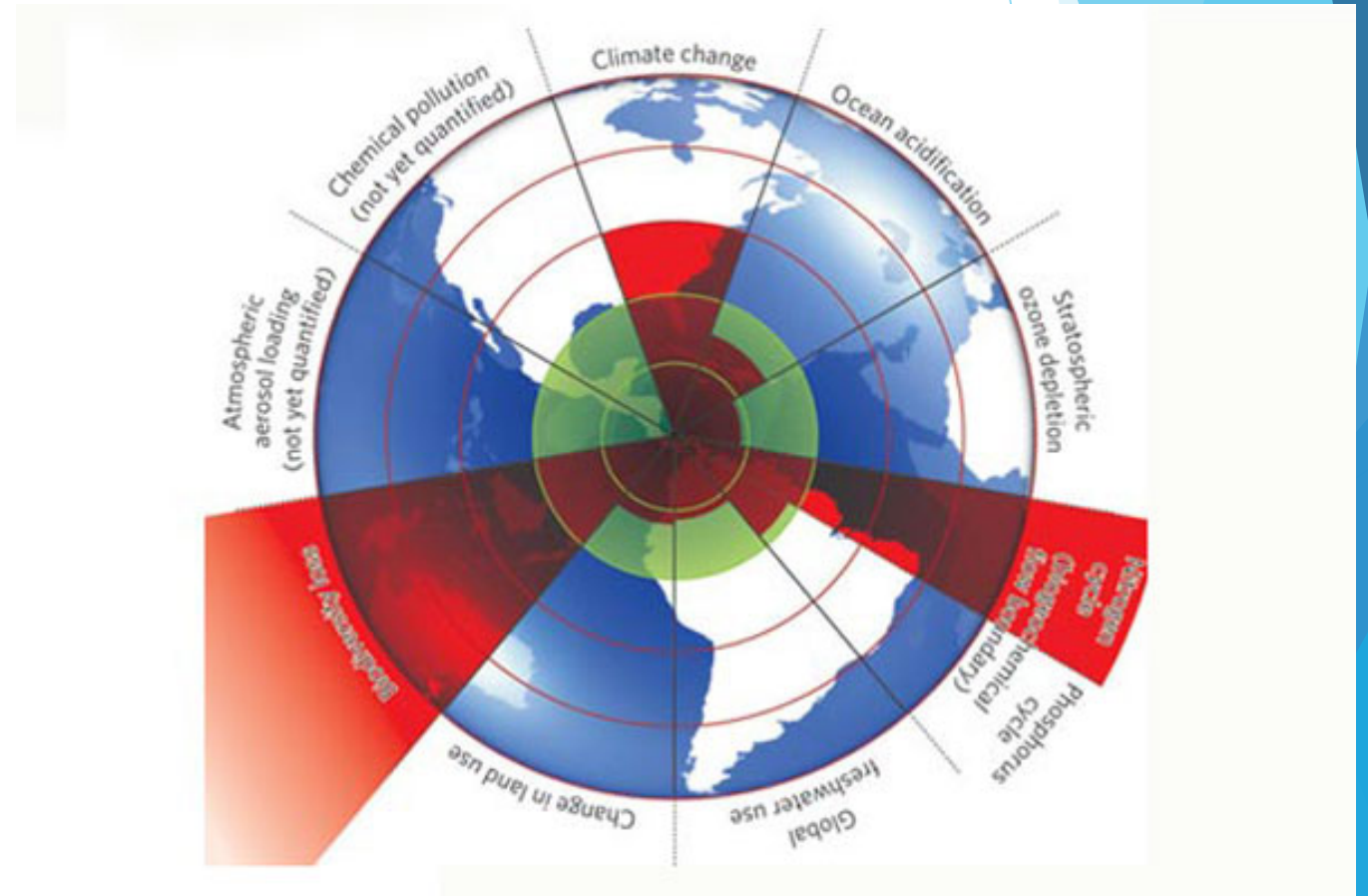


How do we unravel the 'extractive' economy and build a new, truly sustainable economy?



