



The Steady Stater

The (Steady) State of CASSE in 2012

Folks were starting to wonder, "What's become of CASSE?" It's a fair question because this is the first issue of the *Steady Stater* in 2012. With Christmas right around the bend, this will be the last *Steady Stater* of 2012, too. Count on quarterly issues in 2013 though.

CASSE affairs were less visible in 2012 due largely to the fact that we had no full-time paid staff for nearly a year. Rob Dietz resigned from his post as Executive Director late in 2011. Since then we've had a Volunteer Acting Director – Brian Czech –

doing CASSE functions on nights and weekends while working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the "day job" and serving as a visiting professor for Virginia Tech, teaching ecological economics and advising future steady state leaders. That explains the lower frequency of communication!

Nevertheless, CASSE played a key role in some unprecedented steady-state successes in 2012.

CASSE board members and speakers gave dozens of steady-state talks around the world. The UN General Assembly in New York, Rio+20, and even the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory were among our

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Brian Czech moderating a panel on "Harmony With Nature," sponsored by Bolivia, at the UN General Assembly, April 18.

Our Mission

The mission of CASSE is to advance the steady state economy, with stabilized population and consumption, as a policy goal with widespread public support.

We pursue this mission by:

- 1 educating citizens on the conflict between economic growth and environmental protection, ecological and economic sustainability, and national security and international stability;
- 2 promoting a steady state economy as a desirable alternative to economic growth; and
- 3 studying the means to establish a steady state economy.

Outreach Highlights

- United Nations General Assembly's Panel presentation for Interactive Dialogue on Harmony with Nature
- World Environmental Constitution Forum at Rio+20, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- International Conference on Degrowth in the Americas at McGill University, Montreal, Canada
- Measuring What Matters Conference at University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, USA

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Three Authors, Two Books, One "Double-Barrel Shotgun"

Maybe the shotgun metaphor isn't warm and fuzzy, but at CASSE we don't beat around the bush. We don't waffle about the conflict between economic growth and environmental protection, national security, and international stability. We eschew notions of "green growth" and don't settle for vague talk of a "new economy." We tell it like it is about limits to growth and we explicitly advance the clear and sustainable alternative: the steady state economy.

That helps to explain why three CASSE principals have two books coming out this winter that will arm and empower readers to join the steady state movement with knowledge and confidence. The first \$5,000 of royalties from each book will go to CASSE; a "shot" of cash from both barrels, to temper the metaphor a bit.

Supply Shock (by Brian Czech) and *Enough Is Enough* (by Rob Dietz and Dan O'Neill) will complement and supplement each other, with synergistic effects for the reader. And, to build further on the CASSE connection, Herman Daly (Steady State Economist # 1 and CASSE Board member) has authored forewords for both books.

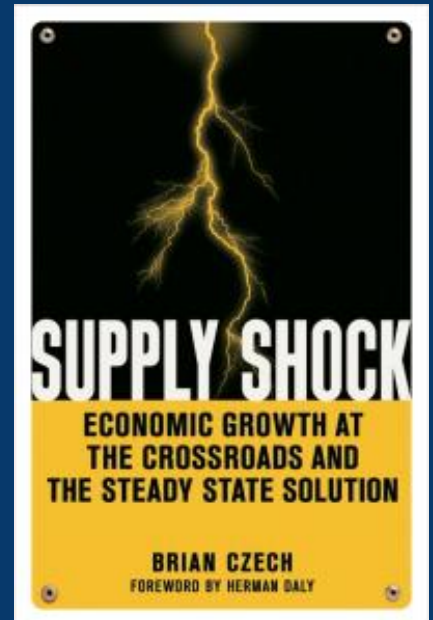
Each book can stand solidly alone, or New Society Publishers and Berrett-Koehler (respectively) wouldn't have published them. Yet the coupling of these two books – in classrooms, think tanks, civic groups, book clubs,

and among the general public – will be more valuable than the sum of the two apart. To draw a historical analogy, think of the Federalist Papers with the American Constitution.

