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<i>Author of The Party’s Over, Peak Everything and The End of Growth.</i>	

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<i>The people who began using fossil fuels to increase their productivity 300 years ago set the world on its path to the present crisis.</i>	

Part I: Energy Availability

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<i>If less energy is available in future, our economic system will not contract in a gentle, controllable manner. Instead it is likely to collapse.</i>	

Future Energy Availability: The Importance of “Net Energy” [CHRIS VERNON]	34
<i>Although there is a lot of oil still left in the ground, its supply will contract very rapidly indeed and the world may have run out of oil to burn for energy by 2050.</i>	

Calculating EIRR, the Energy Internal Rate of Return [TOM KONRAD]	43
<i>If a standard assessment tool, the internal rate of return, is used to compare the net energy yield of various projects, it shows which to prioritise for the energy transition.</i>	

Energy and Water: The Real Blue-Chips [NATE HAGENS AND KENNETH MULDER]	46
<i>The world needs to abandon money as its measure if it is to invest its scarcest, most limiting resources in the best possible way.</i>	

Part II: Innovation in Business, Money and Finance

The Supply of Money in an Energy-Scarce World [RICHARD DOUTHWAITE]	52
<i>If less energy is available in future the existing stock of money can either lose its value gradually through inflation or suddenly because of the collapse of the banking system that created it.</i>	

Liquidity Networks: Local Trading Systems Using a Debt-Free Electronic Currency System [GRAHAM BARNES] 80
No currency will work unless people accept it from each other so this novel money will be put into circulation as a way of rewarding those who are accepting and spending it most.

Equity Partnerships: A Better, Fairer Approach to Developing Land [CHRIS COOK] 86
A new way of organizing developments promises better buildings, more affordable rents and a stake in the outcome for everyone.

Using Equity Partnerships to Rescue Building Projects Hit by the Downturn [JAMES PIKE] 97
Community land partnerships provide an alternative way of becoming a property owner and gaining a voice in the management of the development in which one lives.

Trying to Form an Equity Partnership to Buy a Welsh Farm [TIM HELWEG-LARSEN] 105
Because there isn't a market yet for shares in an equity partnership, it proved hard to convince would-be investors that someone would pay a fair price for their holding when they wanted to move on.

The Mondragon Bank: An Old Model for a New Type of Finance [OSCAR KJELLBERG] 109
A new type of institution is needed to handle non-debt finance. It should help promoters plan their projects and then find outside investor-partners in return for a share of each project's income.

Rethinking Business Structures: How to Encourage Sustainability Through Conscious Design Choices [PATRICK ANDREWS] 113
Business could be the most powerful force in the world in achieving higher levels of sustainability and resilience but its potential is blocked and shareholders' interests are put before those of society and the planet.

Why Pittsburgh Real Estate Never Crashes: The Progressive Reform that Stabilized an Economy [DAN SULLIVAN] 137
Site value taxation is the reason why Pittsburgh's foreclosure rates are low despite the downturn, its home prices are climbing slightly and construction rates are increasing.

Definancialization, Deglobalization and Relocalization [DMITRY ORLOV] 157
Attempts at recovery will fail. Anyone who recognizes this should spend whatever money they have engaging with their neighbors and the land.

Part III: New Ways of Using the Land

Cutting Transport Costs and Emissions Through Local Integration
 [EMER O’SIOCHRU] 178
Rather than bringing similar activities closer together to reap the benefits of scale and agglomeration, different activities should be situated beside each other to be more energy and carbon efficient.

The Nutritional Resilience Approach to Food Security [BRUCE DARRELL] . 201
Very few soils have a perfect balance of minerals. If the option of filling one’s plate from all over the world disappears, human health will likely decline unless the missing minerals are applied to the soil while it is still possible to do so.

Turning the Land from an Emissions Source to a Carbon Sink
 [CORINNA BYRNE]. 218
Ireland needs to implement new policies in order to get its land to absorb CO₂ rather than release it. Biochar could reduce nitrous oxide and methane emissions and build up the fertility and carbon content of the soil.

Part IV: Dealing with Climate Change

Future Global Climate Institutions [ALEX EVANS] 250
Any framework for dealing with the climate crisis should distribute the global carbon budget among the world’s nations according to a transparent, equitable formula. To achieve this, global climate institutions will have to change.

Cap and Share: Simple is Beautiful [LAURENCE MATTHEWS] 257
Cap and Share is a fair, effective, cheap, empowering and simple way to reduce emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. It could form the basis of a wider global climate framework but how realistic is it to call for its introduction?

Influencing High-Level Strategic Decision Making
 Toward a Sustainable Low-Carbon Economy [JULIAN DARLEY]. 270
Decision-making at a global level is governed by a number of non-economic factors which need to be taken into account if the new systems required to deal effectively with climate change are to be introduced.

Part V: Changing the Way we Live

Danger Ahead: Prioritizing Risk Avoidance in Political
 and Economic Decision-Making [BRIAN DAVEY]. 280
Now that the financial and political components of the present system have largely discredited themselves, a fluid situation exists that might allow more viable options to emerge.

Transition Thinking: The Good Life 2.0 [DAVIE PHILIP] 296
We need to make an evolutionary leap in the way we do things if we are to make a controlled, planned transition to a post-industrial, low-carbon society. The Transition Towns movement provides a potential model.

Sailing Craft for a Post-Collapse World [DMITRY ORLOV]. 311
Land transport will be costly, difficult and dangerous after the industrial system has broken down. Moving goods and people by water will be a better option even for quite short distances.

Part VI: Changing the Way We Think

The Psychological Roots of Resource Overconsumption [NATE HAGENS] 336
Humans have an innate need for status and for novelty in their lives. Unfortunately, the modern world has adopted very energy- and resource-intensive ways of meeting those needs.

Busy Doing Nothing: Seven Reasons for Humanity’s Inertia in the Face of Critical Threats and How We Might Remove Them [MARK RUTLEDGE AND BRIAN DAVEY] 356
Why have humans failed to curb their excessive resource consumption? Seven reasons are outlined here, some of which are systemic, others the result of the way humanity evolved.

Cultivating Hope and Managing Despair [JOHN SHARRY]. 373
Modern psychological models of motivation and change suggest strategies that can be used to help individuals come to terms with the nature and extent of the changes facing them.

Collapse or No Collapse: We Need to Respect to Survive [LUCY MCANDREW]. 382
Respect for ourselves, for others and for nature is fundamental to survival because it is what gives us a sense of our place in the world and, when we lose that, we float free of the network of relationships that sustains us.

Enough: A Worldview for Positive Futures [ANNE RYAN]. 392
There is a crucial need for a new, self-limiting worldview which recognizes that “enough is plenty”. Adopting such a worldview would nourish a culture in which social justice could prevail.

Part VII: Ideas for Action

Escape Routes: Fleeing Vesuvius—Which Way Should We Go? [CAROLINE WHYTE]. 406
Contributors to this book suggest steps they think should be taken to escape disaster in four areas — in one’s family, in one’s community, in one’s country, and in the world.

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