



NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA RURAL PLANNERS NETWORK

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND THE COMING ENERGY AND CLIMATE CRISIS:

*ENLARGING THE CIVIC FOOTPRINT TO REDUCE YOUR
COMMUNITY'S ENERGY AND CARBON FOOTPRINT*

July 24, 2009

Alachua County, Florida

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Total County
Population : 247,561

Area (sq/miles): 961

County Seat:
Gainesville

Municipalities and Population

Alachua: 7,854

Archer: 1,229

Gainesville 122,671

Hawthorne: 1,401

High Springs: 4,739

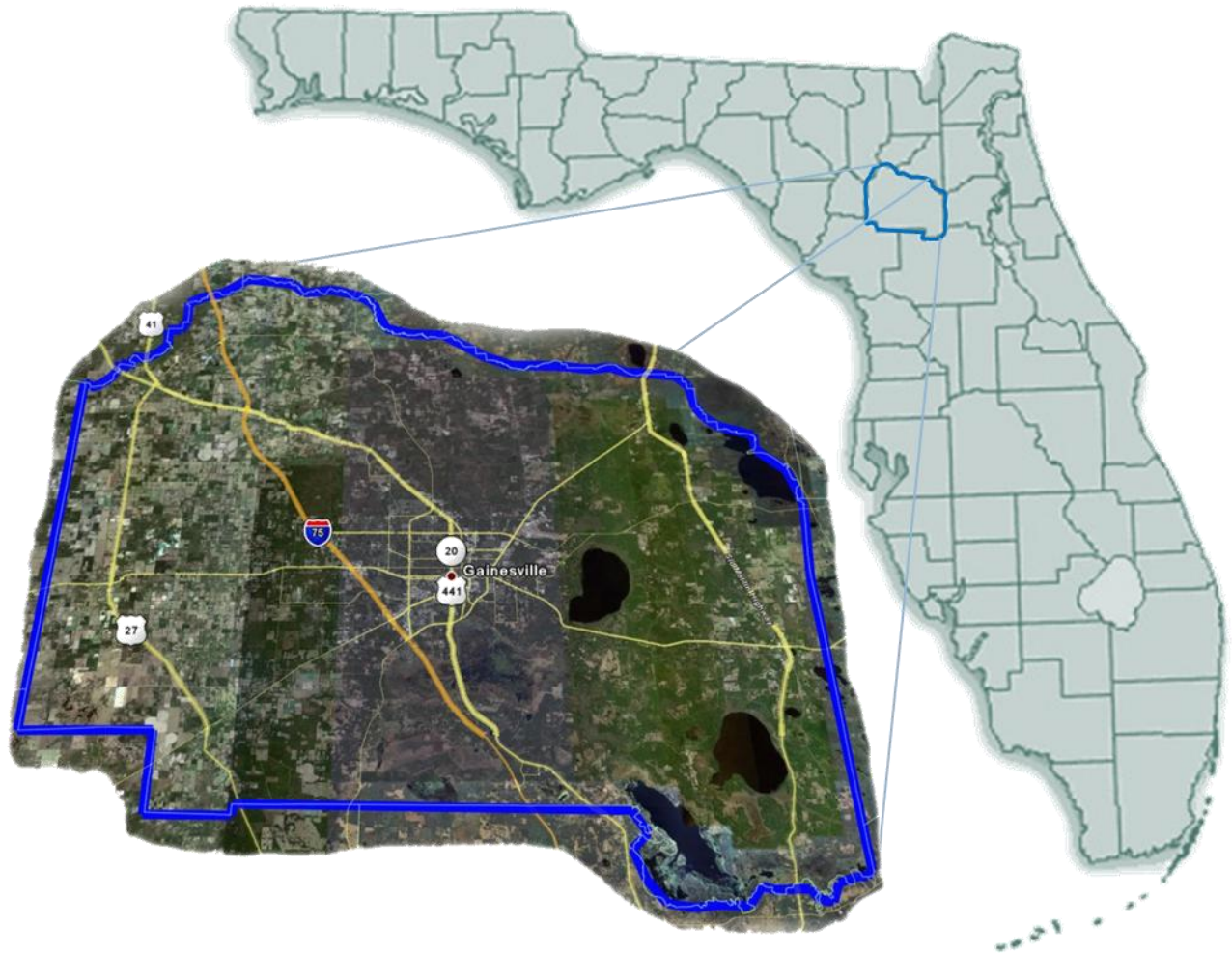
LaCrosse: 195

Micanopy: 637

Newberry: 4,787

Waldo: 831

UNINCORPORATED
Population: 103,217

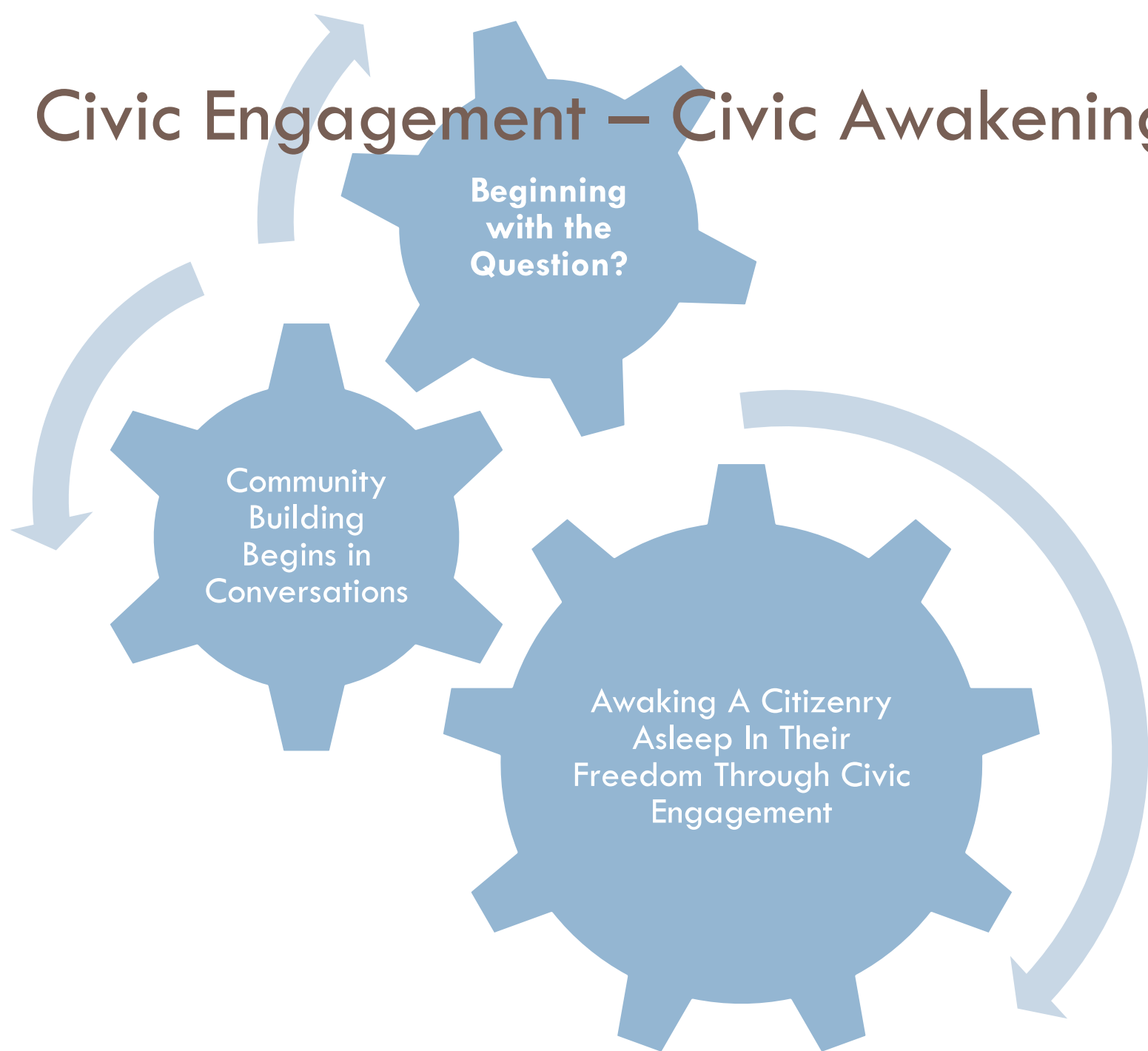




1. Introductions

Sean H. McLendon, Sustainability Program Manager

Civic Engagement – Civic Awakening



Question and Discussion

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□ How do we make an energy efficient and resource resilient community?



Enlarge the Civic Footprint

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- 1. Unfettered creativity: encourage diversity of professional qualifications, personalities, thought, gender & cultural identity
- 2. Develop niche for former elected officials
- 3. Find the staff “cheerleader”
- 4. Bring all gifts – and obstacles – to the table
- 5. Implement technology for broad public access
- 6. Engage the community: roundtable conversations, community partnerships
- 7. Use public television & education channels



Overview

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- Alachua County Energy Conservation Strategies Commission - over 204 recommendations exploring:
- **Community Challenges**
 - ▣ Rising Energy Costs, Climate Change, Peak Oil Production & Decline
- **Community Opportunities**
 - ▣ Create a resource efficient and resilient community





2. Background

Case Study Presentation: Resolution, Mission,
Guiding Principles and ECSC Member
Descriptions and Qualifications

Resolution and Mission

