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# ISSUES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Note: This outline is work in progress

### **POPULATION GROWTH**

Exponential Growth

Doubling Time

Age Composition

Time to Restabilise

Urbanisation – Housing, Transport

Population Density

### **CONSUMPTION**

Excessive Consumption

Use of Fossil Fuels

Growth in Per Capita Consumption

Embodied Energy

### **IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT**

Interdependence of Species Within Ecosystems

Extinction of Species

Deforestation

Soil Erosion and Degradation

Technological Accidents

Pollution – Air Pollution, Pesticides, Plastic, Oil Spills, Radiation

Surface Water Resources and Aquifers

### **CARRYING CAPACITY**

Ecological Footprint

## **PEAKING OF RESOURCES**

Net Energy

Fossil Fuel Reserves

Peak Oil

Peak Minerals

Conservation

Recycling

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Climate Change a Result of Population Growth and Growth in Per Capita Consumption

Changes in Global Surface Temperatures

Extremes in Weather

Flash Flooding

Rises in Sea Level

Forest Fires

Impact on Water Supply

Impact on Food Production

Impact on Species

Tropical Diseases on the Move

Climate Change Refugees

The Need to Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground

## **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

## **FOOD PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY TO THE TABLE**

Fossil Fuel Subsidy

Use of Fertilisers

Use of Pesticides

Monoculture

Processing of food

Transportation

Storage and Distribution

Food Reserves

## **ECONOMIC SYSTEM**

GDP and Wellbeing

Globalisation

Comparative Advantage

Influence by Neoliberal Economics

## **FINANCIAL SYSTEM**

Creation of Money and Debt

Discounting

## **POLITICAL SYSTEM**

Democratic Process

Influence by Corporations

Influence by Lobbyist

## **INEQUALITY**

Unequal Distribution of Resources

Trickle Down Theory

Disparity in Incomes

Disparity in Capital Wealth

Avoidance of Taxation

Land Ownership

Sharing the Commons

Malnutrition in Less Developed Countries

## **CONFLICT**

Conflict Refugees

## **RISK AND THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

Perception of Risk

Unintended Consequences

Climate Change

Nuclear Energy

Genetic Engineering

## **RESPONSE TO THE NEED FOR TRANSITION**

Reductionism

Irrational Optimism

Misinformation

Denial

Influence of Corporations and Lobbyists

Inertia of Government

## **THE NEED FOR RESILIENCE**

## **THE NEED FOR CRITICAL THINKING**

**THE NEED FOR PROMPT ACTION**

Double Whammy of Peak Oil and Climate Change

Consequences of Inertia