# Peak Oil

### **OIL AND GAS LIQUIDS** 2004 Scenario



CITIES AFTER PEAK OIL

# Peak Oil

Chart of the Day - www.chartoftheday.com Oil (Inflation-Adjusted) \$100 Oil prices are currently at 13-year highs but Record High \$90 are still significantly lower than the inflationadjusted record highs of 1980. \$80 \$70 Iran Crisis \$60 Gulf War I Price Spike \$50 Oil Embargo Gulf War II Price Spike \$40 \$30 \$20 \$10 Recession \$0 1970 1975 1980 1990 1995 2000 1985

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# Peak Oil





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#### Energy Usage Per Capita



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# **E**nergy **D**istribution



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# 30% - Residential

# & Traffic Energy Team Crazy Kitten

# Energy and Land Usage



# Future Scenarios: 2050

# Urban Energy Configuration





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of people in Boston own a Kitten

# Energy and Land Usage



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# Walking Cities Compared



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# Expected results without intervention



- Blackouts (already happening)
- War (already happening)
- Food competing with Oil for land
- Soaring Food Prices
- Famines
- Decimation of population
- Collapse of states

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#### History

- Soviet personnel left Cuba in 1991 Soviet Union collapsed
- Ended economic subsidies \$6 billion annually.
- GDP down 85% in the first 2 years
- Population lost weight (average 20 lbs.) 30% per capita calorie decline, Some cases of malnutrition and blindness
- Major decrease in material standard of living

### Cuba went from normal to beyond Peak Oil overnight





Tractors replaced by oxen

### **Special Period, After Peak Oil**

- Cuba abandoned the Soviet Industrial Model Changed from industrial/petrochemical farming to organic
- Introduced private farms and farmer markets
- Farms are smaller and use animal traction
- Maintained free decentralized medical system
- Used their limited oil resources to generate electricity
- De-emphasized private automobile



### **Agricultural Response**

Involuntary vegetarianism – more energy efficient Meat eating went from twice a day to twice a week

### Increased vegetable and viandas (starches) consumption

Increased vegetable sources of protein

Decreased wheat and rice (Green Revolution) production

### Urban gardens produce 50-80% of vegetables in cities

#### Rural areas improved education for farmers Many people moved from Havana to the country

Wages raised for farmers, who are very well paid!

physical work





### Little obesity now due to healthier diet and more



### **Transportation Response**



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### **Housing Response**



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### **Housing Response**



- Low energy & local materials
- Passive solar designs
- Compact & high density

### - Rooftop Gardens & Farming

### - Adaptive reuse of existing structures



## Pattern (a la Chris Alexander)



#### **Problem:**

Mankind has lost touch with its own process of existence. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, food to food, energy to energy, life to life. The logical operating parameters of the biological chain of life are broken and we operate within the margin until the buffer zone has been depleted. Current cities are inherently unsustainable constructs. The chain is not closed, relying on a nonrenewable resource above all else for everything we make and do, causing a spectrum of problems, predominantly when our unbridled hunger for raw energy is confronted with a lack of resources and a destruction of our habitat.

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#### *Core Solution:*

Reconnect civilization with the chain of biological existence. Make the system locally tight and assure that no single revolution within takes longer than a single generation.

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### **Tools/Methods for Application in Cities:**

- Transport (produce, commute, transport types)
- Public space (lots & parking lots to agriculture, roads to parks & bike lanes, etc)
- Daily life (work at home, local vacations, communal food gardens etc)
- Density (Suburbs gone, smaller cities, more modest space per house, etc)
- Production (Local, symbiotic industry, recycling)
- Resources (full circle reuse of all materials, nutrients and energy)
- Buildings (Towards zero net energy for all residential and commercial existing buildings)



**Immediate Urban Requirements:** 

- High Density but no elevators
- Elimination of Personalized Motor Traffic
- Minimalization of Transport
- Self-Serviceability
- Full Bicycle and Pedestrian amenities
- Mixed Demographic & Program
- Modesty in Amenities & Space Consumption



#### **Immediate Architectural Requirements:**

- Long-Life Construction (100+ years)
- Regional/Local & Recycled Materials & Labor
- Programmatically Convertible Design
- Anticipate Work-At-Home
- Increase Biodiversity & Biomass
- Application of Renewable Energy Sources
- Modesty in Provision



# Pattern adjusted for Arid climate



### Take advantage of local conditions:

Climate: High diurnal swing, dry, high solar radiation - Use thermal mass, Night Purge, Mass Shading & Wind stacks - Harness Solar Energy (Boilers, Boiler Plants &

- PV's)

Fragile & arid soil:

- thermal mass)

- Necessity of suitable agricultural plant species (limited to no irrigation, regenerative plants...) - Materials: Rammed Earth, Clay & Wood (high



# Pattern adjusted for Arid climate



#### What NOT to do

- Cities that rely on a completely artificial conditioning of climate
- Buildings that ignore local conditions

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# Pattern adjusted for Arid climate



#### What NOT to do

- Low density, spread out settlements
- Climate unaware construction