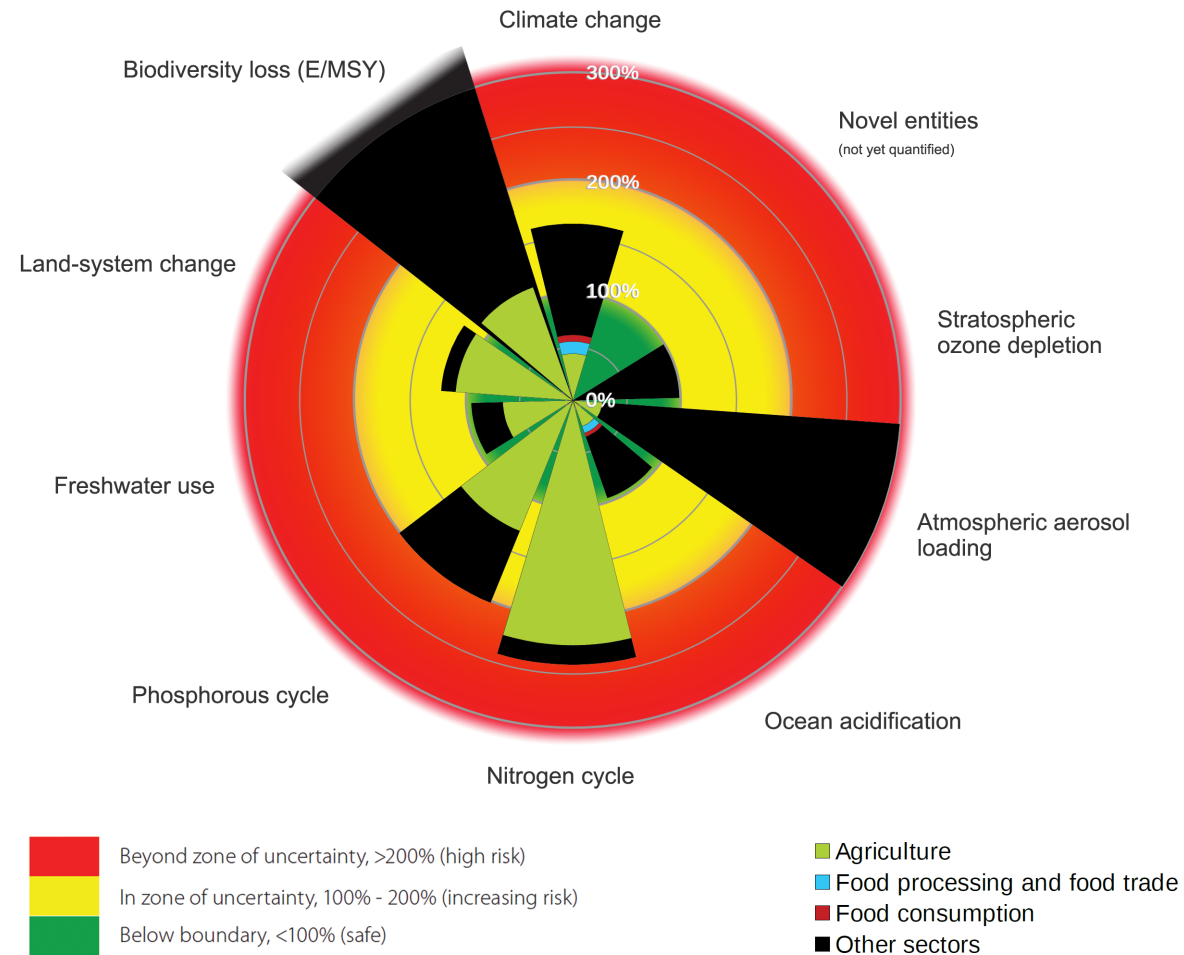
Planetary Boundaries

- ▶ **Planetary boundaries** is a concept involving Earth system processes which contain environmental boundaries
- ▶ Proposed in 2009 (Nature) by Earth System and environmental scientists, led by Johan Rockstrom (Stockholm Resilience Centre) and Will Steffen (Australian National University)
- ▶ Defines a "safe operating space for humanity"
- ▶ **In 2009 - 3 boundaries crossed**
- ▶ The framework is based on scientific evidence that human actions since the [Industrial Revolution](#) have become the main driver of global environmental change.



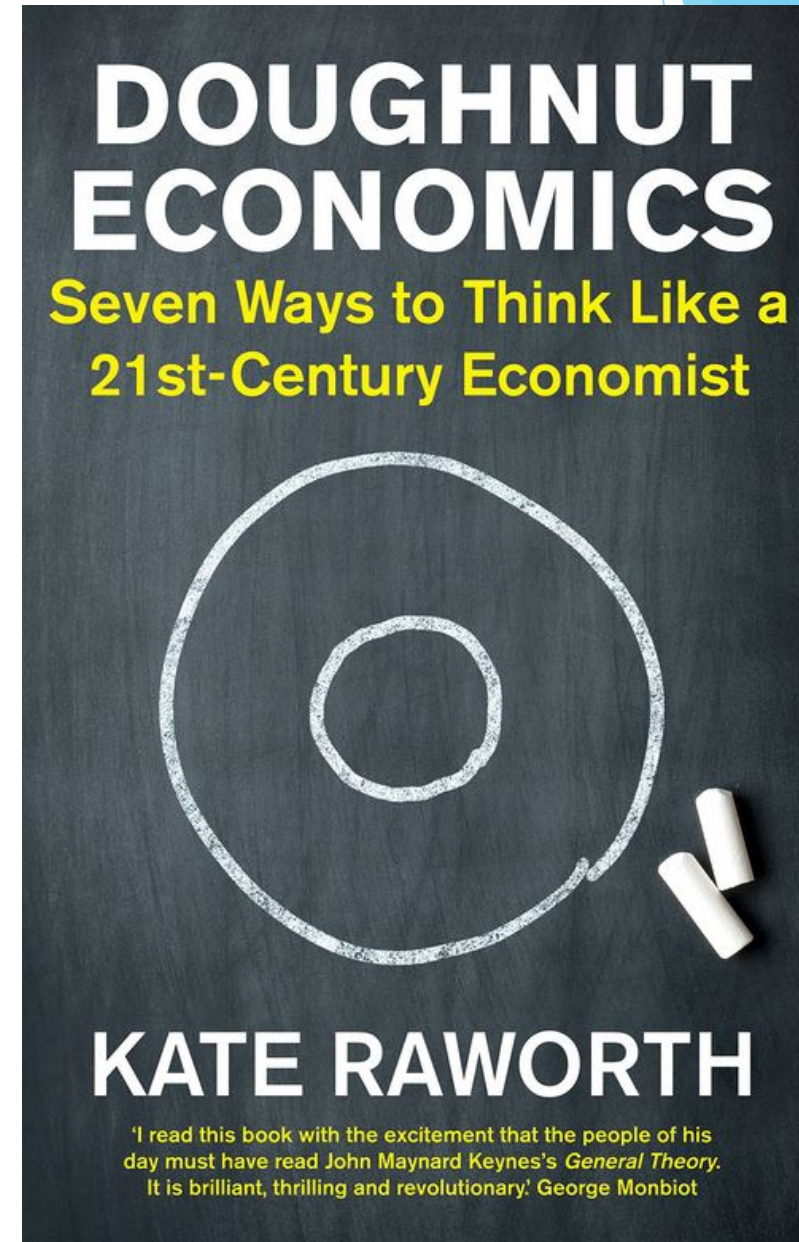
2015 - 4 out of 9 “Planetary Boundaries” now crossed