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County Commission Resolution

“...wants to do its part to reduce or mitigate the effects of Global Climate Change and **promote the long-term economic security of its citizens through the implementation of policies that enhance energy efficiency...**”

ECSC Mission

“To draft a comprehensive report on energy use, its relationship to climate change and local socio-economic impacts, including actions that can be implemented by the Board of County Commissioners and the community at large.”



Community Membership

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Twelve energy conservation experts

“Possess demonstrated expertise and/or advanced training in the areas of energy demand side management, LEED or Green Building Code standards, renewable energy technologies, or a related field.”

One representative of the University of Florida

One former elected Gainesville City Commissioner

One former elected Alachua County Commissioner

One alternate position



Community Membership

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ECSC Members from left to right: Bill Shepherd; Erich Christian; Pattie Glenn; Dwight Adams; Chris Fillie; Eduardo Vargas; Harry Kegelmann; Ed Brown; Ruth Steiner; Fred Depenbrock; Penny Wheat

2. Background



ECSC Guiding Principles

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1. Practice conservation (reduce consumption);
2. Make efficiencies in building envelopes and mechanical equipment; and
3. Invest in renewable power generation.



Civic Engagement with Technology

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- SharePoint extranet site for enhanced transparency & communications
- Allowed for group research, meeting coordination & searchable archive of resources
- County staff used for comprehensive plan updates



The ECSC Final Report

<http://energy.alachuacounty.us>

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Creating an energy efficient and resource resilient community over the next 100 years.

