



THE NEED FOR NEW LEADERS

Resurgence Resilience & Climate Change Conference

On a chilly autumnal day in October over 250 people – many of them Resurgence members – gathered at Cecil Sharpe House in London to discuss the pressing issues of climate change and what, as individuals and communities, we can do about it. The speakers on the panel were experts in their fields, but as always with these kinds of events, what I found even more inspiring was the colourful mix of humanity that attended. From all walks of life, people young and old came to share their hopes and fears, solutions and ideas – but one thing struck me most strongly: if only the Labour or Conservative Party conferences had been half as interesting as this!

Whilst the best our members of parliament could come up with were measures to curb anti-social drinking and pay-freezes for public-sector workers, at the Resilience & Climate Change conference, we came up with a new set of values that are workable, (eco)logical, visionary solutions with which to prepare ourselves for a resilient and sustainable future.

Whilst Gordon Brown seems to labour under the weight of the national debt he has helped create, Caroline Lucas gave solution after solution to build a new green economy based on renewable energy, localised trade and bioregional sufficiency. Whilst David Cameron's party seems more interested in criminalising young people, Tony Juniper talked about economic measures to secure the future wellbeing of the

rainforests, and hence the planet, such that young people can feel that indeed they have a future to look forward to.

One reason for our government's intransigence in the face of the climate change crisis is not simply the short-termism of party politics, but the underlying sense that "I'll be gone, You'll be gone" – IBGYBG – a rather cynical perspective abounding in government that recognises that the policymakers who created the problems we face, will not be here to reap the consequences. This is not good enough!

It is up to us all now to take action. We cannot allow vested interests to decide the course of our collective future. We all have to become leaders ourselves, through local community organisations such as the Transition Network – where we can be the change we want to see in the world and lead the way with vision and solutions, where our current leaders have none. It's up to us.

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