- Climate change
- Biosphere integrity
- Nitrogen and Phosphorous biogeochemical cycles
- Change in land use
- Ocean acidification
- Ozone depletion
- Global freshwater use
- Atmospheric aerosol loading
- Chemical pollution

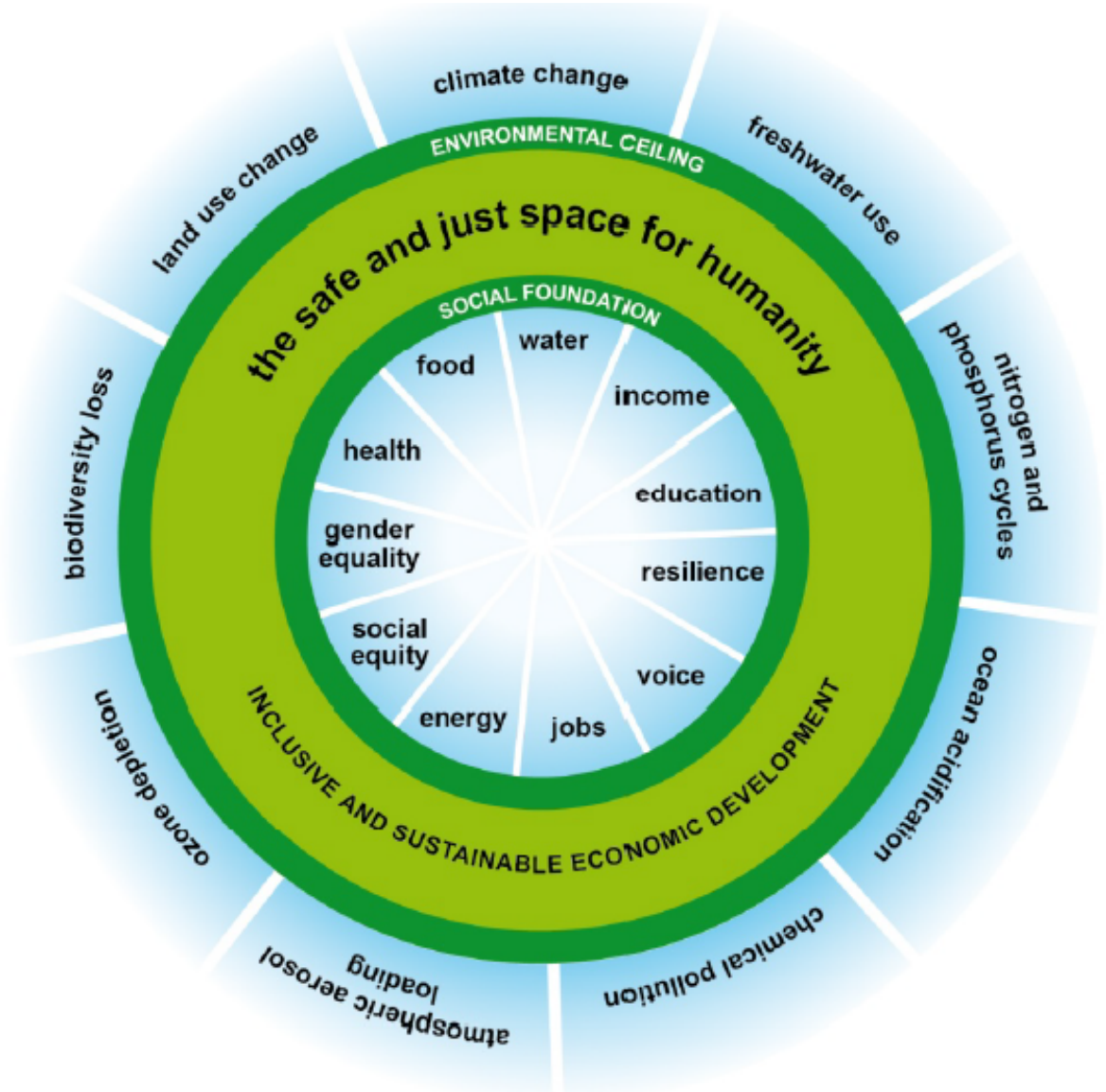


Doughnut Economics

Kate Raworth

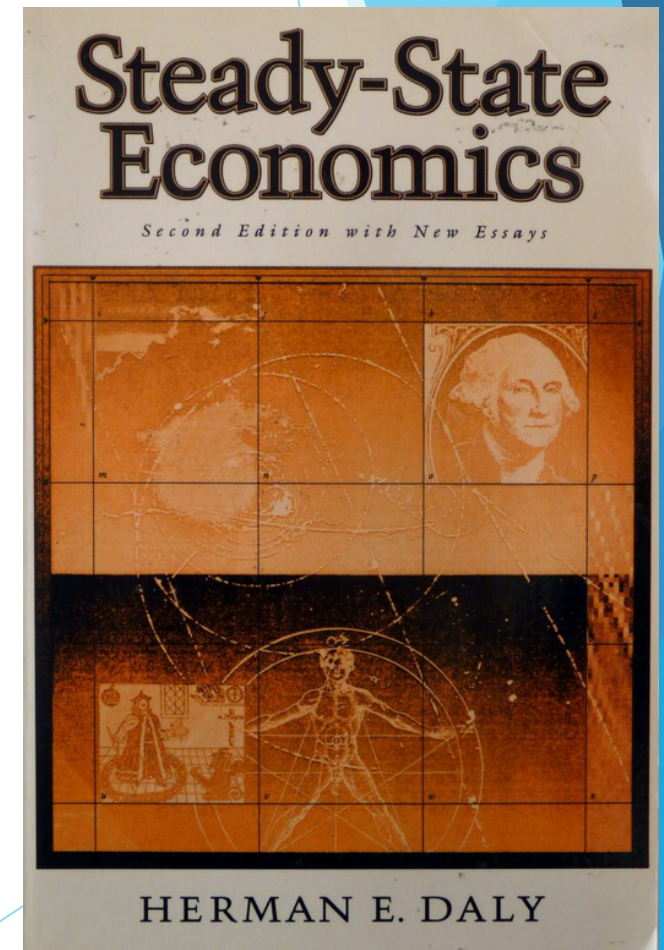
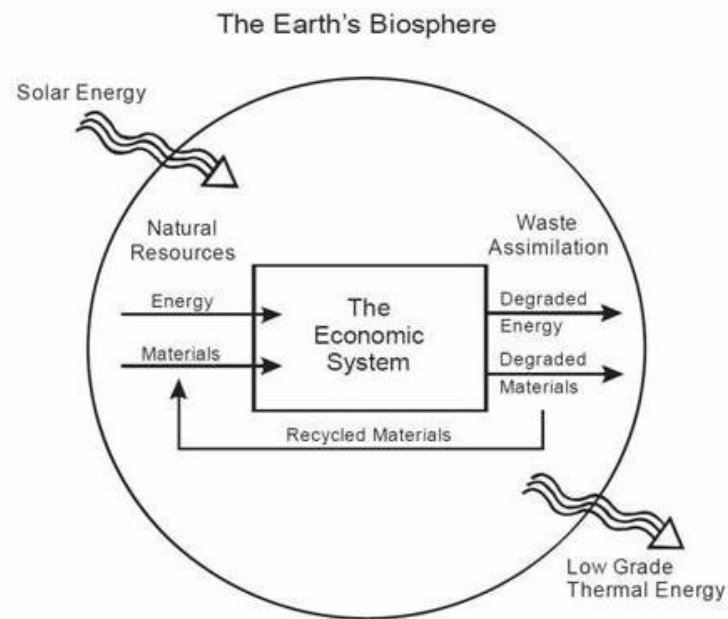


Doughnut Economics



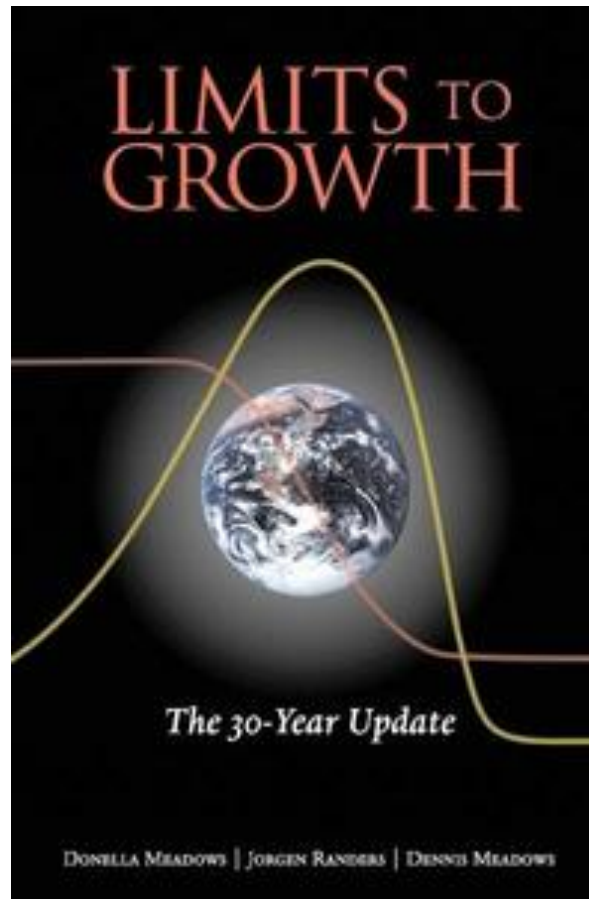
