

Willi Kiefel, Seán Conlan, Caroline Whyte, Mark Garavan, et al.

## **Beyond globalization – the legacy of Richard Douthwaite (1942 – 2011) for a degrowth economy**

### *Second Contribution: Richard Douthwaite's contribution towards a Material Degrowth Society in Ireland*

Dear participants of the 2nd Session of this Richard Douthwaite Memorial Lecture at Degrowth 2014

#### **Introduction**

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues!

Perhaps you may permit me to start with a general remark about this paper: while it is perhaps portrayed in the conference programme as a scientific paper I would like it be understood primarily as a collaborative effort of many of Richard's contemporaries and colleagues. In this sense this paper will not show a list of references but will instead list the names of the collaborators. We believe that the spirit of a cooperative effort better reflects the theme of Degrowth 2014 than the classical concept of a Western scientific paper in the sense of a competitive achievement.

It is also our view that our collaborative effort reflects much more Richard Douthwaite's attitude at the end of his life when he suggested that his last book or co-production should be entitled *Sharing for Survival*.

It is the author's view that Richard saw the Western / Global North concept of private property including intellectual property as an important motivation behind the argument for economic growth.

Before I go into the details of Richard's work and legacy in Ireland I wish to mention some observations of Richard which may help in understanding Richard's specific interest in Ireland and island economies.

From 1972 to 1974, he was government economist in the British colony of Montserrat, notably introducing a fuel rationing system during the 1973 oil crisis, and representing the island at Caribbean regional conferences. This spurred his interest in island economies and other small economic units.

He drew on the experience to help islands become more self-reliant and thus shield them from the damage caused by capitalist orthodoxy.

Furthermore it is the author's view that the other reason for his interest in Ireland was the fact that his wife was Irish.

In 1974 Richard moved from Montserrat with his wife Mary to Westport, in Co Mayo, where he set up a leathercrafts factory to put his grassroots economics into practice.

In 1985, he sold the business and turned to energy, climate change, the creation of money and other then relatively neglected economic issues.

Very few economic thinkers then and even to this day are on record warning about the dangers posed to a planet with finite resources and a fractional-reserve banking system with interest-bearing debt. Even fewer were able to communicate this threat effectively.

## Richard and Feasta

### *Feasta- Richard's main intellectual legacy in Ireland*

Richard understood that one cannot hope to follow or work on all the trends in ecology, economy and society as an individual. That is why he became a founder member of Feasta, the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability.

While the organisation's founding committee was comprised of six individuals Richard Douthwaite is considered to be the leading figure.

His books, *The Growth Illusion* (1992) and *Short Circuit* (1996), presented a systematic social and environmental critique of the contemporary free-market economy and offered suggestions as to how the economy might be changed in order to achieve a sustainable society. Inspired by some of the ideas expressed in these works, Feasta was founded to continue the work of economic analysis and to construct viable alternative proposals. This twin goal is made clear in its public literature.

Feasta has been established to fill the gap left by the economists. Our aim is to promote and popularise research which analyses the economic system in order to identify the reasons for its destructive characteristics. We also seek to establish the basis on which sustainable economic systems will have to run.

The name 'Feasta' (corresponding to the word 'future' in English) is taken by the organisation from the lines in the old Irish poem 'Cill Chais' – Cad a dhéanfaimid feasta gan adhmaid / tá deireadh na gcoillte ar lár (what shall we do in the future without wood / the end of the forests is here).

The name, and the reference from which it is drawn, encapsulate well the concerns and motivations of the organisation's founders – an anxiety about what the future will hold and a desire to prepare now for the challenges that it will bring.

The English language sub-title – The Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability – makes it clear that the objectives of the organisation are to develop and propagate new economic models for a future sustainable society.

Feasta was founded to further explore and develop the implications of these ideas. The organisation's initial impetus to mobilise can therefore be understood within the context of Douthwaite's work.