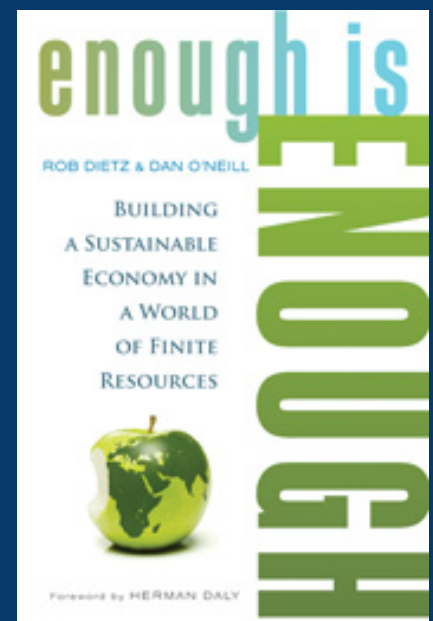
As the author of *Supply Shock: Economic Growth at the Crossroads and the Steady State Solution*, Czech's intent was to provide a hybrid textbook/trade book in the tradition of Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. It took ten years and required a thorough and wide-ranging treatment, covering historical, technical, and political aspects of limits to growth and the steady state economy. Czech was especially keen on handling some devils in the details, such as the nature of technological progress and the corruption of neoclassical economics. Then, in the final chapter, "A Call for Steady Statesmen: Policies for a Full-World Economy," Czech laid out specific policy proposals for achieving the steady state economy.

Meanwhile policy proposals are much easier to lay out with the benefit of *Enough Is Enough: Building a Sustainable Economy in a World of Finite Resources*, which started out as the proceedings of the 2010 Steady State Economy conference at Leeds University. *Enough Is Enough* stands on its own because it too provides context, describing why economic growth has become a bad deal at this

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Supply Shock is a comprehensive approach to steady state economics. History, anthropology, politics, sociology, ecology, economics, technology, environmental affairs, public policy, and "steady statesmanship" in international diplomacy are woven into a treatise for the steady state economy.



Enough Is Enough offers practical and hopeful solutions to the problem of never-ending economic growth. It answers the question, "What do we need to do to establish a steady state economy."

A portion of royalties from these books will be donated to CASSE. Join the book launch team by emailing rob_dietz@steadystate.org.

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point in history. But the strength of *Enough is Enough* is its thorough treatment of policy reforms and other actions for achieving a steady state economy, which was the focus of the Leeds conference. In *Enough is Enough*, Rob Dietz and Dan O'Neill essentially provide a blueprint for the steady state economy.

Both books are highly recommended. Whether you prefer the metaphorical double-barrel, one-two punch, or two tracks for a sustainable train, these books will serve you well. We face stern opposition in advancing the steady state economy. Let's be fully prepared with nuanced understanding of how we got here, the challenging political terrain, and a detailed roadmap for where we want to go.

Are you a Member of CASSE?

Member donations help CASSE promote the steady state economy. You can set up an annual or recurring donation at steadystate.org/give.

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speaking venues. So, although many of our members couldn't have known, we were more prolific than ever in getting the word out in 2012. We weren't able to keep the CASSE Events page up to date, but it's been updated now with highlights of our [2012 speaking events](#).

Likewise with new CASSE chapters; several were formed in 2012 – New South Wales, Hong Kong, Serbia, South Africa, Tolima, Vienna, St. Louis – but website visitors wouldn't have known until very recently. Scholarly publications, media appearances, notable signatory list, blog presence... all was well in 2012. If you're sensing a theme, you're right. CASSE folks were busy getting things done without advertising it, but now these highlights are slowly coming to light.