<http://energy.alachuacounty.us>
December 2, 2008

Recommendations Categories

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- Major Strategic Policies
- Inviting and Engaging Our Public & Communities
- Alachua County Government
- Waste and Energy Implications
- Maximize Local Food Production and Processing
- Land Use and Transportation
- Residential Buildings
- Innovative Energy Systems and Renewable Energy
- Legislative Items





3. Community Challenges

Moving from Global Crisis to Local Response:
The community challenges of rising energy
cost, climate change and Peak Oil production
and decline

Community Challenges

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Escalating energy costs for transportation & for buildings

Climate change: global and local

“Peak Oil” means not 'running out of oil', but 'running out of cheap oil'. For societies leveraged on ever increasing amounts of cheap oil, the consequences may be dire.” Energy Bulletin:

<http://www.energybulletin.net/primer.php>



Energy & Transportation

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- US General Accountability Office Report
GAO-07-283: released February, 2007

Crude Oil:

Uncertainty about future oil supply makes it important to develop a strategy for addressing a peak and decline in oil production

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07283.pdf>



US General Accountability Office

Report - Key Findings

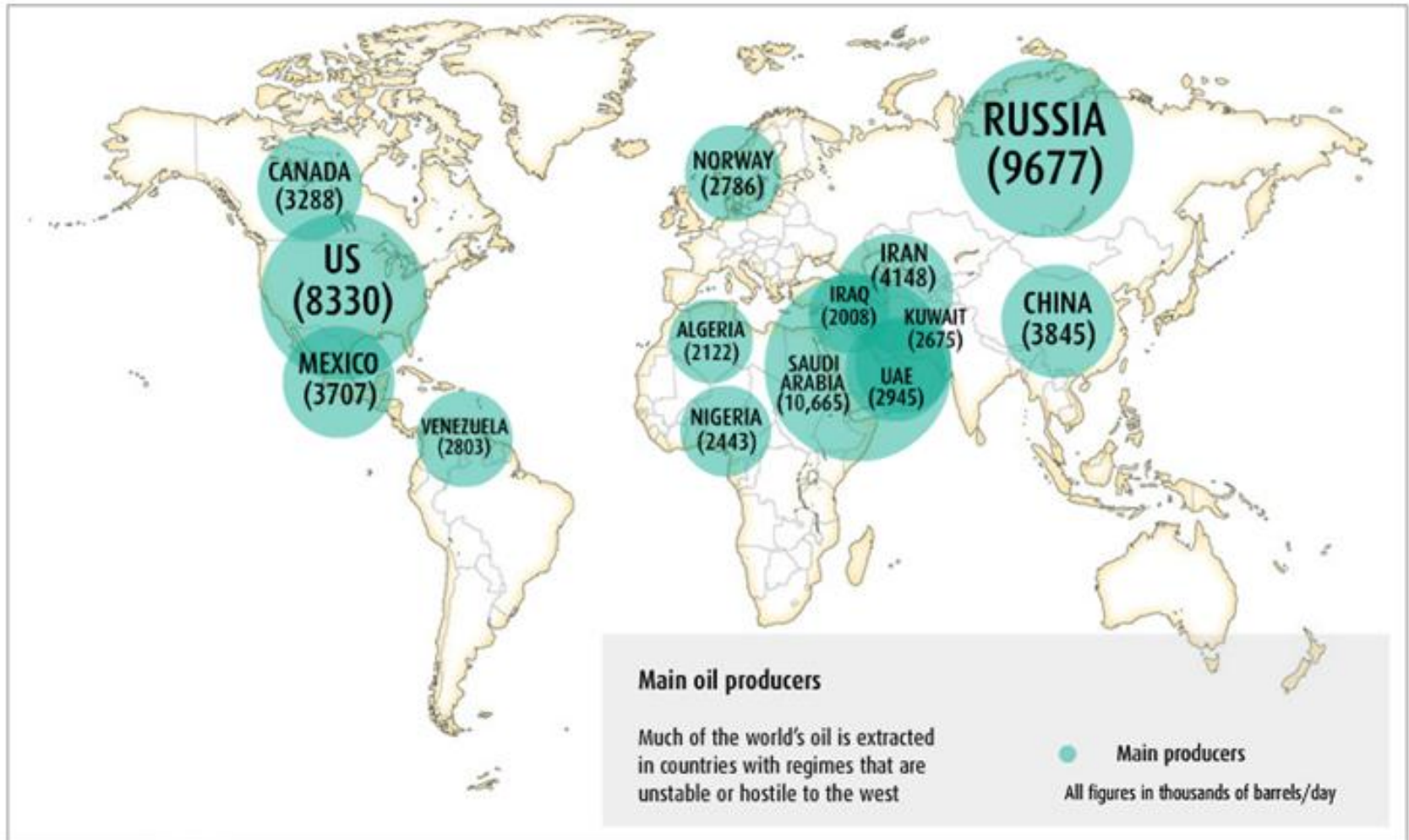
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- ❑ **Peak oil is real.**
- ❑ **Decline in oil production will occur sometime between February 2007 and 2040.**
- ❑ **No one is sure of the exact date**, because there is a wide variance in the data and methodology used by various research entities.
- ❑ **Alternative energy sources, particularly for transportation, are not yet available in large quantities.**



