

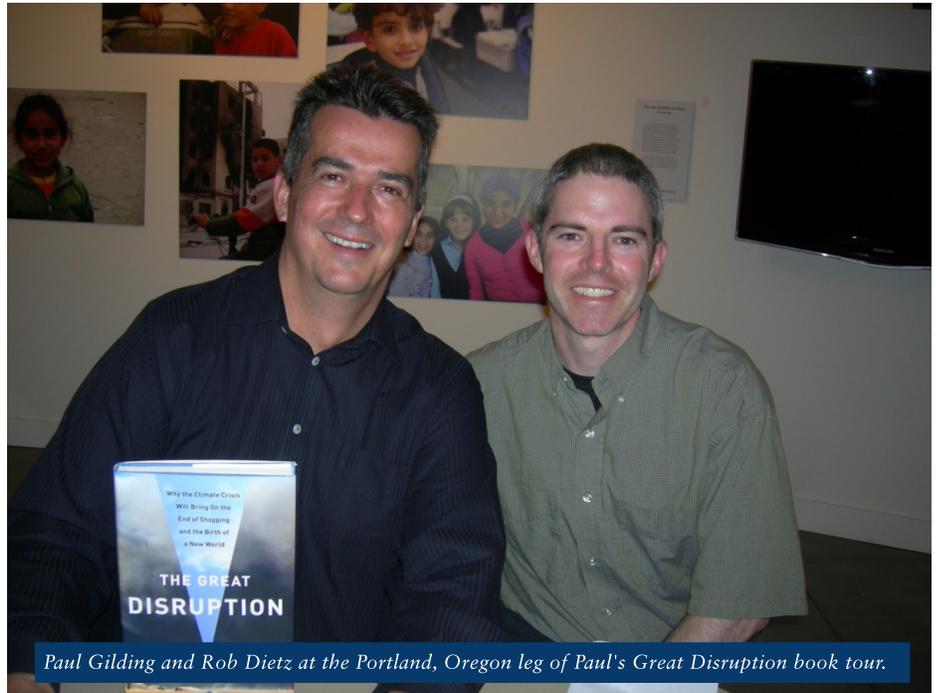


# the steady stater

## stunning international diffusion

CASSE is a lean organization. With each passing year we become slightly less lean, but we're still a bantamweight competing in the heavyweight division. We opened our doors (and those are virtual doors – you won't find any steady staters fighting the system from a posh office) in 2004 and had no funding until late 2007. Operating funds are important, but our greatest asset is the merit of our core message: the steady state economy is a desirable alternative to the paradigm of economic growth. When people consider in depth what's happening in the economy, they recognize the steady state as an escape route from the ecological and social trap of perpetual growth. Despite CASSE's scarcity of resources, this message is spreading around the world. And it's doing so because of the hard work of dedicated volunteers. Let's take a quick tour across the continents to appreciate their work.

First, it's often important for citizens to envision the steady state economy in their own cultural context. That's why volunteers have been translating the CASSE position on economic growth. Recent translations include Tamil by Aravindan Deva



Paul Gilding and Rob Dietz at the Portland, Oregon leg of Paul's Great Disruption book tour.

and Sukanya Venkataraman, Hungarian by Barbara Bauer, Brazilian Portuguese by Chris Patterson and Fernando Goulart, Polish by Tadeusz Patzek, Mongolian by Chimita Garmaeva, Croatian by Ana Simeon, Swedish by Fredrik Dalerum, Norwegian by Tormod Burkey, and Italian by Desiree Lucchese. You can find them all [here](#).

Many people are “translating” the CASSE position in Australia, which is becoming a hub of steady state thinking. Geoff Mosley, Sharon Ede, Richard Sanders and Tom Byrne have ...

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## words of encouragement

“I found out about your work through *Enough is Enough*. Worked in international development most of my life - fully agree with your position.”

“The world economy must be based on something other than growth. Hope CASSE goes global!”

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## international diffusion

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been active in spreading ideas on the limits to growth. The CASSE chapters in South Australia, Brisbane, and Queensland are looking into the possibility of sponsoring a steady state conference or tour. In addition, Paul Gilding just wrapped up his worldwide tour to support his book, *The Great Disruption*, an unflinching and hopeful look at the state of energy, consumption and economics. Paul is a “CASSE Ambassador,” and CASSE was on hand to host his presentations in Seattle, Portland (Oregon), and Washington, DC. And don’t forget about Dick Smith’s [Wilberforce Award](#), which will provide a prize of \$1 million to a young leader who can successfully communicate steady state concepts.