It's not that we didn't want to keep our networks better apprised, but sometimes you have to decide: Do more or talk about what you've done. Sometimes you're so shorthanded you simply can't do both. That's the way it was for most of 2012.

That's why some of the best news of all is our hiring of Mike Sandler as Administrative Director in September, 2012. Mike brings a solid background of organizational leadership and networking to CASSE (see page 4), and we are extremely fortunate to have him on board. He will be the jack of all trades CASSE needs to take it to the next level. His position entails a long list of tasks, including financial operations, volunteer coordination, website construction and maintenance, fundraising, representing CASSE at various functions, and the zillion "little" things that come with a one-man operation, from handling email to changing the printer cartridges.

In short, 2012 has been a highly productive year for CASSE and, at least in that regard, a good year for steady state economics.

Can you think of another organization that more proactively, more clearly, more effectively advances the steady state economy as a policy goal with widespread public support?

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CASSE Regional and Chapter Outreach

Geoff Mosley, Australian Director, gave a talk to a packed public audience in Adelaide, organized by Economic Reform Australia. Afterward, a video of the presentation was widely distributed.

Claudia Munera, Colombian Chapter, spoke at the Tertulias sustentables Villa de Leyva (Sustainable meetings - Villa de Leyva), Colombia.

Daniel W. O'Neill, UK Director, was an invited panelist at *We Need to Talk About Growth*, University of Manchester, UK.

James Magnus Johnston, Canadian Director, participated in the 2012 Global Issues Conference at Menno Simons College, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

CASSE Position Spotlight

CASSE's position on economic growth serves many functions in promoting the message of a steady state economy and building the network of steady staters and their allies around the world.

Notable Endorsements

Individuals

- Jane Goodall
- Bill McKibben
- Vandana Shiva
- Chris Matthews
- David Suzuki
- David Korten

New notables Fall 2012

- Douglas Rushkoff, author, blogger, and media critic
- Nazia Mintz-Habib of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Fellow at Harvard's Center for International Development
- Aubrey Meyer, originator of the Contraction & Convergence model for equitable climate stabilization
- Gerard Ndabemeye, Directeur Général de l'Planification Agricole et de l'Elevage, Burundi

Organizations

- Conservation International - Brazil
- Miljøpartiet De Grønne (Green Party Of Norway)
- Conservation Biology Institute
- E. O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation
- Public Employees For Environmental Responsibility

New notables Fall 2012

- Post Growth Institute, Vancouver, Canada
- Institute for Sustainable Futures at University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

Position Statistics

9500 individuals have signed

190 organizations have endorsed

12 professional, government or scientific groups say the same thing

as of 15 November 2012



Help us reach our goal of 10,000 before 1 January!

International Communications

With five new translations in 2012, the CASSE position on economic growth is now on the Internet in the following languages:

English, Spanish, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Russian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Europe), Norwegian, Swedish, Croatian, Hungarian, Tamil, Mongolian, Serbian, Catalan, Dutch, and Ukrainian

CASSE Board Member Outreach

Although retired, CASSE Board member Herman Daly gave two interviews on BBC's World Business radio show. Herman also published an article in Ecological Economics, "Growth, Debt, and the World Bank."

CASSE Board member Brent Blackwelder spoke in New Mexico at the annual conference of Age Nation, a seniors NGO concerned with sustainability affairs. Brent's efforts in advancing the steady state economy were also prominent in his work as a board member of Tax Justice Network and of Foundation Earth.

CASSE Board member Lisi Krall published an article in Ecological Economics, "Ecological economics, degrowth, and institutional change," and another article "Ecological economics and institutional change," in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, both written with Kent Klitgaard.

CASSE Board member Peter Victor gave the keynote address at the annual conference of the Institute for New Economic Thinking in Berlin; received grant with Tim Jackson to work on ecological macroeconomics.