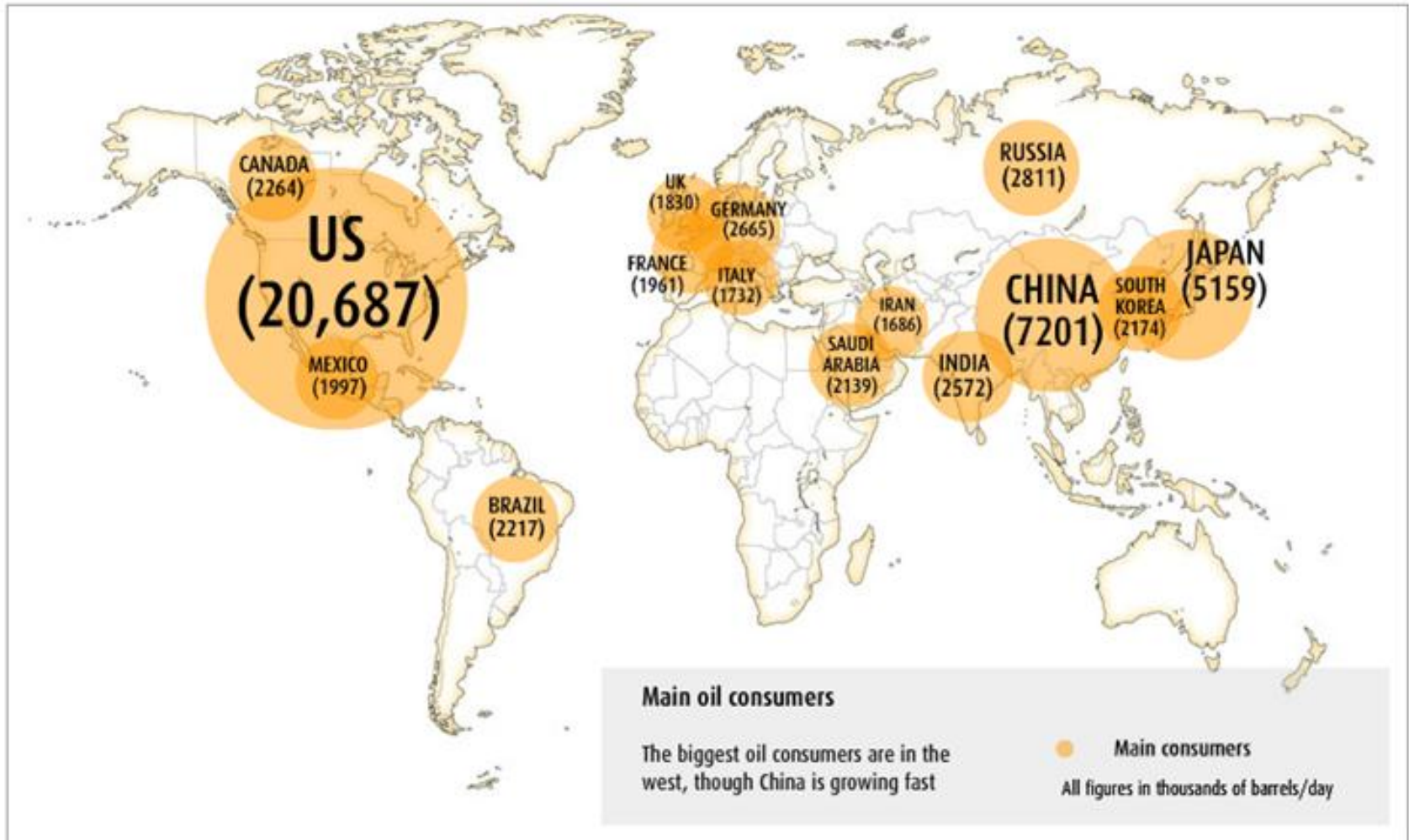
Vulnerability and Oil Supply

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Vulnerability and Oil Supply

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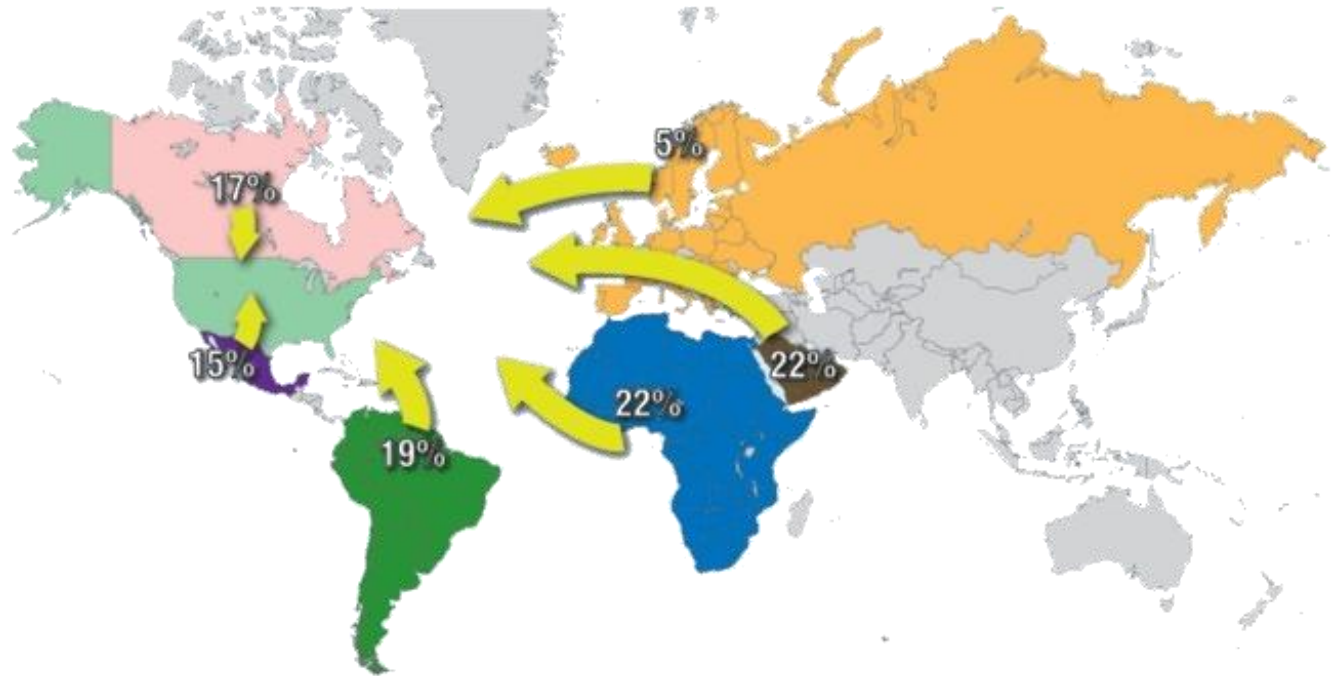


United States Oil Imports

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This chart depicts the sources of American oil imports. While the United States gets about 45% of its oil from the Middle East and North Africa, these regions hold over two thirds of the oil reserves worldwide.”