The continuity between his work and Feasta's organisational objectives is illustrated in Feasta's 'statement of intent':



*Front cover of Feasta promotional leaflet*

“Feasta will involve itself in many topics which fall outside the scope of conventional economics and intends to become a home for everyone who sees localisation as a counter-balance to globalisation. For example, it will concern itself with local and regional currency systems and financial services, with urban and rural land-use planning, with community-scale methods of production and distribution, with the techniques available for supplying an area’s energy needs from local power sources, and with local sourcing of housing, clothing and food. It will also be concerned with the effects of greater local self-reliance on culture and lifestyle” (cited on Feasta promotional brochure).

By emphasising the development of solutions based on well-researched thinking, Feasta occupies a niche position among environmental groups, not just at a national but at an international level.

“We are also interested in envisioning how a sustainable economy and society might look. As far as we are aware, we’re the only organisation in the English-speaking world taking exactly this approach.” (Feasta News – [www.feasta.org](http://www.feasta.org)).

The distinctiveness of Feasta is underlined by its explicit proclamation that it is not a campaigning group. Indeed, it expresses scepticism regarding the long-term value of campaigning and political activity in general in bringing about the type of radical changes that it deems essential.

It is the author's and his collaborators' view that Feasta’s rejection of political campaigning and protest activity is based on two grounds:

1. Representative democracy as presently constituted cannot deliver the type of radical changes that are required; and
2. Protest activity can at best only achieve reforms but cannot address the core problem because it leaves the unsustainable economic system intact and may have the unintended effect of legitimising the political system.

Feasta’s activities are accordingly focused on developing a package of radical changes that can be implemented in toto in some future, politically amenable, scenario. This unusual position shows activists abandoning the contemporary closed political arena in favour of a possible open arena to come.

It is the author's view that this picture represents Feasta as Richard's "Alter Ego".

In short, Feasta’s organisational purpose is as the designer of new ideas – to explicitly be the creator of new cognitive resources. This role gives it its particular identity within the environmental movement and within the wider political marketplace.

## **Feasta's Forms of Action**

### **Discursive frames**

The concept at the centre of Feasta’s discourse is ‘sustainability’.

This concept is used to especially describe an economic system that, both in practice and in its values, does not structure itself around the maintenance of economic growth but seeks rather to achieve ecological stability and integral human well-being.

The need to move the economic paradigm from a focus on growth to sustainability follows from Feasta’s analysis that it is economic growth and its pursuit that is the primary cause of the world’s social and environmental problems.

Feasta’s definition of a sustainable system is one which is ‘capable of being continued unchanged for hundreds of years without causing a progressive deterioration in any of the factors which make it up’ (Feasta Review 2001: 5).

“The key area is economic growth because if you accept that there are limits to economic growth and that we’ve bumped up against quite a number of them and in some cases exceeded them, what you’ve got to say is, ‘Right, we accept that there are limits, what are we going to do’? Are we going to let the market determine who gets to consume what?” (Interview MG with Richard Douthwaite, Westport, 2001).

## Conferences, Lectures & Publications

To some degree then Feasta’s organisational goal and purpose can be described as an attempt to achieve a widespread acceptance for their meaning of the concept of sustainability. It follows from this that the forms of action engaged in by Feasta centre on attempts to establish and defend their interpretation of the concept. Hence, the Feasta repertoire comprises conferences, lectures, publications, submissions and study materials. A review of Feasta’s main public activity since its foundation in 1998 to the end of 2009 clearly reveals this approach:

### *Two Seminal Public Lectures in Trinity College Dublin by internationally acclaimed economists*

- one by Professor Herman Daly, Professor at the university of Maryland School of Public Affairs entitled ‘Uneconomic Growth in theory and in fact’ delivered on April 26<sup>th</sup> 1999.

The First Annual Feasta Lecture FEASTA review 1  
Trinity College, Dublin  
26th April, 1999.