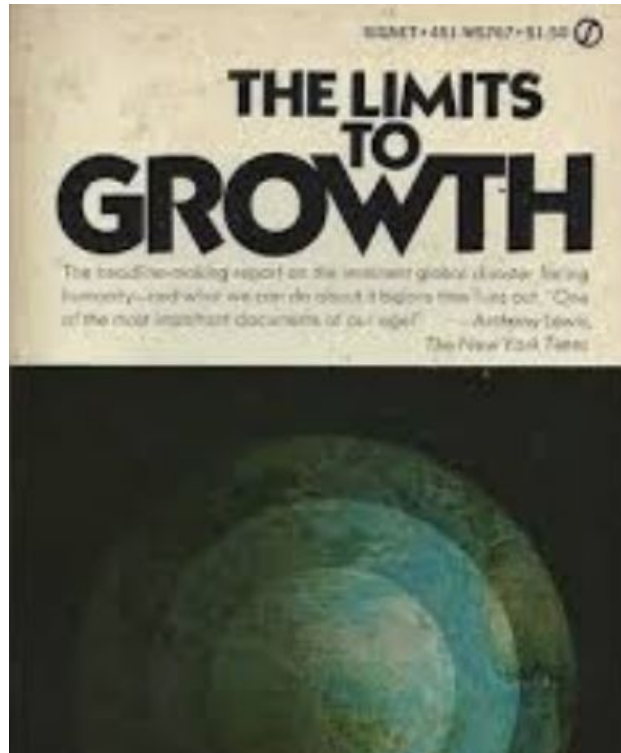
Building on the work done by ecological economics since the 1970s

- ▶ Steady State Economics
- ▶ Ecological Economics
- ▶ Limits to Growth
 - ▶ Club of Rome
 - ▶ Donella Meadows
- ▶ De-growth (1990s/2000's)



Limits to growth

Challenging growth for decades - 1970s, 2000s



Today: the solutions are already here,
all around us



What's the potential of 'alternative' economics?