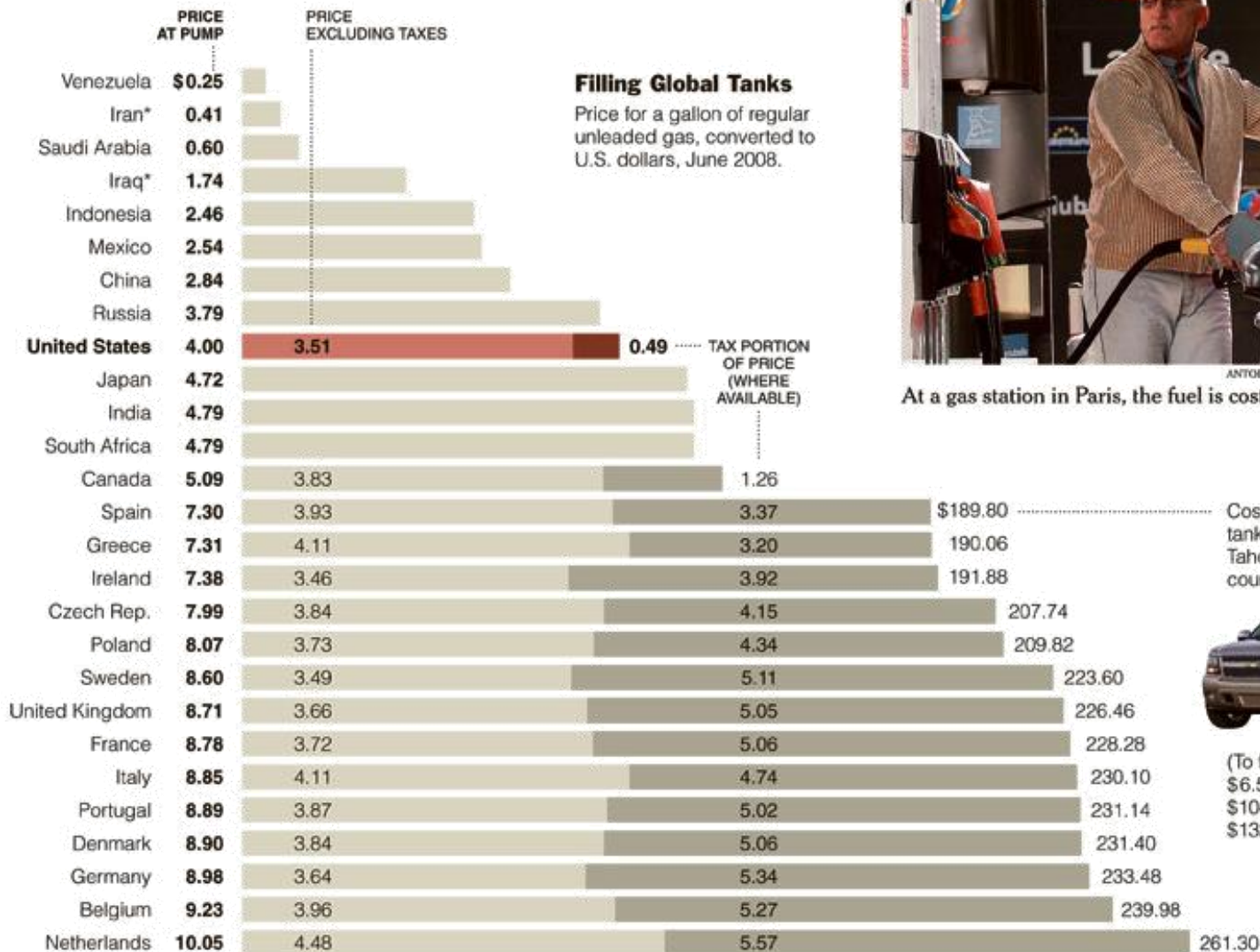
Driving the Future of
Energy Security
<http://lugar.senate.gov/energy/graphs/oilimport.html>



Bargain Priced Fuel?

New York Times: Savoring Bargains at the American Pump, June 29, 2008

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ANTOINE ANTONIOU/BLOOMBERG NEWS

At a gas station in Paris, the fuel is costly.

