



The

Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy
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Steady Stater

Hello CASSE Supporter,

Happy Birthday

*By Brian Czech, CASSE President,
Volunteer, and Donor*

Ready to belt out a note? Good! Because it's time to sing a round of "Happy Birthday." CASSE is 10! That's ten years as the only organization in the world devoted explicitly and exclusively to advancing the steady state economy.

CASSE has become the go-to source for information, news, and events pertaining to the steady state economy. Although we'd like to see other organizations focused on advancing the steady state economy, the success of CASSE, at least, merits the party hats!

We almost had big news this time around pertaining to CASSE funding, too. Over the course of the winter, we felt we were about to break the mold with a big-time grant for a mission that is, for sure, the most truly sustainable mission on the planet. I would challenge anyone to come up with a better three-word phrase to summarize sustainability than "steady state economy." And I'd challenge any organization to advance it with more bang for the buck than we do at CASSE.

Alas, the hunch was premature and the funding not forthcoming. Yet by no means does that mean CASSE's been unsuccessful. Time after time we see big foundations come

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:

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

to CASSE with interest, respect, and encouragement, but stop just short of formal, financial support. Usually the paradigm shift away from economic growth and onto the pursuit of the steady state economy is just too much change in too short of a time. After all, many a foundation has pitched in earnestly and consistently, for decades, for projects explicitly designed to help grow the economy. It has to be awfully challenging for board members to eschew, in the 21st century, the leading pursuit of the 20th.

Another sign of (unfunded) success is that other NGOs, little by little, are following the lead of CASSE and moving in a steady-state direction. They tend not to be explicit about it yet, but we certainly see less and less of the win-win rhetoric that “there is no conflict between growing the economy and protecting the environment.” The importance of this particular change in rhetoric cannot be overemphasized. It’s step one – the biggest step perhaps – to the steady state economy.

During this, the tenth year of CASSE, we’re going to celebrate this truthful trend, bask just a bit in the birthday sun, and continue our work as the only organization in the world devoted to advancing the steady state economy. The big foundations aren't with us yet, but you are.

Now we know people like to give birthday presents, especially for a 10th birthday. The easiest way to do it is [here](#). Another option is to [become a member](#).

And for those renewing – Happy Birthday to you!

Event Highlights

29 January 2014

The film version of [Enough is Enough](#) debuted at the University of Leeds, followed by a panel discussion.

26 April 2014

Our Boston Chapter hosted a conference "[Investing in a Sustainable Future: Economic Growth and Environmental Constraints](#)" at MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

31 May & 1 June 2014

CASSE exhibited at the Washington, DC [Green Festival](#). It was great to meet so many of you!

6 June - 9 June 2014

Our friends at the New Economy Coalition are hosting their conference

[CommonBound: Moving Together Toward a New Economy](#). Livestream and in-person tickets are available.

2 October 2014

Our New South Wales Chapter is hosting a conference, "[Addicted to Growth? How to Move to a Steady State Economy in Australia](#)," with keynote speaker Brian Czech.

To keep up-to-date, be sure to regularly check out our [Calendar of Events](#).

CASSE Chapter Updates

Newest Local Chapters

London, Canada; Director Juan Cardona

Juan has plans to start a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University of Western Ontario, Canada. He works for the local government in the Community Services Division as a financial analyst. He also holds a postgraduate degree in Management & Quality and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at EAFIT University Medellin, Colombia. [More](#).

Montreal, Canada

We are in the process of launching a chapter in Montreal, Canada. Details will be posted to our website soon, but we are working with two individuals who are very excited to get this latest chapter started. If you would like to get involved, please email our Projects Director, [Rentz Hilyer](#).

Washington, DC

We are also launching a chapter near our headquarters, and are very excited by the enthusiasm we've seen. Several CASSE supporters have already expressed interest; if you would like to get involved, please email our Projects Director, [Rentz Hilyer](#).

Chapter Highlights

Former Colombia Chapter Director Completes [JWH Initiative Grant](#)

Claudia Múnera Roldán used her grant to finance courses, field work, and writing required to complete her thesis for a Master in World Heritage and Cultural Projects for Development.