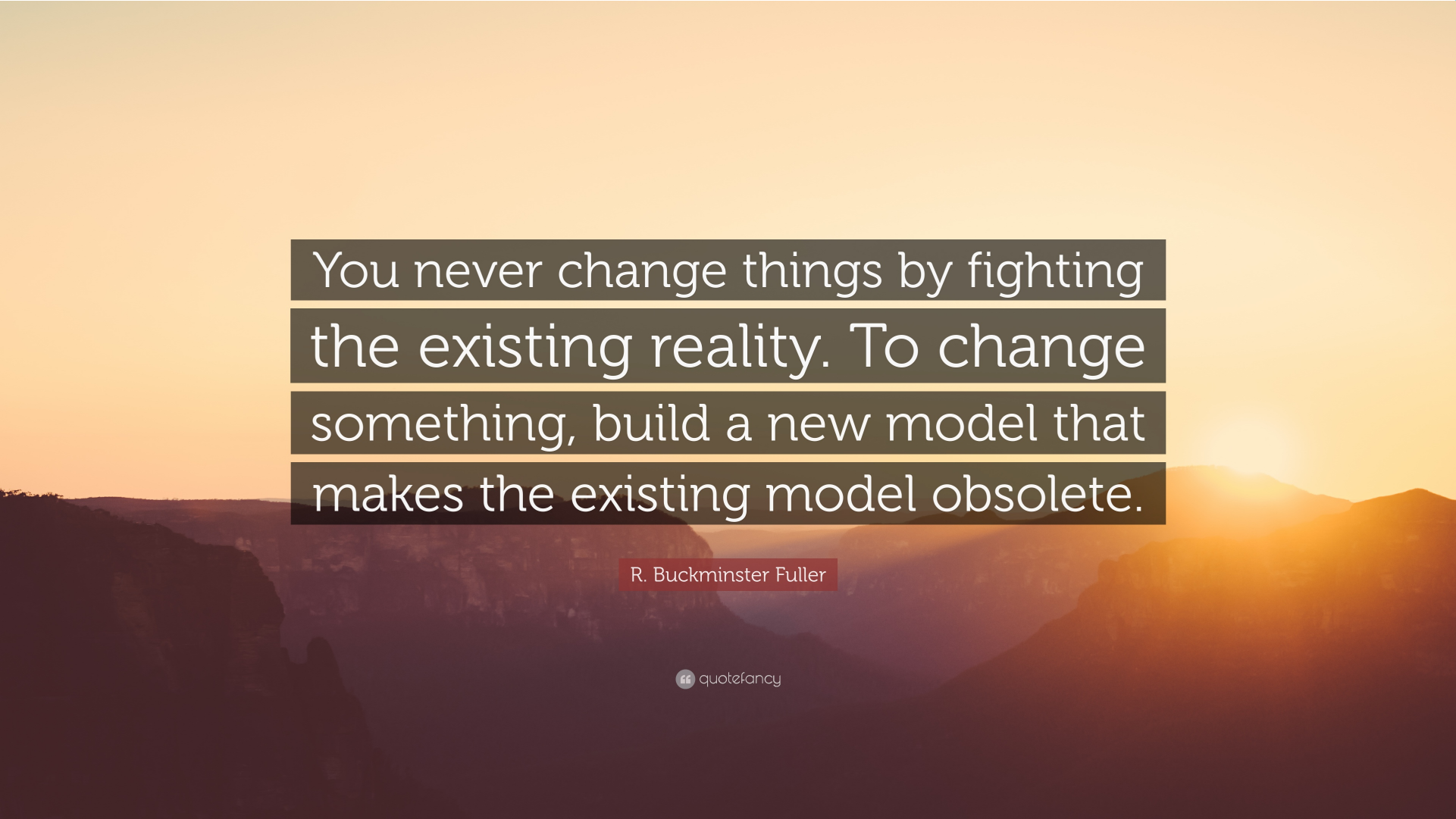
- ▶ Many different movements have emerged around the world focused on the concept of a 'New Economy'. Although they use different names, such as the Wellbeing Economy, Social Economy, Solidarity Economy, Sharing Economy, Collaborative Economy, Peer to Peer Economy, Steady State Economy, Community Economy and Regenerative Economy
- ▶ They all share two key goals:
 - ▶ (i) to challenge the current dominant system with its reliance on fossil fuels, large scale resource extraction and socially unjust structures and wealth distribution, and
 - ▶ (ii) to create and strengthen diverse economies that serve the needs of people in ways that are **socially just, culturally diverse and ecologically sustainable.**

New networks and initiatives around the world

- ▶ RIPESS - Social Solidarity Network - global
- ▶ Wellbeing Economy Network - global
- ▶ New Economy Coalition - North America
- ▶ Post-Growth Institute - USA/global
- ▶ New Economics Institute, UK



