

Island Conversations 2/6/25 Ideas from World Cafe groups

What does your personal economic behavior look like in an economy that is environmentally sustainable?

- Make investments locally
- When purchasing, use values sensitive to packaging, transportation distances, longevity, "total" costs.
- More personal education forming norms valuing environment
- Learn details of plastics recycling - what? Where? How?
- Ask grocers about products - source
- Reduce driving, more bicycling and walking
- Make biking safer - more bike paths
- Measure individual use of water, electricity, propane, NG, gas and grace improvement from baseline
- Get community data of use of gasoline, electricity and gas from supplier businesses and track for community
- Philosophic/Concepts
 - bioregion
 - Want vs need
 - reduce consumption (travel, things, etc)
 - more bartering
 - "Pre" cycle - when acquiring be aware of disposal
 - more repairs rather than disposal
 - Co-ops to share purchases (food, clothing, tools, services)
 - Everyone needs to realize that Individuals benefit when others benefit

-
- Eliminate plastics
 - Grow our own and get used to eating in season
 - Solar panels & batteries
 - Mass transit
 - Denser housing with services, and stores convenient without cars
 - Collect rainwater
 - Recycling
 - Refill containers
 - Show locally owned enterprises
 - Get PSE to use sustainable energy
 - Get local Credit Union or Bank
 - Lower thermostats in winter, raise in summer
 - Get most needs from bioregion
 - Utilize CSA's
 - Minimize driving. (Buy online vs driving to store)
 - Develop sources of reliable data and information, especially regarding local decisions
 - Use Thrift stores

- Cooperatives
- Barter
- Eliminate food waste - eat, compost, preserve, etc.
- Employ critical thinking
- Tool Library
- Communal kitchens and storage

-
- Decrease travel
 - Stop purchasing things with metal and plastic
 - Create time/spaciousness in schedule
 - Drive less, eat less
 - Become more aware - intentionality
 - Be willing to be inconvenienced
 - Critical thinking about advertising, messaging
 - More sharing vs everyone having one of everything
 - Create a culture of asking for help
 - Decrease energy use, learn energy costs
 - More letters to stay in touch with those who live far away
 - Only use sustainable materials in our hard stuff
 - Discern carefully when choosing products (making more) and lifestyle
 - Smaller homes, less stuff
 - Discerning decisions about when to drive, etc.
 - Do your own research
 - Buy local, buy seasonal
 - Become more minimalist
 - Become reciprocal in the use of the "commons"

-
- No gas powered vehicles
 - No money - build relationships instead
 - No use of products that cause hardship to people or nature
 - Ask of everything if its a real need before purchasing
 - Focus on relationships, not stuff
 - Shared Resources - vehicles, tools, equipment
 - Green powered transport
 - Barter rather than purchase
 - Ecologically sound - assess each activity first
 - Reuse, Repurpose everything
 - Carpooling
 - Organized information sharing about resource alternative
 - Converting land to low-impact natural systems - no lawns
 - Local purchasing
 - More Co-ops - Food, healthcare, basic first aid, transport (bikes and cars) clothing
 - No growth mentality
 - Health Care System

- Volunteer support
- Local knowledge
- Groups focused on direct support
- Local employment

-
- Resource sharing
 - Less individual ownership - more community shared goods
 - Less waste - better consumption habits
 - Less stuff, but better
 - Shift to libraries - seeds, tools, building supplies, art supplies, books
 - Fill the empty void with something other than products
 - Stop consuming for status
 - Balanced lives
 - Reach an optimal level of possessions - no storage - give to community
 - Spend time in works that benefit the environment
 - Really home in on your values and everything , like choosing a career that aligns to do that.
 - Everyone should shift their efforts toward the climate crisis
 - Transportation must change - community carpool system - group things, fewer trips, use busses - create system in a meta organizational level
 - Less individualism - be willing to accommodate and shift behaviors
 - Challenge yourself to establish a baseline and use less next year, perhaps with a public incentive - do the same with water and electricity,
 - Cultural sense of a time of scarcity
 - Lower thermostat, put on more clothes
 - Shifting the frame - challenge the myth of scarcity
 - Personal change doesn't necessarily mean we have less, have to give up things either.
 - Change attitudes, change systems - infrastructure needs to support the needs in environmentally sensitive ways. (Like mass transit)
 - Have real information to counter the dominant narrative
 - Humans are part of the environment. How do we change the narrative
 - Have to stop focussing on individuals and start acting as a collective
 - Change cultural values, not just individuals
 - How to start a Community Preparedness conversation in your neighborhood?