*uneconomic growth in theory and in  
fact*

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**HERMAN E. DALY**

What I'd like to talk about this evening is a concept which I think is important, although you don't hear it talked about very much. It is the idea of uneconomic growth. We hear about economic growth more than we want to sometimes, so is uneconomic growth a possibility? I want to argue that it is.

The text for my homily this evening is taken from John Ruskin: 'That which seems to be wealth may in verity be only the gilded index of far-reaching ruin'. That's my theme and I want to develop it in the following way: first I'll discuss the issue of uneconomic growth in theory. Does it make sense theoretically? Does it flow out of standard economics? I will argue that it is highly consistent with micro economic theory but that it conflicts with macro economic theory as currently done.

- the other by Dr. David Korten

2000 July 4 The Second Annual Feasta Lecture David Korten

The Second Annual Feasta Lecture [PDF version](#)  
[Biographical Sketch](#)  
Trinity College, Dublin  
4th July, 2000.

*the civilising of global society*

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**DAVID C. KORTEN**

*We live at one of the most critical and exciting moments in all of human history. We face both the necessity and the opportunity to reinvent society.*

## **A Selection of other contributions:**

Richard was involved in organizing and speaking at many conferences, lectures and workshops. This necessitated writing many papers, submissions and presentations on a broad range of topics. These included:

- ‘Money, Energy and Growth’;
- ‘Interest-free Banking’;
- ‘Localisation as a counter-balance to globalisation’ (held in Stockholm); and ‘
- Strengthening the role of the Irish Higher Education Community in support of sustainable development’;

Publication of the first Feasta Review 2001 and subsequent years - featuring a number of articles from international environmental economists and reviews:



Below is a selection of Richard Douthwaite's own lectures:

### ***2003 October 9/10 – Land - The Claim of the Community Conference – Tara Towers - Dublin***

This briefing examines the history of the Irish land question and its re-emergence in recent years, as a background to an international conference.

### ***2006 RD Lecture September Understanding the Economics of Sustainability***

#### **[Understanding the Economics of Sustainable Development](#)**

A six week course of lectures - by Richard Douthwaite and others. In association with Cultivate and supported by Trocaire. (For more details please see the Feasta website 'Past Events' section.)

Date: September 26 - October 31, 2006

Venue: Cultivate Centre, Temple Bar, Dublin

The course questioned the conventional wisdom that both the key to rich-country prosperity and the solution to global poverty is for international trade and investment to generate global economic growth.

### ***2006 July 7-9 The Ecology of Money***

A short course given at Bridport Dorset UK.

Those taking the course learned how to design money systems to suit the goals and circumstances of their local communities.



## **2007 August RD Lecture Cap & Share**

"Cap & Share"

A talk by Richard Douthwaite

Date: August 25 & 26, 2007

Venue: Cool Earth Fair, Festival of World Cultures, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

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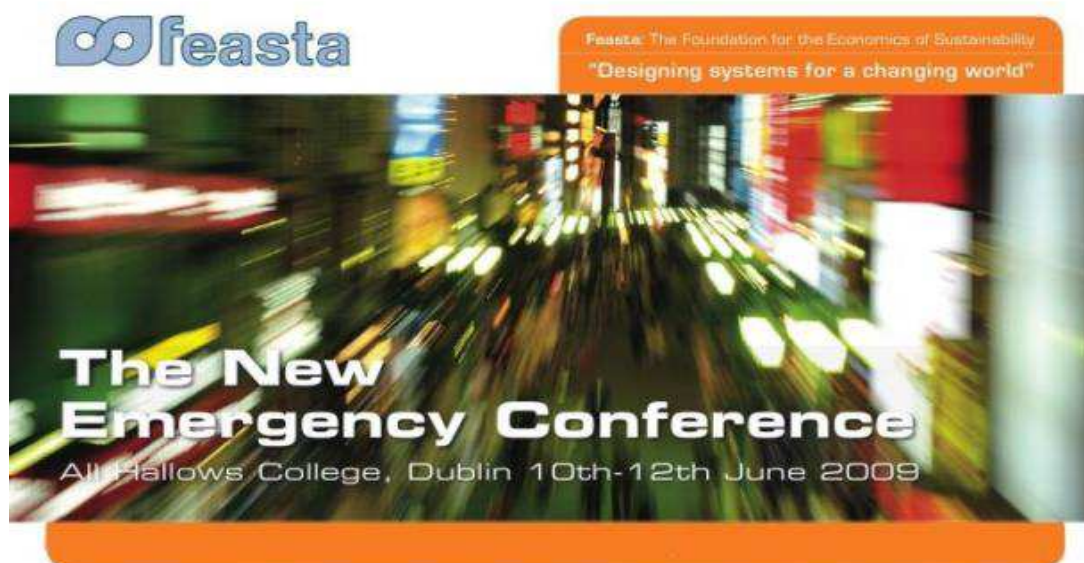
This provided a chance to brief Environment Minister John Gormley, who sought Richard out to get more information. He also briefed another speaker, David Strachan, who covered oil peak.

