The Oil Drum: Campfire
Discussions about Energy and Our Future

What can communities do for peak oil mitigation, in recessionary times?

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The question for tonight is

> What can communities do for peak oil mitigation, in recessionary times?

Now that local governments have little money and many people have been laid off from work, the question arises as to what we can do locally to mitigate the situation--peak oil and recession in general. People (including myself) have predicted that recession would go with peak oil--whether this particular recession is a result of peak oil can be debated, but we still need to do something, money or no money.

One low budget mitigation idea that comes to mind is setting up a carpool program. Another is finding ways to better reuse products that have already been produced, through something like a planned community "garage sale" program or consignment sale program. Or in the summer, setting up some sort of produce bartering program.

Another issue that has been mentioned at The Oil Drum is the need for more attention to the population issue, and better publicity of the need for family planning. While this idea is not likely to be popular with elected officials, it seems like it might be something volunteers could do through community groups.

Another idea that comes to mind is setting up some sort of program for bartering services--perhaps accounting services in return for baby sitting, or piano lessons for swimming lessons. Or it might be that individuals could offer free lessons on a topic that might be helpful, such as gardening, as a community service.

These are just some of my ideas. What are your ideas? What is really being done in communities, particularly that is low budget and that deals with the real situation we are in now?