Not to be outdone, the CASSE crew in South America is working on some exciting initiatives. In Brazil, Chris Patterson has kicked off a CASSE chapter in Rio de Janeiro. He and Fernando Goulart (South American Director) are in the early stages of formulating plans for the [International Society for](#)

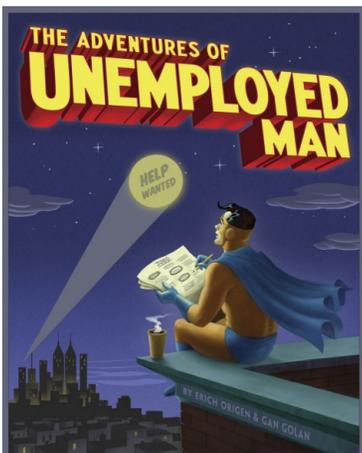
[Ecological Economics](#) biennial conference (May 29 – June 1, 2012). The conference theme is Ecological Economics and Rio+20: Challenges and Contributions for a Green Economy. It will be a natural fit for CASSE collaboration. And thanks to the efforts of Claudia Múnera Roldán (Colombia Chapter Director), CASSE President Brian Czech will be delivering a keynote address at [Año Internacional de los Bosques](#) in June, one of [three keynotes](#) by Brian in a one-month span.

Over in Europe, Falk Huettmann (member of the Speakers Network) and Dan O’Neill (European Director) are set to provide invited presentations at critical venues. Falk is taking the steady state message to the [Beyond Growth conference](#) in Berlin. Dan will provide a keynote address for the seminar series [In 100 Years, Starting Now](#) in Copenhagen.

The activities and events described above represent the seeds of a global movement. Steady staters are making noise around the world. Is there a more heartening thought at this moment in history?

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## steady staters wear spandex



Erich Origen and Gan Golan weave steady stater concepts into this brilliant graphic novel - *The Adventures of Unemployed Man*. The authors pull off an incredible feat: they offer a super-serious critique of the economic status quo while providing laugh-out-loud humor and in-jokes for comic book fans.

Check it out [here](#).

## outreach highlights

- 31 out of 31 audience members at a presentation by Fola Babalola (CASSE Director of African Operations) in Ibadan, Nigeria signed the CASSE position on economic growth.

- CASSE staff and volunteers, including Brian Czech, Rob Dietz (Exec. Director), and Josh Nelson (Washington Chapter Director), helped support Paul Gilding’s U.S. tour for his book, *The Great Disruption*.

- Brian Czech, John David Evans (Research Associate), Jason Leppig (Volunteer Coordinator), and Seth McKinney (member of the Speakers Network) staffed a CASSE exhibit at the EPA Earth Day celebration on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

- Brian Czech, Keith Harrington (Climate and Energy Specialist), and Eric Zencey (University of Vermont Chapter Director) held a workshop on *The Steady State Revolution* at the Washington, DC Powershift conference, with 200 young movers and shakers attending.

- Rob Dietz delivered a presentation to the Sustainable Future Section of the Oregon State Bar Association entitled *The Steady State Economy: Is It Possible?*.

- Tormod Burkey (Norway Chapter Director) presented two lectures on steady state economics in Bergen and Ås, Norway.

- George Plumb (member of the Speakers Network) presented *Better not Bigger: It’s Time for a New Paradigm* to an audience in Barre, Vermont.

## scholarly publications

- Tim Jackson and Peter Victor wrote a rebuttal to the UNEP's report, *Towards a Green Economy*, in the April 21 edition of *Nature* (vol. 472). The title of their rebuttal is "Doing the Maths on the Green Economy," and is available (restricted access) [here](#).
- Princeton University Press has published Diane Coyle's [new book](#): *The Economics of Enough: How to Run the Economy as if the Future Matters* (2011). Although not as supportive of the steady state approach as it could be, Coyle's book is an interesting analysis of the scale of the challenges we face.
- An older article worth reading: Anthony D. Barnosky, "Megafauna Biomass Tradeoff as a Driver of Quaternary and Future Extinctions" in *PNAS* (2008, Vol. 105). Available online [here](#) (restricted access).

## policy talk - population politics

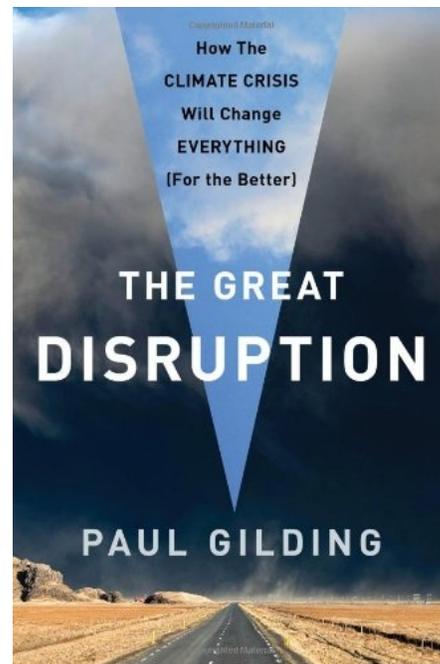
Population politics can be a powder keg, but in discussions of sustainability, it's better to address population head-on. Controversy seems to arise mainly from two beliefs:

(1) People believe that over-consumption in nations like the U.S. is the key problem, not rapidly growing population in other parts of the world. This view sets up a global divide between the high-consuming and low-consuming nations, but it's clear that both population (wherever it is located) and consumption (wherever it occurs) drive unsustainable economic growth.

