

# PEAK MONEY: a permanent change

## we are past limits to growth, this is not a cyclical recession

Some of the media, government elites, and the financial world knew the financial crash was imminent but feigned surprise in public while planning their exit strategies and wargaming how to manage and manipulate the crisis to protect their power (not just more profits). The financial meltdown is not a cyclical recession, it is a permanent economic shift. The End of Growth transcends ideologies and partisan politics.

Now that we are at Peak Everything we need to move beyond Peak Denial and Peak Blame to equitably share the shrinking economic pie.

Even if transnational corporations were converted into democratic, locally owned cooperatives, we have still overshot Earth's carrying capacity.

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"This is not so much financial bad weather as financial climate change" — James Howard Kunstler

"Communism forgets that life is individual. Capitalism forgets that life is social, and the kingdom of brotherhood is found neither in the thesis of communism nor the antithesis of capitalism but in a higher synthesis that combines the truths of both. Now, when I say question the whole society, it means ultimately coming to see that the problems of racism, the problem of economic exploitation, and the problem of war are all tied together."

— Martin Luther King, "Where do we go from here?"  
August 16, 1967

## energy and money

- "the recession that will not end in our lifetime"  
[www.PeakChoice.org/peak-money.html](http://www.PeakChoice.org/peak-money.html)
- Richard Heinberg, Post Carbon Institute  
"The End of Growth" [www.postcarbon.org](http://www.postcarbon.org)
- Chris Martsenson, "The Crash Course"  
[www.peakprosperity.com/crashcourse](http://www.peakprosperity.com/crashcourse)
- Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy [www.steadystate.org](http://www.steadystate.org)
- Gail Tverberg, [OurFiniteWorld.com](http://OurFiniteWorld.com)

## steady state economics for an ecological society

The dominant paradigm teaches money is the most important value, energy conservation and ecological sanity are nice if we can afford them.

Most of the environmental movement has embraced the concept of the Triple Bottom Line, which suggests that the economy needs to consider ecology and social justice issues. While it is good to factor these into economic decisions, the deeper truth is the environment makes the economy possible. Energy creates money, not the other way around. No jobs on a dead planet.

It is probably not a coincidence that many of the political voices calling attention to the problems of fiat currency, the Federal Reserve and other structural problems rarely mention the underlying ecological limits - and worse, some of them seem fixated on Jewish bankers who allegedly run the world.

We need to weave together social justice advocates with understanding of how fiat money is created and that we have reached the limits to infinite growth on a finite planet.

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"Awareness of Climate Change by the media and general public is obviously running well ahead of awareness about Peak Oil, but there are interesting differences in this general pattern when we look more closely at those involved in the money and energy industries. Many of those involved in money and markets have begun to rally around Climate Change as an urgent problem that can be turned into another opportunity for economic growth (of a green economy). These same people have tended to resist even using the term Peak Oil, let alone acknowledging its imminent occurrence. Perhaps this denial comes from an intuitive understanding that **once markets understand that future growth is not possible, then it's game over for our fiat system of debt-based money.**"

— David Holmgren, co-originator of permaculture  
"Money vs. Fossil energy: the battle to control the world" [www.holmgren.com.au](http://www.holmgren.com.au)