



The

Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy
Volume 7, Issue 2 · December 2014

Steady Stater

Hello CASSE Supporter

Thankful for Thanksgiving, and More

By Brian Czech, CASSE President, Volunteer, and Donor

There's nothing like Thanksgiving for recharging our batteries with some positive energy. This is especially important for CASSE employees, volunteers, supporters, and friends. Advancing the steady state economy remains an overwhelmingly daunting task in an increasingly unsustainable world.

So let's consider ten things we can be thankful for:

1. A crystal-clear, distinctive, and crucial [mission](#).
2. A top-notch, highly effective [website](#).
3. Nearly [12,000 signatures](#) on our [core position](#), which is now available in 27 languages.
4. The sanction of numerous [notable and distinguished](#) signatories.
5. A smart, savvy, diverse—and primarily volunteer—[staff](#).
6. Nearly [30 chapters](#) in 14 countries.

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.

7. A Volunteers Network that keeps steady-state thinking percolating in the [blogosphere](#).
8. A noteworthy and expanding [conference presence](#).
9. The [Daly News](#).
10. Ten for ten. Ten years, that is, of formally advancing the steady state economy.

It's hard to stop at ten, too. How could we not note the [New South Wales Chapter](#) for pulling off a highly successful steady state economy conference in Sydney? Haydn Washington and Anna Schlunke raised the bar for other chapters to shoot for, managing to procure the prime-time of the Australian Academy of Science's annual [Fenner Conference](#). An advance white paper, media events, and post-conference proceedings (in progress) are all part of the details managed with great skill and care.

Then there is CASSE's primary financial supporter of recent years: Peter Seidel. I'm not sure where we'd be without Peter, but I'm sure our proverbial Thanksgiving "dinner" would have been much shorter this year. Peter is one of the most dedicated steady-state proponents we have and, while helping CASSE, has worked diligently on his fourth book, a unique book that we look forward to circulating in 2015!

And finally, just as we go into production of this issue of the *Steady Stater*, we see that one renowned journalist, with the help of CASSE, has not only taken on a full-fledged critique of economic growth, but has [weighed in explicitly](#) for the steady state economy as the sustainable solution.

We're on the cusp of widespread advancement of the steady state economy. It won't be in time to solve all the problems of overgrowth, but it's definitely something to be thankful for.

Event Highlights

3 September 2014

Dan O'Neill presented at the [4th International Conference on Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity](#) in Leipzig, Germany.

2 October 2014

Brian Czech presented the [keynote address](#) at the Australian Academy of Sciences Fenner Conference.

13 November 2014

Herman Daly gave a commemorative lecture, while accepting the [23rd Blue Planet Prize Award](#), in Tokyo, Japan. A special thanks to our Director of Australian Operations, Geoff Mosley, for nominating Herman Daly!

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

CASSE Chapter Updates

Newest Local Chapter

Northern Rivers Region, Australia; Director Peter Brennan

Peter is an academic with a PhD in ecology and natural resource management from the University of Hawaii. He has been an Academic Director with SIT Study Abroad for 20 years, and currently directs an undergraduate program focused on sustainability and environmental action. [More](#).

Chapter Highlights

The CASSE London chapter held a public meeting titled “Costing London’s Growth” on October 7th, 2014. The context of the event was the current London administration’s removal of ‘ecological footprinting’ from London wide plans; it has been over ten years since the issue has been publicly addressed. The event aimed to provide clarification of selected sustainability issues as they relate to London. To this end, a panel of five experts addressed footprinting, demographics, economics, civic action, and policy. Each speaker had 15 minutes to present, then the floor was opened for a question-and-answer session. Some 30 people attended, including representatives from NGOs, the private finance sector, and policy makers. See the [event page](#) for more details, including speaker presentations.

Other News

The submission deadline for abstracts for the 11th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics has been extended to December 14th. The conference will take place at the University of Leeds, UK from June 30 - July 3, 2015. See the [conference website](#) for more information.

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 stater and their allies around the world. We've recently added a Finnish translation, bringing our total to 27 languages!

We've nearly recently reached a milestone of **12,000** individual signatures. Help us keep these numbers growing by adding your and/or your organization's signature, and ask others to sign!

New Notable Signatories

Carmen Lawrence, former premier of Western Australia and Member of House of Representatives.

Charles Krebs, Professor Emeritus, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia.

David Bollier, Author of *The Wealth of the Commons: A World Beyond Market and State* (2013).

What are our position statement signatories saying?

I received a xeroxed copy of a draft of "Steady State Economics" from Herman Daly, while attending the first U.N. Conference on the Environment in Stockholm, in June, 1972. I had enthusiastically read his essay of the same title in Scientific American, a year or so earlier. My life has taken me down many other paths, and now, 42 years later, due to the power to make connections through the internet, I feel I've come full circle - back to a clear statement of principles and call to action. **-Rick G., United States**

People fail to realise that the world we live in is a finite world and society cannot grow indefinitely. We should predominantly seek well-being and happiness, not growth and development only. **-Aakash D., India**

The global economic system, which is dependent on continuous economic growth for employment and stability, is the main driver of climate change

which threatens not only civilization as we know it, but life itself. **-Eva N.,
New Zealand**

For quite a while now, I've held the opinion that the growth model of the economy was outdated and inherently destructive. I'm glad this idea is globally gaining ground and I'm sure CASSE will be of great use in getting the message across to ever more people (and, let's hope, policy makers and politicians).

-Jorge H., Belgium

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 with 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](#).
- Additional volunteer actions can be found [here](#), and outreach support materials are [here](#).

We'd like to give a special thanks to our volunteer Antal Neville for representing CASSE at the latest Local Futures [Economics of Happiness Conference](#) in New York City. Antal hosted a table with CASSE materials, discussed steady state economics with fellow attendees, and collected signatures for the CASSE position.

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