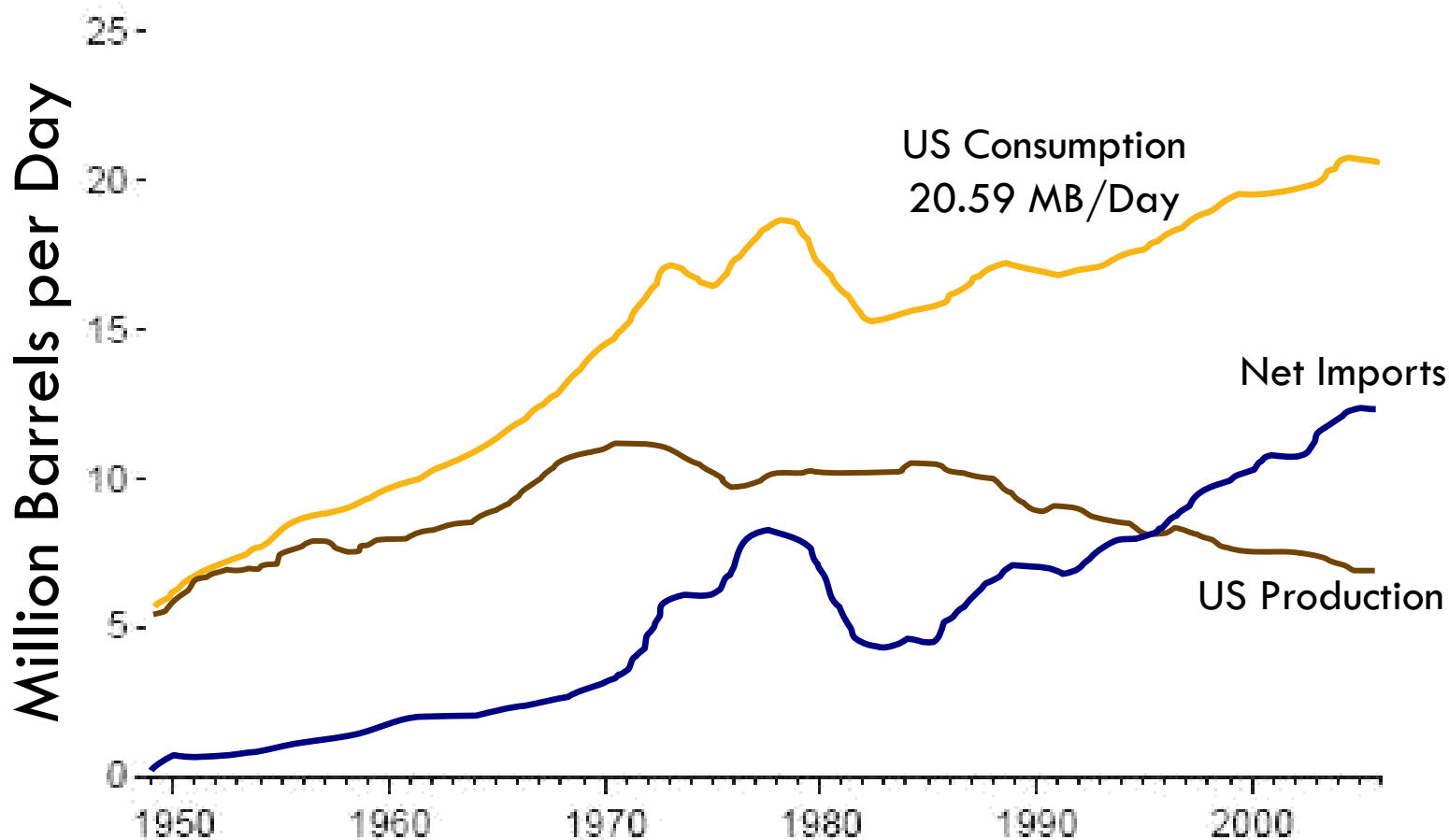


(To fill the same tank:
\$6.50 in Venezuela;
\$104 in the U.S.;
\$132.34 in Canada.)

US Oil Production and Consumption

Overview 1949-2006

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Energy Information Administration; Official Energy Statistics from the US Government



Climate Change from the Past

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Image from:
Statement on
Sea Level in the
Coming
Century;
Science
Committee
Miami-Dade
County Climate
Change
Advisory Task
Force

Presented by
Dr. Wanless
April 22, 2008

FLORIDA THROUGH TIME

Sea level has dramatically shifted in the past and can easily and quickly do so in the future



120,000 years ago
+ 6 meters (20')



18,000 years ago
- 120 meters (420')



Today

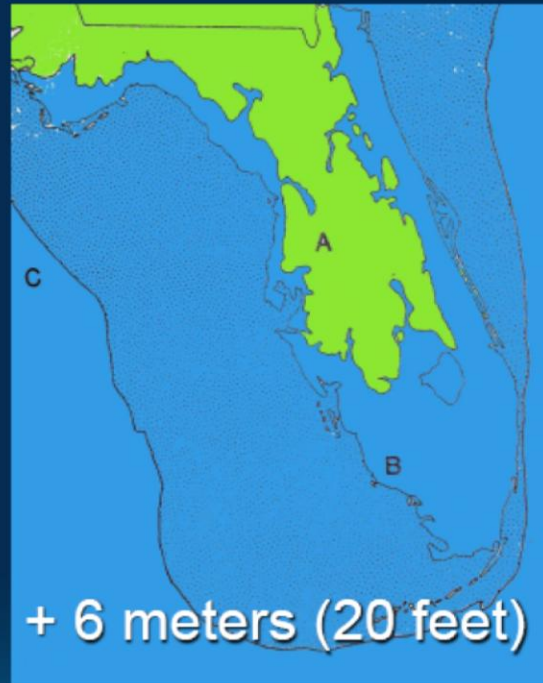
~ ½ from Greenland
~ ½ from Antarctica

Climate Change without Action

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Image from:
Statement on
Sea Level in the
Coming
Century;
Science
Committee
Miami-Dade
County Climate
Change
Advisory Task
Force

Presented by
Dr. Wanless
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If we do not stop human-induced warming, this
is our likely future by 2200 or before.

