

Hello CASSE Supporter,

It's Not Easy Being CASSE, But...

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

As global population ticks toward 7.2 billion and GDP bloats beyond \$50 trillion, CASSE remains the only organization in the world whose raison d'être is advancing the steady state economy. It's hard to blame other organizations. It's not easy being CASSE.

Big foundations tend to be tied to Wall Street and focused on growing the economy!

It's also not easy to ask individuals for money. Believe me, even the sentence you're reading, as benign as it is, was long in coming to the keyboard. How do I ask you to pitch in and help us out; we the lone organization devoted explicitly to advancing the steady state economy? Well, I guess I just did, and at least I can encourage you with a shining example of steady state philanthropy from 2013.

Now I want to thank every CASSE donor from 2013 – each donation is greatly appreciated – but I'm sure all will agree that it is also appropriate to give a special

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.

thank-you to Peter Seidel. Peter had a vision for steady statesmanship and provided the funding to pursue it.

What vision was that? Like many of us, Peter was regularly disappointed at the prominence of pro-growth coverage in the mainstream media. It's a tall order to change the media *per se*, but in the age of the internet it's easy to *respond*, at least, in a way that people notice. In the blogosphere, for example, many readers pay more attention to the comments than the article itself.

So in June, 2013, with Peter's determination and generosity, we hired CASSE's first Projects Director, Rentz Hilyer. By now, among his other activities, Rentz has entered into the blogosphere hundreds of times, advancing the steady state economy with each new entry.

Rentz comes to CASSE from the Master of Natural Resources program at Virginia Tech, where he studied steady state economics among other things. Rentz's background was in construction project management. Now as CASSE Projects Director, Rentz is building something quite different, but many of the same skills are applicable: communication, coordination, and encouragement to name a few.

If you're a CASSE volunteer, you've probably heard from Rentz as he endeavors to organize and mobilize our volunteer network. Please respond! If you signed up to be a CASSE volunteer, there was a reason; now's the time to pursue it. And if you're not a CASSE volunteer, [now's the time to become one](#).

Imagine if even half of our volunteers chimed in with Rentz in the blogosphere. By now we'd have not just hundreds, not just thousands, but tens of thousands of comments introducing the steady state economy to readers, many of whom are starving for a solution to the problems caused by the growing, threatening ecological footprint; that is, caused by economic growth. This is how society and the polity start to change: by talking about it.

So let's take advantage of the leverage provided by Peter Seidel. Let's chime in to change the way society thinks about economic growth. The blogosphere is only one venue. Rentz will be coordinating action on many other fronts.

Meanwhile, with the decision of past Administrative Director, Mike Sandler, to move into the private sector in July, Rentz had to double down and handle basic administrative tasks as well as project activities. Until we found Jacquelyn Kirkland, that is.

Jacqi brings outstanding skills from a top-notch program in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. The Administrative Director is the glue that holds a small non-profit together, so we can use all those skills. Finances, membership, calendars, website maintenance, database management, conference arrangements, monitoring the CASSE inbox, and a great many other tasks fill Jacqi's days.

The newsletter you're reading? It doesn't appear out of nowhere. Someone has to gather the material, edit, design the web pages, and distribute to readers. That's Jacqi too.

And how did we find Jacqi? Actually it's more like she found us. She was a CASSE volunteer! Her proactivity caught our attention, and the rest was good timing and outstanding references.

Beyond this significant development in CASSE personnel, funding and management, I'll let the newsletter do the talking about other 2013 CASSE highlights. To close out the introduction, I only want to encourage CASSE supporters, members and signatories to look forward to 2014 – the 10th anniversary of CASSE. We're going to make a bigger splash, and we're just in the process of planning how to do so. Stay tuned.

Oh and did I mention the funding situation? It's kind of hard to talk about, [but...](#)

Event Highlights

30 September 2013

CASSE president Brian Czech gave a keynote address at the [Earth Charter Community Summit](#), hosted at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

21 October 2013

Dan O'Neill gave a [public lecture on *Enough is Enough*](#) at the London School of Economics. His talk was a huge success, attracting over 250 attendees.

1 November 2013

CASSE president Brian Czech gave a keynote address at the [Canadian Society for Ecological Economics Conference](#).

7 December 2013

CASSE president Brian Czech will be at Books-A-Million in McLean, Virginia for a reading/book signing. If you are in the area, stop by between 12:00 and 2:00 PM to say hello, ask your steady state questions, and get your copy of *Supply Shock* signed!

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

CASSE Chapter Updates

Newest Local Chapters

Cadiz, Spain; Director Andrew Fanning

With 27% unemployment, rising inequality and major cuts to public services, there is no need to convince anyone in Spain that the system is broken. While the local chapter is still in its infancy, plans are currently in progress to start gaining momentum by organizing a meeting open to anyone interested in discussing the steady state economy as a viable alternative to the current economic woes facing the Spanish people. Andrew is a PhD candidate at the University of Cádiz in Spain that is applying the concept of a steady state economy to his studies and personal life. He became convinced of the urgent need to speak out about the fundamental conflict between economic growth and environmental sustainability while completing his Master's in Development Economics at Dalhousie University in Halifax (Canada). [More](#).

