HIPFISH 20-20

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It's amazing. It doesn't look that different around here than 10 years ago, but it sure feels different. Economic collapse shifted into economic and social transformation. Amazing! That collapse, and 9/11, broke our "invulnerable" beliefs that we could endlessly plunder the earth. Suddenly we could see the wrongness of corporate economics and admit that basing our society on greed and centralization of wealth was destructive. The rest was easy.

Our homes don't look much different, but there's more local employment as we continue to implement the "TillaWatts" Net-Zero-Energy retrofits on existing homes, eliminating the need for heating systems, chopping our electric use, and splitting oversized homes into affordable housing. As factor-10 economics predicted, we've already reduced home energy use by 80%. Enough to also run our electric cars on our share of BPA hydro. Our super-insulated homes are storm-safe, warm when power is out. And running the true numbers convinced us there is enough for everyone, needing a tenth of past energy and resources.

It's wonderful – no billboards and advertising; no oversized supermarkets and box stores. We know where our local food comes from, know it's organic, safe, and nutritious. No more boxes of sugar and empty calories. No more deceitful pricing - $1.83 for 8.7 oz. Just simple prices that help make decisions. Eating organic and not overeating; eating local, unprocessed, and lower on the food chain; and having our own gardens has reduced our food energy use by 90%.

It feels good trading and paying cash, not paying 20% financing on everything we buy. It was mind-boggling to realize we were spending more years paying finance charges on our homes than for the homes themselves. Thank goodness for the new shared-equity land-trust homes that eliminated financing! The foreclosure rebellion and debt cancellation for everyone, after Bush's Banker Bailout, really changed things. And living wages, living-wage social security, and single-payer healthcare is not only cheaper and fairer, but has wiped out that "fear" basis of our lives.

It feels good to still share our wonderful place with visitors, but tourism has really changed. People come by bus – relaxed, staying long enough to know and love our communities and places, instead of highway-vacations. They bring things to share with us from their communities. And it's wonderful having a richer culture here, with people from all parts of the world.

Global warming is another of fear that has receded, thanks to our strong and fast community actions that gave leadership to the rest of the country. It sounded weird, at first, *asking* for energy taxes. But they encouraged and paid for the investments in efficiency; and knocked fossil fuel use, greenhouse gasses, and foreign debt way back. The construction moritoriums in low-lying areas, supported by the insurance industry, opened people's eyes to the impacts we faced on the coast here, and brought forceful action.

It's the invisible things that have changed the most. Living in a sacred, not a legal-centered culture. Doing meaningful work that contributes to our community, having leisure. That 32 hour European work-week not only took care of unemployment, but

taught us to relax! We've gotten whole new sciences since we acknowledged qi energy and the magnetic basis of our universe. And new goals in our lives that really feel good. With longer rotations and no pesticides, our forests have recovered, and with them our fisheries, and the soul of the place we live.

What a wonderful time to be alive!

[For details on these things that happened, go to links from <www.tombender.org/indexpages/biblio.html>]