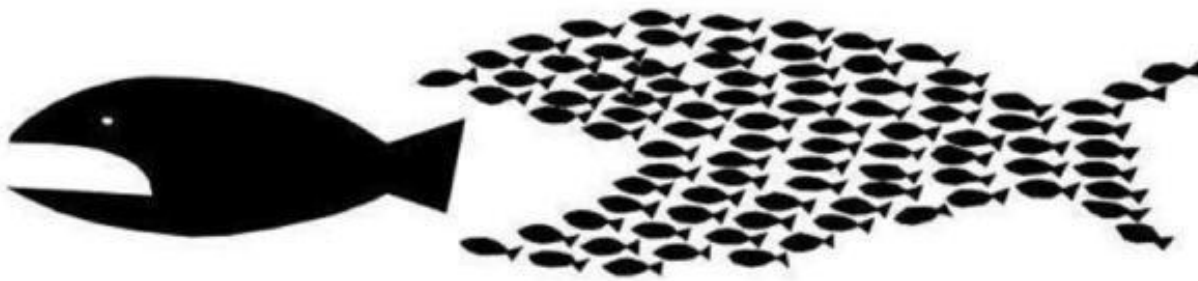
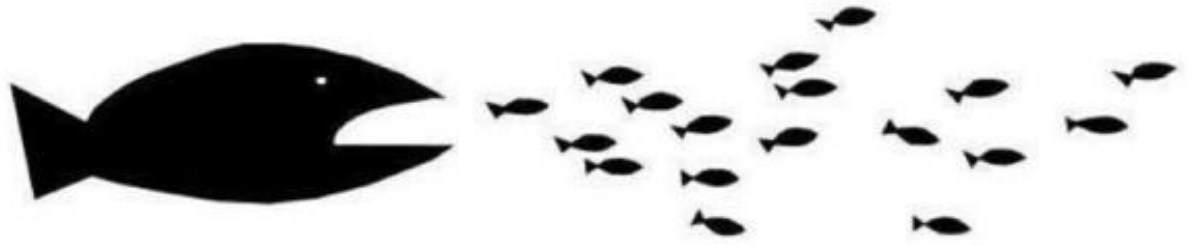
Intercontinental network for the promotion
of social solidarity economy



You never change things by fighting
the existing reality. To change
something, build a new model that
makes the existing model obsolete.

R. Buckminster Fuller

Don't Panic



Organize!

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, dynamic feel. The central area is a clean white space where the text is placed.

About the New Economy Network Australia

About NENA

- ▶ The New Economy Network Australia (NENA) is a network of individuals and organisations working to transform Australia's economic system so that achieving ecological health and social justice are the foundational principles and primary objectives of the economic system.
- ▶ NENA works to facilitate connections, showcase and promote innovative projects, build peer-to-peer learning and use collective strategies to advocate for change, so that we can build a strong movement of people demanding, creating and benefiting from a 'new' economy.
- ▶ There are three dimensions to NENA's work: we are building networks, connections and shared initiatives:
 - ▶ *within* specific geographic areas such as towns/cities, regions and states;
 - ▶ *across* different sectors within the new economy, including: sustainable food, energy, transport, housing, indigenous economics, ecological economics and many more; and
 - ▶ *that prioritise* specific strategic goals every year

Principles

▶ *Ecological Sustainability:*

- ▶ That economic activity not only respects and operates within ecological limits, bioregional health and planetary boundaries, but also supports the regeneration of natural systems and recognises and upholds the inherent rights of nature.

▶ *Social Justice:*

- ▶ That everyone can participate and benefit from economic activity in inclusive and equitable ways and that this requires working in solidarity to address the historical and ongoing marginalisation of certain groups by racism, imperialism, classism, patriarchy and other systems of oppression.

▶ *Democracy:*

- ▶ That economic decision-making is participatory, inclusive and transparent and emphasises collective stewardship and management of economic resources, activities and outcomes.

▶ *Place-based/ Emphasising Locality:*

- ▶ Creating greater resilience and strengthening community by rooting wealth and power in place through localised economic activity.

▶ *First Nations People in Australia*

- ▶ NENA acknowledges that the sovereignty of the First Nations People of the continent now known as Australia was never ceded by treaty nor in any other way. NENA acknowledges and respects First Nations Peoples' laws and ecologically sustainable custodianship of Australia over tens of thousands of years through land and sea management practices that continue today.
- ▶ NENA also acknowledges and respects the ancient, Earth-centred, steady state economic system that was created and managed by First Nations People across the continent for millennia. Australian society is in debt to First Nations People for many aspects of the modern economy

Sectoral hubs created within the network so far:

- ▶ First Nations economics
- ▶ arts & culture
- ▶ rural and regional economies
- ▶ cities and urban communities
- ▶ food
- ▶ health
- ▶ cooperatives
- ▶ democracy and governance
- ▶ ecological economics
- ▶ energy
- ▶ education
- ▶ faith groups
- ▶ finance economics
- ▶ housing
- ▶ localisation
- ▶ transitions
- ▶ money and local currencies
- ▶ personal dimensions and healthy cultures in the new economy
- ▶ social justice and human rights
- ▶ technology

