



## Kunstler radio interview

Posted by [Yankee](#) on June 10, 2005 - 2:00pm

Thanks to [Past Peak](#) for linking to this [Kunstler radio interview](#). He basically summarizes The Long Emergency for us, but it's still kind of interesting to hear it in his voice. Sometimes he gets pretty snarky in his books, so I was kind of surprised to hear how calm and reasonable he sounds.

Here's a rundown of some of the topics he touches on:

- *Food production*: Right now food travels long distances. It's going to have to become much more local.
- *Suburbia*: People regularly commute, and the school busing system is unsustainable.
- *Economic growth*: Not going to happen with fuel shortages. The government isn't telling us about Peak Oil because it would immediately damage the economy.
- *Sustainable cities*: The most successful places will be the smaller cities that don't have unreasonable energy demands, and that are near local agriculture.
- *Agriculture*: Will necessarily involve a lot more human labor (and Kunstler hints at a return to share-cropping). He doesn't think we'll convert strip malls to agriculture; he thinks they'll be the "ruins of our time".
- *Alternative energies*: Discusses why coal, natural gas, solar and wind power can't combine to replace oil. (This is addressed at length in the book.)
- *Political instability*: The "formerly middle class" will be puzzled about and angry at their loss of entitlement. This will lead to interesting political shenanigans.
- *Why the populace is uninformed*: Poor leadership and a lot of wishful thinking about alternative fuels. We believe that this is just one more thing that we'll overcome with technology. Besides, we're distracted by the easy recreation afforded by cheap oil.
- *Does Kunstler hold out hope?* Yes. Humans are resourceful, and the people who come out of this will be more in touch with the meaningful aspects of human life, namely, better community.

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