

Villes en transition : vers une économie conviviale

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Claire Williquet explores the concept of **Transition Towns**, a grassroots movement initiated in 2005 by Rob Hopkins in Kinsale, Ireland, as a response to two converging crises: **peak oil** and **climate change**. The movement aims to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and foster **local resilience** by rethinking how communities organize energy, food, economy, and social relations.

As over half the world's population now lives in cities, urban areas are key to ecological transition. The Transition movement proposes a **positive, community-led approach** to preparing for energy descent, emphasizing **energy sobriety** and **localized economies** rather than relying on uncertain technological fixes or top-down policies.

The author outlines **12 practical steps** for creating a Transition initiative: forming a steering group, raising local awareness, collaborating with organizations and authorities, launching public events, forming thematic subgroups (e.g., transport, food, education), initiating visible actions (like urban gardens, bike paths, or local currencies), and drafting a community-wide **Energy Descent Action Plan**.

A core theme is the **relocalization** of activities—not in isolation, but as a rational, socially cohesive response to global challenges. Examples like the Swedish town of **Overtornea** demonstrate the transformative potential of such approaches, having revitalized their economy through sustainable enterprises.

Transition is not only about practical changes but also a **cultural shift**. It involves rethinking values, shedding consumerist habits, and rekindling social bonds. Tools like **citizens' cafés**, community gardens, and skill-sharing networks help foster this transformation. The movement encourages an **imaginative and hopeful vision of the future**, where collaboration and conviviality replace isolation and consumption.