## **2008 Degrowth Conference April 18-19 -Paris, France.**

A paper entitled "Economic Growth cannot continue", which "was written by David Korowicz & Richard Douthwaite, was delivered by David at the first conference on Economic De-Growth for Ecological Sustainability & Social Justice'.

## **2009 New Emergency Conference**

In 2009 Richard was very instrumental in organising and setting the tone for the New Emergency Conference in Dublin which was well attended and was launched by the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.



*From the conference promotional literature:*

Almost 70 years ago, the outbreak of World War II forced the Irish Government to declare a state of national emergency. The Emergency Powers Act of September 1939 gave it the authority "to make provisions for the maintenance of public order and for the provision and control of supplies and services essential to the life of the community." Today a similar attitude is needed to address an emergency of a different and even more compelling kind: global economic collapse, combined with crises in climate change, water and energy supply, soil erosion, and the massive over-exploitation of natural resources. The extraordinary growth in population, wealth, urbanisation and societal complexity witnessed since the Industrial Revolution cannot continue. Nature's life-support systems are failing fast. Humanity is facing what might be called "The New Emergency." If ours is to be a stable world, the restoration of resilience at a local and global level must become a priority. And this resilience has to be achieved with the commitment and pace that countries adopt when, as in 1939, there is an immediate and very real threat to people's security and well-being.

This conference, marking Feasta's tenth anniversary, analysed the systems and the mindsets that have steered the world onto its grotesquely unsustainable current path. Discussions focussed on the new systems (financial, energy, food) and ways of thinking that are urgently required to correct the situation and bring about a rapid transition to a more secure future. Many of the ideas explored were Feasta's. Others were presented by international speakers who broadly share Feasta's analysis of what needs to be done to build a truly sustainable world.

Speakers included:

- Eamon Ryan, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, launched the conference with an opening speech.
- Dmitry Orlov, author of *Reinventing Collapse*, gave a public lecture at the Davenport Hotel, June 9th and featured throughout the conference with a focus on deglobalisation, relocalisation and definancialisation.
- Richard Douthwaite, Feasta co-founder and author of *The Growth Illusion*, *Short Circuit* and *The Ecology of Money*, explained how the primary global crises interrelate and are intrinsic to our economic and governance structure
- Chris Vernon, an editor of The Oil Drum, an energy futures discussion website, discussed how much usable energy the world can expect to get from fossil fuels in future since it is taking more and more energy to produce energy.
- Julian Darley, author of *High Noon for Natural Gas*, examined the factors involved in high-level decision making for sustainable change.
- David Korowicz, Physicist, gave a systems view of collapse dynamics.
- Dan Sullivan, director of Saving Communities, investigated land value taxation as a community development tool.
- Emer O'Siochru, Co-Founder of Feasta and EOS Architects, discussed the Proximity Principle in rural planning and urban settlements, integrating energy, heat, material sources, waste management and fertility.
- Ludwig Schuster, Living City Architects, concentrated on bio-regional currencies that encourage sustainable use of resources rather than requiring growth and exploitation.
- Bruce Darrell, co-founder of Dublin Food Growing, explored methods to develop secure food systems that do not rely on finite resources.