Updates from Zurich Chapter Director, Michael Curran

Switzerland's democratic system allows political decisions to be overruled through referenda, or new policies to be implemented via citizen-launched

initiatives. This represents an enormous opportunity for furthering steady state policies, and a number of citizen's initiatives is causing debate to shift (slightly) towards the undesirable symptoms of growth. For example, rising stress-related health and social problems led to a referendum in 2012 to increase paid holidays from a minimum of 4 to 6 weeks per year; in 2013, an initiative was launched to limit the *monthly* pay of the highest earners in Swiss firms to no greater than the *yearly* pay of the lowest earners (both were rejected by two thirds of voters). Next year, the greens will bring forth an initiative for a “sustainable and resource-efficient economy,” which will include provisions for tax shifting to consumption, environmental product labelling and ecological import duties. In addition, the Swiss will vote on a guaranteed citizens salary, funded by a consumption tax. The government and Swiss business council have already pledged their opposition to these future referenda (predictably on the grounds that they will constrain economic growth), and the chance of success is minute. These policies can only succeed when they are *combined to achieve a Steady State Economy*, and only when voters see the big picture: growth is the problem these initiatives aim to solve, not a justification for their rejection.

If you'd like to hear more, feel free to get in touch with [Michael](#).

Position Statement Statistics

[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. We've recently added translations in Chinese, Czech, Japanese, and Turkish, bringing our total to [26 languages!](#)

We recently reached a milestone of **11,000** individual signatures, and have **210** organizational endorsements. Help us keep these numbers growing by adding [your](#) and/or your [organization's](#) signature, and ask others to sign!

Other News

Rob Dietz Ended Run as *Daly News* Editor

At CASSE, we're sorry to see him go, but fully supportive of his career move. Here's an excerpt from [his post](#) about his work in sustainable agriculture:

I am excited to be helping [Farmland LP](#) build a better agricultural model. We are out to prove that organic, ecologically sound farming practices outperform the outdated model we have been saddled with. The old model, based on 19th- and 20th-century ideas of industrial production, offers no future. In the new model, we manage farmland as an ecosystem — not a mine from which we extract and

deplete resources. Farmland LP, founded by Jason Bradford and Craig Wichner, is doing something simple, elegant, and brilliant. The company raises money to buy conventional farmland and convert it to organic. The point is to bolster regional food systems, improve environmental conditions, create meaningful jobs, and provide investors with a good place to put their money. In a sense, we are performing an aikido move. We're using the momentum of current financial and business systems to create a better way of managing landscapes and providing sustenance. I'm proud to play a role.

I'm also proud of my work on the *Daly News*. I've done my best to move the conversation along, and I look forward to learning more as CASSE continues to curate this forum. I'm engaged in a lifelong journey of learning something, saying something, and doing something. I hope you are too and that you're bringing friends along. It's not easy, but you'll never regret doing what needs to be done. Onward!

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. Be sure to check with your employer about a matching gifts program; we've gotten at least one matching gift from a very unlikely source!

Become a CASSE Member

One of the most cost-effective and helpful ways to support CASSE is by becoming a member. Membership dues provide funds that enable us to tell the truth about economic growth, stand up for a sustainable and fair economy, and work on how to make the transition to a steady state economy in the most prosperous and equitable way possible. Not yet a member? Join us [here!](#)

Calls to Action

CASSE is dependent on Outreach Volunteers to help advance the steady state economy as the sustainable alternative to economic growth. We are very fortunate to now be working with over 300 volunteers!

Outreach Volunteers help forward CASSE's mission by:

- Commenting on popular blogs and news sources, as part of our Online Response Project
- Obtaining signatures on the CASSE position on economic growth

- Hosting lectures and discussions at a local university; see our speakers network [here](#)
- Promoting *Supply Shock* by posting reviews at Amazon.com and other venues
- Additional volunteer actions can be found [here](#), and outreach support materials are [here](#).

If you would like to participate in the Online Response Project or discuss other opportunities to volunteer, please contact Rentz Hilyer at rentzhilyer@steadystate.org.

Thank you very much,
Jacquelyn Kirkland, Director of Operations