New Local Chapters in 2012

CASSE has been adding new local chapters, listed below. Welcome to these well-qualified Directors! Are you nearby? Contact your local chapter lead through the CASSE website to see how you can help.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Bio</u>
Hong Kong, China	Claudio Delang 	Geographer at the Hong Kong Baptist University with background in economics, geography, and environmental studies, working in rural areas in Southeast Asia (Thailand, Laos, Vietnam) and China.
London, UK	Miri Sloboda 	Founding Director of STEP: Staying Together - Encouraging Parents. She has worked for Oxfam, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and in the private sector.
Sydney, Australia	Anna and Eva Schlunke 	Anna is a chemical engineer with a PhD in reaction kinetics (from Sydney University) who works in the area of sustainable buildings, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions. Eva is an artist and illustrator, who lives and exhibits in Redfern, Sydney, with a background in business administration and eco-tourism.
Risaralda, Colombia	Paola Arias 	Economist with graduate studies in the management of protected areas. Working as a consultant mainly in the Otun Watershed on interdisciplinary projects involving economic valuation, watershed management and planning, and payments for environmental services and has experience with the Ecovillage El Prado.
Novi Sad, Serbia	Ante Vujić 	Full professor at the Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Sciences (University of Novi Sad, Serbia) with main interests in biodiversity conservation, entomology, and the protection of endangered species.
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa	Gertrud Lomas-Walker Jean Senogles 	Gertrud has worked for the past 20 years in the fields of sustainability and economic development for a large South African financial services organisation, and for an international assurance and advisory firm. Jean is a veteran environmental activist, conservationist, geographer, and teacher. She has served on many boards including several nature reserves, conservancies, and research associations.
St. Louis, Missouri, USA	Eric Zencey 	Author of the <i>The Other Road to Serfdom: Essays in Sustainable Democracy</i> . An internationally published (and nationally best-selling) novelist, he holds a Ph.D. in political philosophy, and currently is a visiting professor at Empire State College and an affiliate of the Gund Institute of Ecological Economics at the University of Vermont.



New Local Chapters (continued)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Bio</u>
Ekondo Titi, Cameroon	Mukete Awah Beckline 	Project Officer at the Community Service for Environmental Protection (COSEP), Cameroon Office and a Postgraduate Research Student, Environmental Agriculture at the Buea University, Cameroon. He has previously worked as a Research Ecologist in Copenhagen, Denmark, in the Netherlands, and elsewhere.
Tolima, Colombia	Sandra Marcela Cely Santos 	Marcela is a biologist with a passion for wildlife conservation and a deep interest in biodiversity conservation in productive landscapes. works at a Regional Innovation Institute which educates people living in rural landscapes and supports them in the establishment of cooperatives and associations. The purpose is to improve livelihoods, build equitable communities, and re-empower communities to build a better future.
Toronto, Canada	Ryan Dymnt 	Ryan is a Chartered Accountant and the Executive Director of Institute for a Resource-Based Economy, a non-profit organization that connects economic and environmental issues and implements shared-resource projects in Toronto. Ryan is a graduate of McGill University and serves on the Board of Wildlife Preservation Canada.
Vienna, Austria	Graziano Ceddia 	Graziano is an economist with a PhD in Environmental Economics and Management (Ebor, UK). He is Associate Professor in Sustainable Development at MODUL University (MU) Vienna, where he teaches ecological economics and he serves as president of the MU Sustainability Committee.
Zürich, Switzerland	Michael Curran 	Ph.D. student at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zürich, focusing on applying the principles of steady state and ecological economics to the problem of land allocation between nature conservation and human use. He holds a Master's degree in spatial ecology from the University of Basel and a Bachelor's degree in Zoology from University College Dublin.

Recent Comments from Signatories

"Bravo to CASSE for calling attention to the elephant in economic theory: no system can sustain exponential growth indefinitely."

"Please keep up this very important work — for the sake of my children and (hopefully) grandchildren."

"I knew there had to be a better way; glad to find people who understand and can explain it."