-
- Drive less, bus and bike more - need safe bike paths
 - Reduce possessions by sharing
 - Doing more things with community whether giving food or helping others
 - Stop burning gas - use heat pumps, induction stoves, etc.
 - Stop flying
 - No longer keep dogs
 - Art-up Costco, goes to CU cc?????
 - Eat locally
 - Continue thrifting

- Get to know more neighbors
- Loan useful items to others
- Start a tool library
- Communal kitchens - communal food storage (freezers, etc.)
- Evaluate prior to purchasing whether need or want?
- Buy quality, not cheap and disposable
- Avoid plastic
- More time in nature
- Composting
- Minimize waste
- Process waste so its congruent with the environment
- Repair - establish repair shops
- Eliminate storage units
- Incentivize sustainable behaviors
- Measure by value, not money
- Incentivize creativity for problem solving
- Prioritize fun - slow down and not work so much and throw out the "work ethic"

-
- Minimize travel - local trips and combining trips
 - Minimize energy use - buy local
 - Pay attention to the source (ie flowers need to be local, or buy your own.)
 - Cultural habit - we have expectation
 - We source and buy what we want
 - A remote place would have different culture and expectations.
 - Become more of a minimalist
 - More awareness of impacts - rather than the first thing that comes to mind
 - Have less possessions
 - Need less
 - Less prepared foods
 - Go compostable with all things
 - Waste goes down when composting
 - Carpool - or use alternate transportation
 - We can all waste less
 - Buy local food, or grow your own
 - More local farms
 - Put land into farming
 - But food in season
 - Lets be a bioregion
 - Don't throw food away - compost, eat, bury
 - Think of flying and other less sustainable things as luxuries for a very special time.
 - More plant based eating
 - Eat less meat, eat local meat
 - Seasonal canning
 - Repurpose

- Airlines with solar panels - reward sustainability
- Use your libraries - all of them (books, seeds, etc.)
- Community food - locality - great for building community too
- Co-housing - create close-knit communities
- Share

-
- Be more tenacious about buying local, or change what want to make it local
 - Live closer to family or change expectation about seeing them
 - Bring elderly parents here
 - Put money in local bank, that makes local loans for local projects
 - Live by principle of acquiring only what need, and plan for eventual discarding
 - Opt out of advertising - eliminate catalogues
 - When buying think 'what am I going to do with this plastic container?'
 - Demand that store allow us to bring our own containers for food.
 - Shop only at locally owned stores
 - Encourage repair
 - Encourage local entrepreneurs (like cobblers)
 - Tool exchange/sharing with neighborhood, community food storage, community freezer
 - Get information to make economic, environmentally sustainable decisions - think about who is affected by the decision
 - Work to make information available - transparency about products
 - Wastefulness today - we squander resources
 - Tool, etc., libraries - takes community building and trust building.
 - Shared gardens
 - Social connections - need to reduce fears
 - Plant strawberry fields instead of lawns - let neighbors pick!
 - Sense of Commons - what would it look like on Whidbey - building awareness and appreciation for nature and natural infrastructure.
 - Landowners change attitude to one of Stewardship
 - Share rather than accumulate
 - Break down barriers between neighbors - create community
 - Buying no more objects made from metal or plastics
 - Invest locally - local bank with microloans to build businesses
 - What can we learn from the Amish about living sustainably?