



the steady stater

leading in leeds: the first steady state conference

Although the concept of a steady state economy has been around for decades, CASSE is involved in developing the first national conference to explore how to achieve one.

CASSE has joined forces with Economic Justice for All (a non-profit organization that advocates economic change through an innovative series of workshops called Café Economique) to develop the [first ever conference on the steady state economy](#). The one-day conference, to be held on June 19 at Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK, has two main objectives:

1. To bring together NGOs, academia, businesses, politicians, the media, and the general public to explore the idea of a steady state economy; and

2. To identify specific, implementable policies to achieve a steady state economy in the UK.

The conference will include keynote presentations on the need for a steady state economy in highly consumptive countries such as the UK, but the focal point of the conference will be ten interactive workshops that explore specific policy proposals for achieving a steady state economy. The workshops will probe tough questions and will not shy away from attempting to solve thorny problems. The ten topics and foundational questions are:

1. Limiting resource use and waste production – How will levels of resource use and permitted pollution be agreed, monitored and enforced?
 2. Stabilizing population – How will population growth issues be discussed and addressed?
 3. Distribution of income and
- ... continued on page 2

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 (i) environmental protection, (ii) ecological and economic sustainability, and (iii) 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.

words of encouragement

We're delighted to hear from people who believe in our work.

"Reading Prof. Daly's work has been a wonderful revelation in this run-away world. I hope you make a difference."

"Your work is so important – people take continual growth as the answer to everything, when it is the cause of so many of today's social and environmental problems. Best of luck!"

"Important work, glad to join – and to spread the word." •



Brian Czech and Rob Dietz in front of the office building that houses the Council of Economic Advisers in Washington, DC

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outreach highlights

- Brian Czech and Dan O'Neill presented information about steady state economics at the [Second Conference on Economic Degrowth](#) for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity.
- Essays by Herman Daly, Brian Czech, Brent Blackwelder, and Rob Dietz featured in CASSE's blog, [The Daly News](#), are being picked up by the [Energy Bulletin](#).
- CASSE has a [new postcard](#) that directs people to our website and invites them to take a position on economic growth. Thanks to [Polyp](#) for granting permission to use his original cartoon.
- William Maliepaard, a CASSE outreach volunteer, shot and edited a beautiful [Red Sea video](#) to promote CASSE's message.
- [Paul Ferris](#) volunteered his time and considerable skills to overhaul the format of the *Steady Stater* newsletter. Please let us know what you think.



position endorsement spotlight

Genius Loci

Genius Loci, inc. is an ecologically focused design/build firm and native plant nursery committed to the design, installation, restoration and

management of landscapes. Genius Loci's commitment to ecological planning and design aligns well with the principles of a steady state economy.

4. Money and the financial system – What sort of money system would promote a steady state economy?

5. Measuring progress/quality of life – How can progress towards improving the personal well-being of the majority of the population be measured in a steady state economy?

6. Engaging politicians and the media – Why is there so little discussion of alternatives to economic growth in the media, and how can this be changed?

7. Changing behavior (the psychology of consumerism) – How can behavior that is supportive of a steady state economy be encouraged?

8. Employment – How can full employment and satisfying work be achieved in a steady state economy? What types of jobs will increase and what types of jobs will decrease?

9. Business and production – What form would business and production take if markets are required to work within a system prioritizing optimal scale and fair distribution?

management of landscapes.

Genius Loci's commitment to ecological planning and design aligns well with the principles of a steady state economy.

www.indignation.com

10. Global issues – What measures would a country need to take if it wished to move to a steady state economy? What are the implications of a steady state economy for developing nations?

Each workshop will begin with a 20-minute presentation of a policy proposal from a respected expert on the topic, followed by a facilitated discussion among workshop participants, who will be asked to re-

flect on these questions:

- Will the proposal work, and if not, how should it be modified?
- What questions still need to be answered?
- What obstacles exist to implementing the proposal?
- What actions can be taken to make the proposal happen?

Dan O'Neill, CASSE's Director of European Operations, will provide one of the keynote presentations: "What Is a Steady State Economy, and How Do We Achieve It?" Peter Victor, a

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signatories

to the casse position on growth

5099 individuals have signed it.

117 organizations have endorsed it.

11 professional societies, government agencies, and scientific groups have adopted similar positions.

as of 18 May 2010

scholarly publications

- Katherine Kiel, Victor Matheson, and Kevin Golembiewski, '[Luck or skill?](#) An examination of the Ehrlich-Simon bet' in the *Journal of Ecological Economics* (2010).
- [Voluntary Impoverishment: How We Allow the Federal Reserve to Fuel Our National Debt](#) by the Massachusetts Slow Growth Initiative (2010).
- Asheem Srivastav and Suvira Srivastav, [Ecological Meltdown: Impact of unchecked human growth on the earth's natural systems](#) (2010).

from page 2 ... member of CASSE's executive board, will deliver his powerfully poignant presentation, "Managing without Growth: Slower by Design, not Disaster." Tim Jackson and Andrew Simms, two very well-known and respected authorities on the topic of sustainable economics in the UK, will round out the keynote presentations.

