

## The Oil Drum: Campfire

### Discussions about Energy and Our Future

#### Does it Make Sense to Move to a New Location because of Peak Oil?

Posted by [Gail the Actuary](#) on February 3, 2010 - 7:09pm in [The Oil Drum: Campfire](#)

Topic: [Environment/Sustainability](#)

Tags: [moving](#), [peak oil](#) [[list all tags](#)]

Does it make sense to move to a new location because of peak oil? I can think of reasons on both sides of the discussion. I list some ideas below the fold. How do readers feel about this issue?

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#### Some reasons one might want to move:

- 1. To be closer to family.** If times get tough, economically or otherwise, it is can be better to be near kin-folk.
- 2. To own a piece of arable land in an area with good weather.** If one actually plans to operate the farm by oneself, one would need the skills to use the land productively.
- 3. To be closer to energy sources that are likely to continue.** This could be as simple as being near wooded areas. It could also be to be near hydroelectric, or some other form of energy (coal, oil, geothermal, wind turbines, etc.).
- 4. To leave an area with inadequate water supply.** Los Vegas and Phoenix come to mind as examples.
- 5. To be in a better place for long-term jobs.** Different people will have different ideas as to where these locations might be.
- 6. To be part of a [Transition Town](#).** Or perhaps some similar group, that is planning to deal creatively with peak oil issues.
- 7. To be where public transportation is available.** If one feels that the major issue will be a lack of cheap fuel, this might be an option.
- 8. To leave an area that seems to be seriously overpopulated for its resources.** This could be a city or a country.
- 9. To leave an area where the weather is very severe.** This might especially be the case if you believe heating is likely to be a problem in the future.
- 10. To leave an area where obtaining enough fuel (or electricity) is a problem.** I understand this is already an issue in parts of Alaska.

#### Some reasons not to move

- 1. Have friends, family, and a job where you are now.** It would be impossible to move everyone, and find jobs for everyone, in a new location.
- 2. Not customary to move.** In the USA, we think nothing of people moving to a new state every few years. But in many parts of the world, people customarily stay put. Moving is not really an option.
- 3. Not welcome in the new area.** If the new area is a close-knit community, it may be difficult to make new friends.
- 4. Not enough money.** It costs money to relocate. Buying several acres for a farm, plus equipment, is likely to be prohibitively expensive for most.
- 5. Devil you know is better than the devil you don't know.** The new community may only *appear* to be better than what you have. Trying to farm without the skills will be very difficult.
- 6. Can't sell your house.** Or the price you would get for it would leave your penniless.
- 7. Too many sunk investments.** If you have insulated your home, added solar hot water, and a garden, it will be hard to replace these elsewhere.
- 8. Inertia.** It takes a lot of work to research a new area, uproot family, and get settled in a new area.

## What are readers views on this issue?

Have people tried moving to Transition Towns? What has your experience been?

How about people who have moved to a new area on their own, to garden or farm--what have your experiences been?

I would assume that most people who have thought about the idea of moving have decided to stay put, since making a big move is difficult. In recessionary times, it is especially difficult to move, except to move back in with family or friends. If peak oil is likely to cause a worsening recession going forward (as some of us believe), this may affect the kinds of moves people are willing and able to make.



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