Yorkshire, England; Co-Directors Brian Flynn and Owen Brear

Brian is a newly retired teacher who is concerned about the inexorable and widespread desire "to have more." This dichotomy between having and being has been a matter of personal interest and struggle over the long term. Attending the Steady State Economy Conference held at Leeds Metropolitan University a couple of years ago was a revelation to him, in that there appeared to be a real alternative to the current unsustainable system. [More](#).

Owen is a graduate in Environment, Economics and Ecology from the University of York and is a PhD candidate at Bangor University in the area of 'well-being' and investigating the multi-faceted nature of the Ancient Greek word "*eudaimonia*." Owen is interested in the intersection of economic thought and eudaimonic well-being as presented within the field of positive psychology. [More](#).

Chapter Highlights

Colombia Chapter Director Wins [MaB UNESCO Young Scientists Award](#)

Claudia Múnera Roldán will be working alongside rural/indigenous communities from Rio San Juan Biosphere Reserve (Nicaragua), in order to identify the biocultural products/services that may help to promote sustainability. She will identify with them what actions can be undertaken to preserve the biocultural heritage, taking into consideration their aspirations and motivations. Biocultural products/services may include traditional food/crops, medicines, handicrafts, and traditional activities related to nature (i.e. festivals); these products and services may generate income for communities and may help to provide incentives to preserve resources and traditional knowledge and to create awareness of their heritage.

New South Wales Co-Director to Speak at the 2013 ANZSEE Conference

This year's [Australia New Zealand Society for Ecological Economics Conference](#) will feature a talk by Haydn Washington, titled 'Economic sustainability – what *should* it be?' The conference will be held in Canberra, Australia from November 11th - 14th.

Cameroon Chapter Director Gives Radio Talk

Chapter director Mukete Awah Beckline gave a talk on sustainability, food security, and ecological economics on Revival Gospel Radio FM 105.5, one of CASSE's partners in Buea, Cameroon.

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 added a few more translations this year, and now have it in [21 languages!](#)

As of November 11, 2013, our position statement has **10,504** individual signatures and **205** organizational endorsements. Help us keep these numbers growing by adding [your](#) and/or your [organization's](#) signature, and ask others to sign!

Other News

Working Group for the Steady State Economy

The Wildlife Society, a signatory to the [CASSE Position Statement on Economic Growth](#), now has an active [Working Group for the Steady State Economy](#). This working group has been dormant over the past few years, but it is back in action! We held our first meeting at The Wildlife Society's annual conference in Milwaukee this year, and are working on growing our membership. If you are a member of the Wildlife Society and interested in joining this working group, please [email](#) the group's interim secretary.

New Website Launched for *Supply Shock*

We've launched a new [website](#) to promote Brian's latest book, *Supply Shock*. Please check it out, share with friends, or "like" it on Facebook. We are hoping to get many more people to read *Supply Shock*. If you haven't already read it, please grab a copy; if you have read it, please consider posting a review on [Amazon](#).

New Campaign Helps Transition to a Steady State Economy: Ecocide

Ecocide is the damage or destruction of ecosystems. The mission of End Ecocide in Europe is to protect ecosystems by making their destruction a crime for which those responsible can be held accountable. When at least 1 million EU citizens support the proposal, EU policy-makers will be legally obliged to consider it. [Vote today to end ecocide](#).

Six Surprising Facts About the *Daly News*

If you're interested in steady state economics, then you've probably read an article or two in the [Daly News](#), the go-to blog for ideas about how to build a better economy.

- We have published 226 articles by Herman Daly, Brian Czech, Brent Blackwelder, Rob Dietz, Eric Zencey, and 28 guest authors.
- The *Daly News* attracts more visitors to [steadystate.org](#) than any other content.
- Our articles are regularly cross-posted on other websites, including [Resilience.org](#), *Triple Pundit*, the New Economics Foundation, and the *Huffington Post*.
- Some articles have attracted more than 5,000 readers on [steadystate.org](#), and tens of thousands of readers on other websites.

- One [satirical article](#) (the *Daly News* entertains as well as informs) was selected as a finalist in a writing competition and included in a book of winning essays.
- We have 1,573 subscribers.

The *Daly News* is a freely available resource made possible by contributions from CASSE members and supporters. If you haven't already subscribed, you'll want to have it delivered straight to your [email inbox](#).

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.

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 almost 300 volunteers from 17 countries!

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 or 571-501-6691.

Thank you very much,
Jacquelyn Kirkland, Administrative Director