Energy Insecurity

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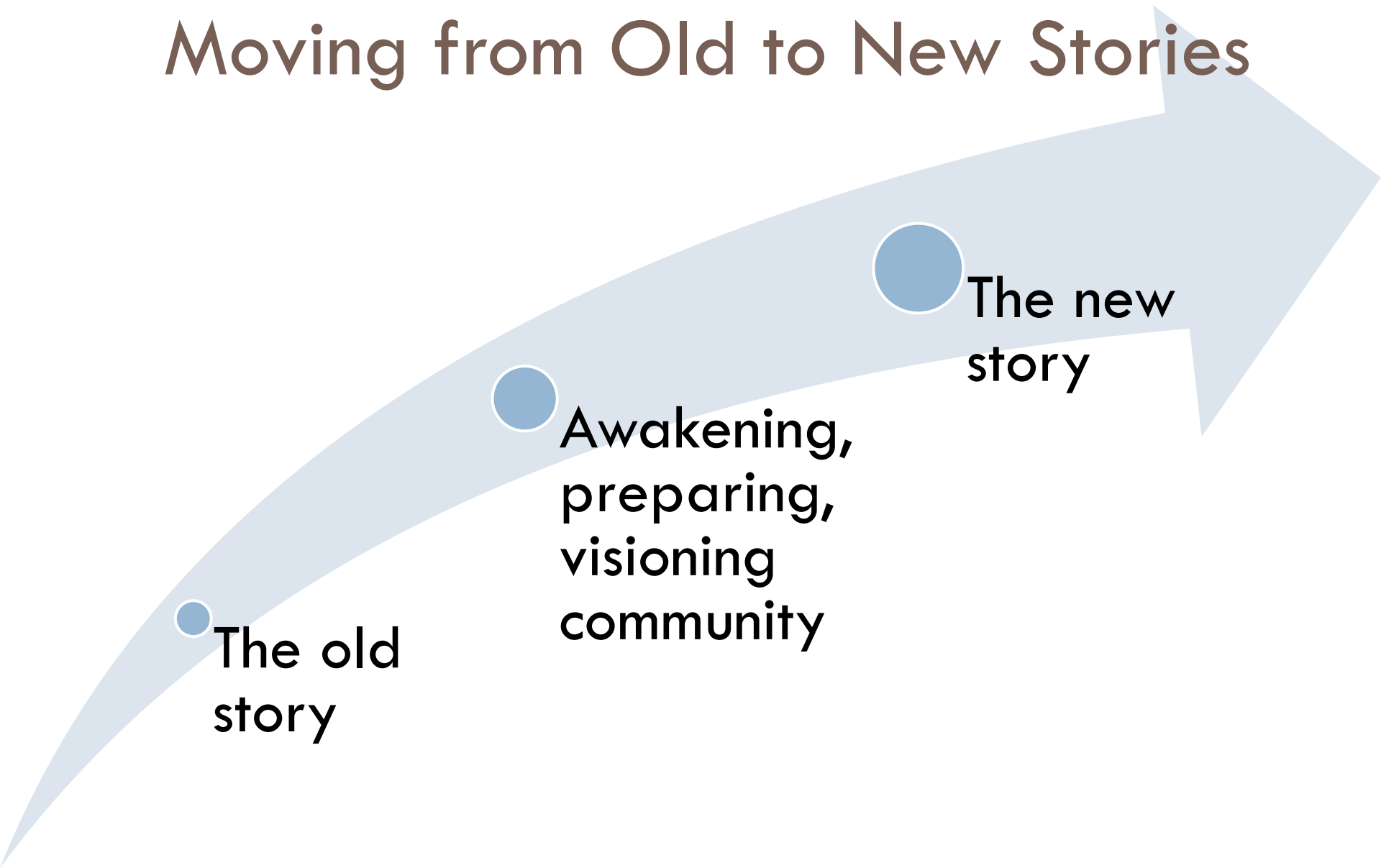
Domestic Insecurity



International Conflict



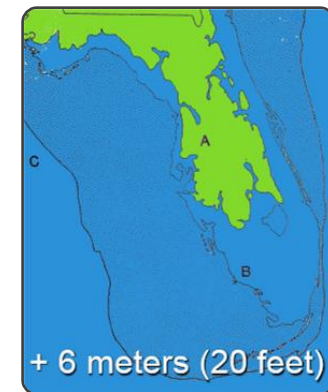
Moving from Old to New Stories



Question and Discussion

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- What do you fear?
- What do you love?
- How do we find common purpose?








4. Community Opportunities

1. Invest in weatherization & energy efficiency
2. Create employment & new local businesses
3. Develop sustainable mobility infrastructure
4. Maximize local food production
5. Maximize renewable energy production

Recommendations for Immediate Implementation and Discussion

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Major Strategic Policies

- ▣ Acknowledge and Embed *Energy and Sustainability* as Major Policy Issues 
- ▣ Establish Timeline to Reduce County Government Fossil Fuel Use
- ▣ Encourage Business Development: Energy Conservation; Alternative Energy; Waste Based Industries 
- ▣ Identify Funding Sources for Energy Conservation & Sustainability Activities 

Recommendations for Immediate Implementation and Discussion

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Alachua County Government

- Begin a Review of County Government Public Service Delivery to Address Peak Oil Production & Decline 
- Reserve Capital Improvement Program Funds for Energy Conservation 
- Develop County Staff Expertise in Carbon Markets 




Recommendations for Immediate Implementation and Discussion

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Inviting and Engaging Our Public & Communities

- ▣ Host an Annual Public Summit on Energy Security 
- ▣ Create an Energy Advisory Committee

Maximize Local Food Production and Processing

- ▣ Establish a Food Policy Council
- ▣ Determine “Land for Calories”
- ▣ Calculate Alachua County’s Food Shed
- ▣ Inventory Alachua County Lands for Public Gardens 
- ▣ Support and Enhance the Master Gardener Program



Recommendations for Immediate Implementation and Discussion

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Waste and Energy Implications

- ▣ Institute Life-cycle GHG Analysis as the basis of Waste Management Policy
- ▣ Establish a Goal to Increase Diversion Rate to 75%
- ▣ Prohibit Disposable Containers for Yard Waste

Land Use and Transportation





- ▣ Review Roadway Access for Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Use 



Recommendations for Immediate Implementation and Discussion

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Innovative Energy Systems and Renewable Energy

- ▣ Investigate a Finance Mechanism for Energy Efficiency Upgrades for Residential and Commercial Property Owners 
- ▣ Request a Presentation and Discussion of GRU's Feed-in-Tariff 
- ▣ Locate Potential Solar Power Sites 
- ▣ Establish an Energy Baseline and Quarterly Energy Consumption Report for all County Buildings 

Recommendations for Immediate Implementation and Discussion

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Residential Buildings

- ▣ Investigate a Coordinated Energy Conservation Education Program. 
- ▣ Support Local Non-Profits Dedicated to Low-Cost Improvements of Low Income Existing Housing 

Legislative Items

- ▣ Take a Leadership Position on all Energy Legislation 
- ▣ Track and Monitor all Energy Legislation 



6. Conclusions

ECSC Accomplishments to Date, Best policies to create and energy efficient and resource resilient community, Best Advice

Alachua County Implementation

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Energy and Resource Conservation



□ Resource Recovery Park

Renewable Energy Deployment



Conclusions and Best Advice

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Best Policies to create and energy efficient and resource resilient community

1. Invest in weatherization & energy efficiency
2. Create employment & new local businesses
3. Develop sustainable mobility infrastructure
4. Maximize local food production
5. Maximize renewable energy production

Best Advice

- ☐ Start now
- ☐ Ask for help
- ☐ Involve and educate your residents
- ☐ Have land use policies that address climate change
- ☐ Measure your performance
- ☐ Be ready for the benefits of coming carbon markets (and your community's carbon liability)



Ask For Help!