2016 Conference - Sydney - ideas began



2017 Conference - NENA launched in Brisbane



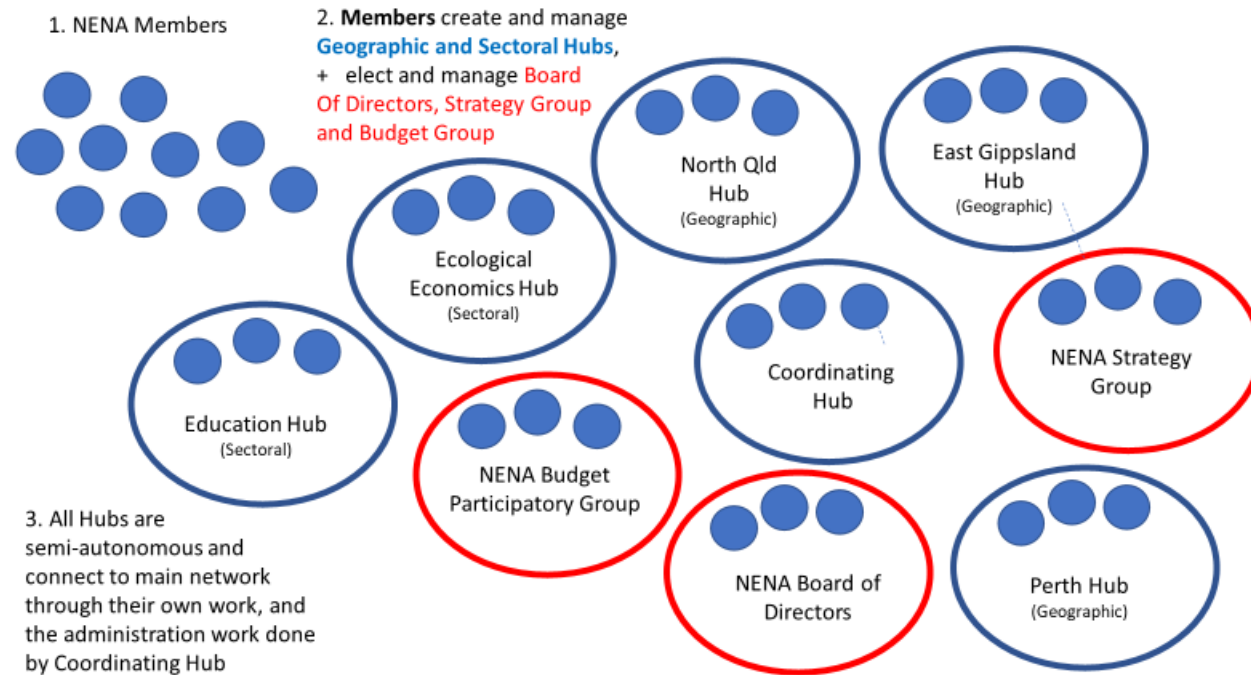
Activities since NENA Launch in Oct 2017

- ▶ Annual Conference 2018 - Melbourne
- ▶ Regional Symposia in 2018 - North Queensland & Perth
- ▶ Incorporated
- ▶ Membership
- ▶ Hubs
- ▶ NENA Journal
- ▶ NENA Radio
- ▶ Regional Symposia in 2019 - Newcastle, Margaret River
- ▶ Next Annual Conferences
 - ▶ Perth, October 2019
 - ▶ Newcastle, October 2020

NENA Activities

- ▶ **Activities of the Network**
- ▶ Members of NENA work together to:
 - ▶ Build a ‘community of practice’; a network where people who want to build the New Economy can find each other, learn from one another, share information and participate in different kinds of movement building.
 - ▶ Facilitate collaboration, education and peer-to-peer relationships that strengthen the Network and the movement.
 - ▶ Facilitate, host and co-host events and projects that strengthen relationships between members and work to achieve the objects of the network.
 - ▶ Create processes to enable Members of the Network to **promote their work, connect with others, and invite support for their cause or advocacy campaign**