(2) Past policies aimed at stabilizing population were often misguided and unfair, and in some cases brutal. Some people believe that all population policies have to impinge unreasonably on individual rights.

This controversy can be diffused if we can reach agreement on three concepts. First, humanity and ecosystems will be better off if the nations of the world can achieve a stable population that is well within the long-term carrying capacity of the planet. Second, policies aimed at population stabilization should be as unintrusive as possible. For example, as a first step, governments could eliminate financial incentives for families to have more children. And programs that empower women and provide education should be top priorities. Third, addressing population should, by no means, prevent governments, businesses, schools, nonprofit organizations and other institutions from working on the problem of over-consumption.

For more information, visit the [website](#) of the Population Institute.



## hot off the press

In *The Great Disruption*, Paul Gilding, previously CEO of Greenpeace International, addresses the profound economic and environmental challenges humanity faces, but he also delivers a deeply optimistic message. The coming decades will see loss, suffering and conflict, but they will also bring out the best humanity can offer: compassion, innovation, resilience, and adaptability. Paul tells us how to fight (and win) what he calls The One Degree War to prevent catastrophic warming of the earth and deal with the limits to growth.

## signatories to the CASSE position

- 7,175 individuals have signed our position on economic growth
- 12 professional societies, government agencies, and science groups that have adopted positions on economic growth similar to CASSE's
- 175 private, corporate, nonprofit, and political organizations that have endorsed the CASSE position.

as of 15 May 2011.

## funding update

Our total revenue in 2010 was \$106,854 — a tiny amount compared to the marketing budgets of the growth-at-all-costs crowd, but not bad for a nonprofit that sprang from nothing a few years ago. We were more successful than ever in obtaining grants, donations and memberships, and we will continue to do our best to obtain grassroots funding. If you have colleagues interested in sustainability issues, then please direct them to our [membership](#) and [donation](#) pages

## media highlights

- Two articles on steady state economics resulted from Rob Dietz's presentation to the Sustainable Future Section of the Oregon State Bar Association, in [Sustainable Business Oregon](#) and [The Long View](#).
- *The Huffington Post* published two more of Brian Czech's *Daly News* essays: "[A Full Employment Act for the 21st Century](#)" and "[Another Bite out of Life](#)".
- Rob Dietz appeared on [The Jefferson Exchange](#) radio program in southern Oregon and northern California, and Brian Czech was a featured guest on [Environmental Directions Radio](#).
- Mary Cody Edwards wrote "Rethinking Water Costs", in *The News* (Mexico's only English language newspaper). The article explains CASSE's work and the relevance of steady state economics.

## president's peninsula with brian czech

The "Peninsula" is supposed to point toward steady state precedents established since the last edition of the *Steady Stater*. No problem this time around! On April 15, the biggest conservation organization in North America – the National Wildlife Federation – adopted a resolution at its annual conference of delegates calling for GDP reform. I immediately joined NWF and encouraged others to do so.

Now it's true that advocating GDP reform is not equivalent to advocating a steady state economy. That's why we were careful in the *Daly News* to draw the distinction. Also, since the resolution was adopted by the delegates, NWF staff have [clarified](#) that the resolution should not be interpreted as advocating a steady state economy.

Yet it's just as clear that GDP is THE measure of economic growth – increasing production and consumption of goods and services in the aggregate – for the public and policy makers. By calling for GDP reform, NWF calls attention to the conflict between growing the human economy and maintaining the economy of nature.

Clearly some of the NWF delegates recognize that conflict.

(In fact, a CASSE chapter director was intimately involved in the initiative.) Other NWF representatives might instead believe in "[green growth](#)." One thing is certain; the NWF resolution opens a dialogue about the real relationship between economic growth and wildlife conservation.

I've seen this dialogue play out in numerous scientific societies, environmental organizations, and even in government agencies. Once members and leaders have digested enough of the literature and logic, they commonly conclude that there is a *fundamental* (based on physics) conflict between economic growth and wildlife conservation. It's simply [sound science](#): The human economy grows at the competitive exclusion of non-human species in the aggregate. Claims to the contrary are made for various reasons, but at this point in history, the most common reason is political expediency.

That's ok, too, because the fundamentals don't change. Politics, on the other hand, is constantly changing. And we all knew politics came with the terrain when we established CASSE and started "voting" for a steady state economy via the CASSE position on economic growth.

## our mission

CASSE aims to advance the steady state economy as a policy goal with widespread public support, by educating citizens on the conflict between economic growth and ecological and economic sustainability, promoting a steady state economy as a desirable alternative to economic growth, and studying the means to establish a steady state economy.

*Comments and correspondence to [info@steadystate.org](mailto:info@steadystate.org)*