"We need 900 million more signatures... at least."



Daly News Recent "Bestsellers"



Herman Daly, [Eight Fallacies about Growth](#)

Brian Czech, [Economic Growth: The Missing Link in Environmental Journalism](#)

Brent Blackwelder, [Climate Change Trumps Terrorism as Threat to National Security](#)

Rob Dietz, [The Triumph of Fantasy over Science](#)

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Probably not. In fact, no other organization is even focused on advancing the steady state economy.

In a typical year-end letter such as this, you'd know what to expect at this point, right? Somewhere has to come the annual pitch for donations. Well, we won't let you down!

We truly need our supporters – members, signatories, social media followers, even speakers and board members – to come through this year, for the good of all. That's because most charitable foundations are struggling, and this has impacted the CASSE coffers. Thanks largely to our individual donors we've managed to maintain a "steady state" at around \$100,000, the bare-bones minimum to keep a non-profit organization running in the Washington, DC area while staying on the radar of charitable foundations.

Of course we of all people want a steady state economy, but at this point in history we need the CASSE sector to grow while, say,

the Escalade sector declines. Without CASSE, who is going to lead the way in advancing the steady state economy as a policy goal with widespread public support?

Big Money isn't going to participate in our development, so please consider making your voice for the steady state economy heard, as part of a growing movement, by donating as best you can and as soon as possible. This will put us in a much better position for foundation grants in 2013.

Meanwhile, enjoy the rest of the pages the 2012 *Steady Stater*, and get ready for a big 2013!

Support CASSE

Donate and/or become a CASSE member at

[steadystate.org/give.](http://steadystate.org/give)

More Comments from Signatories

"I feel a steady state economy is the solution to a good portion of modern society's current ailments."

"I think this an absolutely great cause."

"The true heart of what the green and sustainable movement needs to embrace."

"The world needs a new model...CASSE may be it."

"I agree, this is the fundamental issue of our time."

"Thank you for creating and holding this space."

"Steady State is the ONLY way to solve environmental problems and provide justice for people."

Calls to Action for 2013

CASSE has been building a list of over 200 volunteers from around the world. Volunteers are generally expected to be self-directed in promoting the steady state economy. Every so often CASSE may send out ideas for coordinated actions.

There are several ideas for actions you can take on the CASSE website under "Act." The top action for volunteers is to help us get more signatures on the [CASSE position on economic growth](#). The [importance of these signatures](#) is overlooked and hard to exaggerate.

Next, how about doing one action each month? For example, next month, focus on writing letters to the editor to newspapers or magazines. For 2013, monthly actions could include:

- Lecture and discussion at local university for students.
- Contact Chambers of Commerce, Sierra Club chapters, or other groups that host speakers.
- Seek endorsement of CASSE position by an organization or business.
- Send us your ideas!

CASSE welcomes new Administrative Director, Mike Sandler



In late September, CASSE hired Mike Sandler as the new Administrative Director. Mike

recently moved to Washington DC from Northern California where he had been working on climate change issues with local governments and the advocacy community. Mike looks forward to working with you to promote the steady state economy. You can reach Mike at mike@steadystate.org.

Dear Speakers and Notable Signatories:

If you are traveling through areas where there is a local CASSE chapter, let us know by sending your events schedule to info@steadystate.org. Leverage our international network promote our common message to fellow steady staters.

Upcoming Events

January 24, 2013: *Enough Is Enough* Book Launch, various locations in US and UK, see CASSE website for more information.

Donate to CASSE

CASSE relies on contributions from people like you. Individual donations are very important for our general administrative costs (which we keep as low as possible). Help keep the lights on and the website up, so we can continue to provide you and others tools to transform the growth economy into a steady state.

Not yet a member? join us at steadystate.org/join

Thanks!



CASSE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of the steady state economy.

Please email all comments and correspondence to info@steadystate.org. Thanks for reading the steady stater!