Concurrent with the conference, CASSE President Brian Czech will be speaking at the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences meeting in Portland, Oregon, on politics toward a steady state economy.

The world is certainly ready for a conference with this theme. After all, Herman Daly has been promoting steady state economics for more than three decades. Events such as the financial crash of 2008 and the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico highlight the need to find a better way to run an economy. The planet can take only so much economic growth, and the consequences of the all-out pursuit of growth are becoming more

apparent and more troubling with each passing day. It is encouraging that citizens in the UK are making the commitment to work on how to have a healthy, yet non-growing economy.

Almost as interesting as the content of the conference is the format. The workshops and reports that will be generated offer a real chance to push for new and improved economic policies. The conference organizers have been able to attract a thoughtful group of participants that can develop and share much-needed ideas for the economic transition. Plans are being made to transfer information to key UK government and business leaders.

Kudos to the conference organizers from Economic Justice for All (David Adshead, Lorna Arblaster, Claire Bastin, and Nigel Jones), along with Dan O'Neill – they have put in a heroic effort to pull together resources, establish an outstanding agenda, and manage the details.

For more information or to register, please visit the conference website.

steadystate.org/leeds2010/ •

proudly hosted in conjunction with

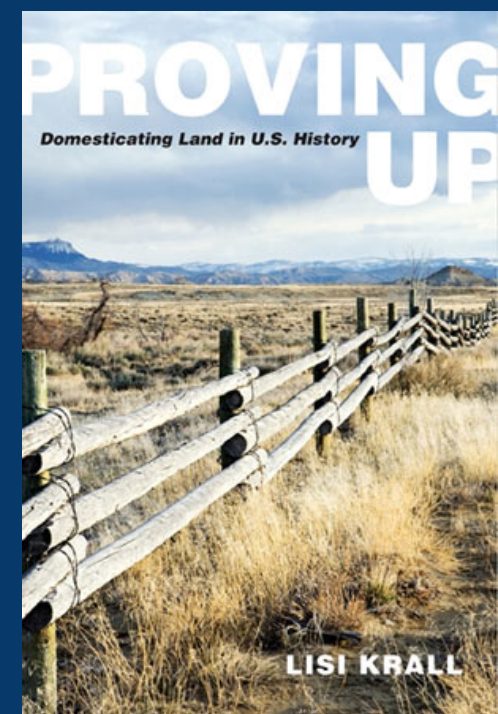


hot off the press

proving up

Lisi Krall (CASSE board member) tells a unique story through the interconnections of economy, culture, and land in the history of the United States. Her new book hinges on the market economy and the agrarian and wilderness ethos as foundational land institutions. Drawing on institutional or evolutionary economics, *Proving Up* explores in detail the rich and ever-changing intermingling of cultural, economic, and material conditions through American history.

www.sunypress.edu/p-4987-proving-up.aspx



policy column

Macroeconomic policy isn't just for national governments anymore. Just as economic production and consumption need to become more localized, so does control over macroeconomic policy. That's why it is encouraging to see the state of Maryland (USA) grab the reins to drive its economy toward a sustainable future.

Maryland became the first state to pass legislation on the establishment of B corporations. B corporations (short for Benefit Corporations) use the power of business to solve social and environmental problems. They must meet comprehensive and transparent social and environmental performance standards, and they institutionalize stakeholder interests in their charters.

Maryland took another leading stance by adopting the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) as an official measure of economic progress. GPI is designed to measure sustainable economic welfare rather than economic activity alone.

Maryland's legislation on B Corporations can be found [here](#).

Information on Maryland's adoption of GPI can be found [here](#).

media highlights

To receive regular updates on items of interest appearing in the media, subscribe to CASSE's [Twitter feed](#), and check back regularly at steadystate.org

- *Life after Growth* is an [intriguing video](#) with the fitting tagline "Economics for Everyone."

- Clive Thompson has written a fine article for the May/June issue of *Mother Jones* entitled "Nothing Grows Forever."

- Christopher Doll makes the case for why we should do without economic growth in [this article](#) in the *Guardian*.

- Bill McKibben discusses durability and the transition away from growth in an [interview](#) in *Scientific American*.

over the next few months to renew CASSE memberships and attract new members. We need all the support we can get from the grassroots – it is only concerned citizens who will be able to change prevailing perceptions of growth and demand a sustainable economy. •



quote this!

Only economists still put the cart before the horse by claiming that the growing turmoil of mankind can be eliminated if prices are right. The truth is that only if our values are right will prices also be so.

Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen

funding update

We've got our fingers crossed. We have submitted funding proposals to several outstanding philanthropic organizations, and we should be hearing from them soon. CASSE is in search of steady operating funds to help us jumpstart the transition to a steady state economy.

We also will be making a push



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

Comments and correspondence to info@steadystate.org