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Policy and Legislative

- Climate Communities
<http://www.climatecommunities.us/>
- Association of Counties
or League of Cities
Organizations

Best Practices and Technical

- ICMA, TLG
- ICLEI – Local
Governments for
Sustainability
<http://www.icleiusa.org/>
- University and
Community Colleges



7. Future Steps for Alachua County

Federal and State Funding; Community Partnerships; Establishing a regional goals for energy and resources; and follow-up on ECSC accomplishments

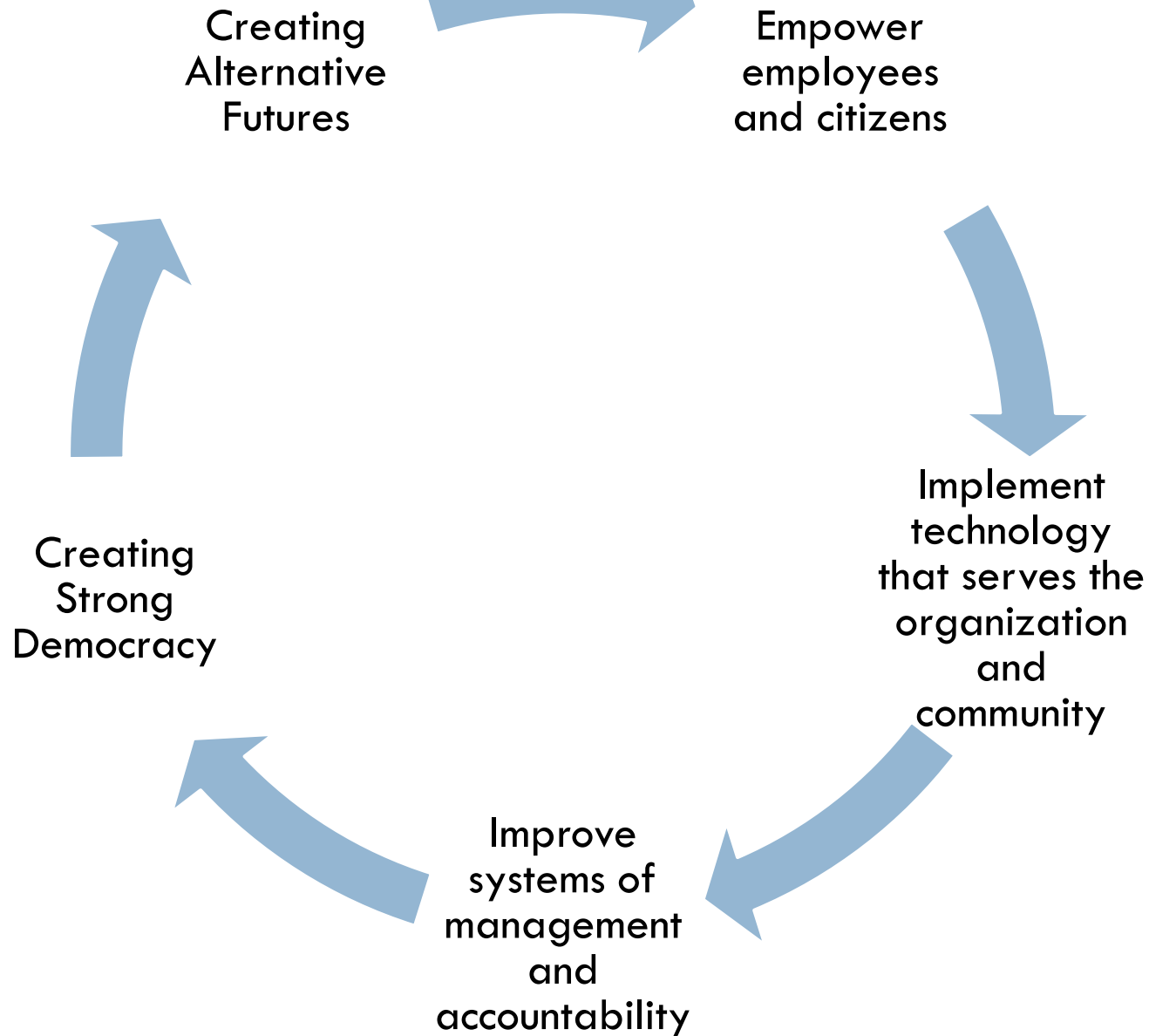
Going Forward

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- Preparing for the State-wide distribution from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Reviewing all ECSC Recommendations based on Dec 2, 2008 Board direction
- Establishing partnerships with community groups and organizations
- Continuing the conversation: Energy Initiatives, EAR Process, Community Initiated Ideas



Alternative Futures



Question and Discussion

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□ How will you shrink your community's *carbon* footprint and grow its civic footprint?



Alachua County, Florida

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Randall H. Reid, County Manager

Phone: (352) 374-5204

Email: rhr@alachuacounty.us

Penny Wheat, Chair, Alachua County Energy Conservation Strategies Commission

Phone: (352) 371-2125

Email: penny@gru.net

Sean H. McLendon, Sustainability Program Manager

Phone: (352) 548-3765

Email: smclendon@alachuacounty.us



ECSC Resources

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- To read the full report in a flip book format please go here: <http://issuu.com/msexton/docs/ecscfinalreport>
- For a downloadable pdf version of the report please go here: <https://govconnect.alachuacounty.us/committees/ECS C/Strategies/olgies/Shared%20Documents/ECSC%20Report.pdf>
- To access the site and all archived information please go to: <http://energy.alachuacounty.us>



Thank you