The overall structure of the Network: *members + geographic and sectoral “Hubs”*

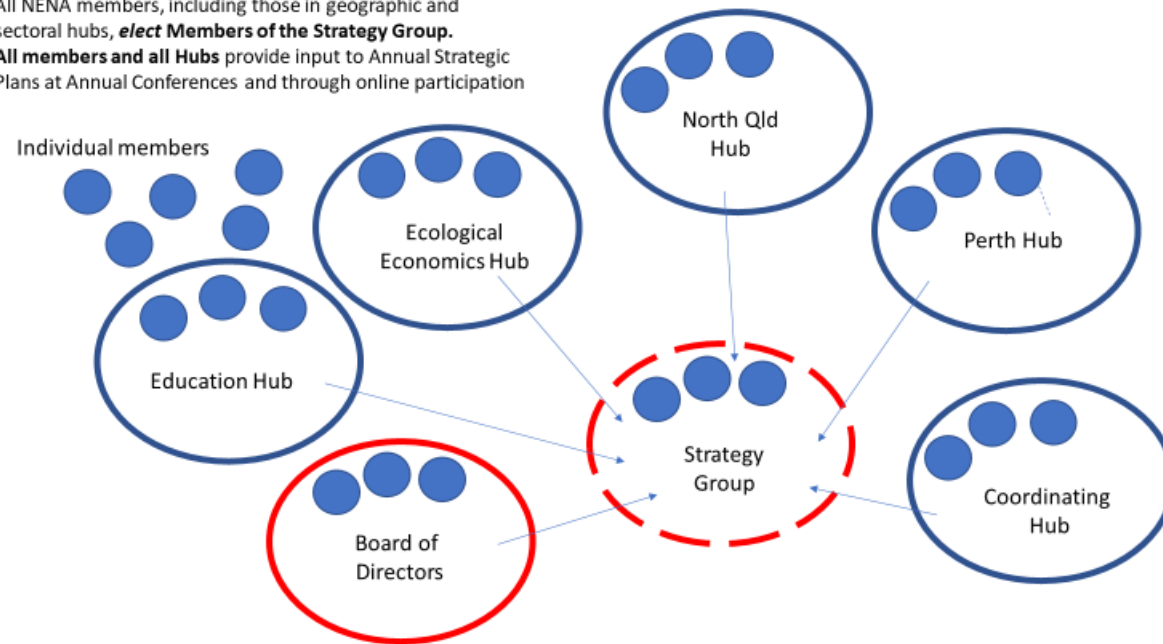


How the Network will build its Core Strategies

NENA STRATEGY GROUP

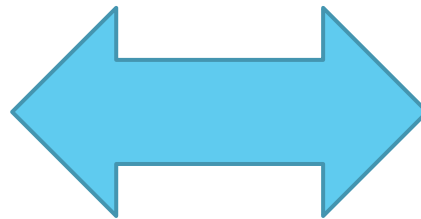
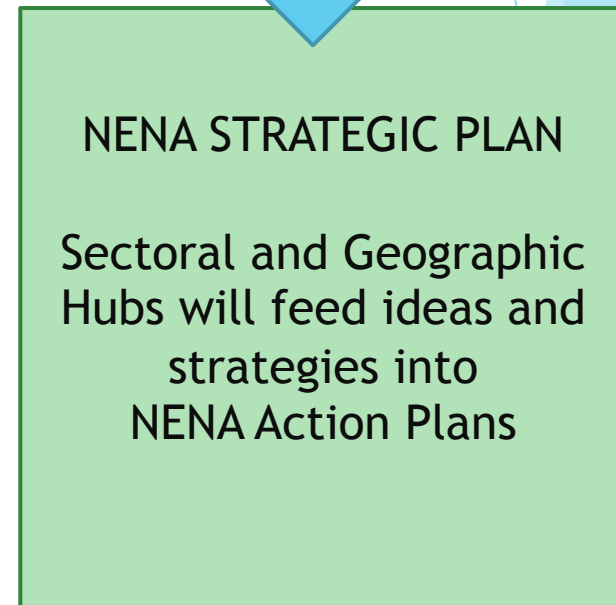
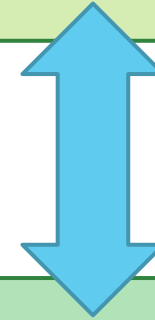
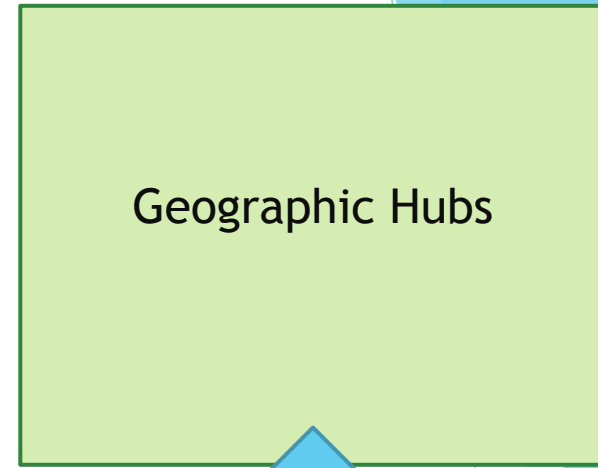
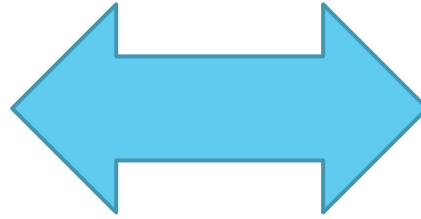
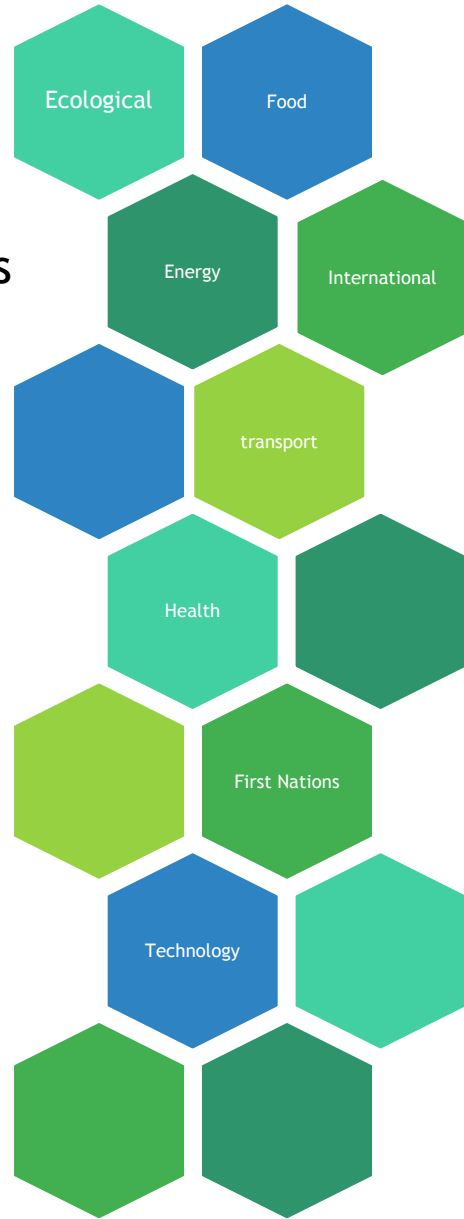
All NENA members, including those in geographic and sectoral hubs, **elect Members of the Strategy Group.**

All members and all Hubs provide input to Annual Strategic Plans at Annual Conferences and through online participation



How hubs will work together

Sectoral Hubs



Join us! National network + NENA East Gippsland

- ▶ New NENA Geographic Hub
- ▶ Coordinators: Jeremy Schroder & Caroline Crunden
- ▶ Inviting all interested people to join NENA, join the Hub and create peer-to-peer support and a 2-way dialogue with other members of NENA (draw new ideas into the region, share ideas from the region)

- ▶ CONTACTS
- ▶ Jeremy Schroder and Caroline Crunden nenagippyhub@gmail.com
- ▶ Michelle Maloney nena@neweconomy.org.au

Thank you for your time 😊