## **Submissions to Irish Government**

Detailed Submissions to two Irish Government committees, one on the implementation of its climate change strategy and the second on sustainable development.

### ***RD Briefing on TD's and Senators in June 2008***

Climate Committee Briefing Session on Cap and Share

June 25th – the Dáil, Dublin.

Richard Douthwaite and David Korowicz briefed TDs and Senators about Cap and Share, and some contacts were made with TDs and some researchers.

## ***Green Debt and NAMA – AR 2009***

### **Green Debt and NAMA Paper**

Richard Douthwaite

August 19

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This paper was sent to Eamon Ryan, Minister for Energy, Communications and Natural Resources (DECNR) and Green politicians among others in an effort to persuade them to reconsider adopting NAMA in the form proposed by the government.

## ***Liquidity Network Submission to Éamon Ryan March 2009***

### **Liquidity Network submission to Eamon Ryan, Minister DECNR**

Richard Douthwaite

March 9

The Irish money supply was contracting rapidly in early 2009. This was making trading increasingly difficult and jeopardising many businesses. The government could not borrow and spend enough to rectify the situation so the Feasta money group's work on a complementary currency to run in parallel with the euro looked as if it might ease the situation. We decided to keep government up to date with our progress and thinking because we did not want local authorities to be prevented from participating. The paper for Eamon Ryan was also sent to Peter Clinch in the Office of the Taoiseach.

## ***Feasta Influence on Irish Government 2009***

Feasta had much greater input into the Irish government's policymaking process during the year than ever before. While there has been a member of the Feasta Executive Committee on the National Sustainability Council, Comhar, for several years, (David Korowicz is the current member) one reason for our greater input in 2009 was our participation in Social Partnership through our representative, Emer O'Siochru. Another reason was a result of the two Department of the Environment contracts we won during 2008. One contract, which led us to set up the Carbon Cycles and Sinks Network, is to give advice on ways in which Ireland's land-use sector could reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases and how the land's capacity to absorb these gases might be enhanced. The second contract was for advice on fiscal and financial methods which would nudge Ireland towards greater environmental sustainability and we set up the Smart Tax Network as the forum in which this advice could be researched and discussed. Both networks are run by Feasta but have members from government departments, other NGOs and academia.

## **Other Initiatives/Public Workshops**

Furthermore through Richard's initiatives or involvement a large number of public workshops and initiatives of various types took place, some with a particular emphasis on community.

- **Community based energy systems** – he devised an approach called 'Aggressive Mutuality Plus'. How a community can fund its own Energy Supply (Winchester Discovery Centre UK 2009) and engaged with national energy utilities.
- **Local Economies and Strong Communities** for example: Conference in Kilkenny 26-28<sup>th</sup> May 2010 (see promotional information below).



# LOCAL ECONOMIES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

## An Irish conference on resilient local economies

Revised programme

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010

### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May

Butler House, Patrick Street

#### 20:00 Public talk

**David Engwicht** – “Creative Communities”: Unlocking the creativity of individuals, decision makers and communities.

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May

Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle

#### 09:00 Conference Start

**Mayor Malcolm Noonan** – Welcome and opening address

**Minister Ciarán Cuffe** – Keynote

#### 09:45 The Big Picture

**Richard Douthwaite** – “Beyond the Limits”: Ireland’s prospects in a resource constrained world.

**Nigel Dowdney** – “The Tesco Effect”: Impact of globalisation on local communities.

**Bruce Darrell** – “Food Security”: Not just an issue for the developing world.

#### 11:15 Break

#### 11:30 Concurrent Workshops

1/ Tools for supporting independent local businesses  
*Nigel Dowdney*

2/ Investing in ourselves and the role of local currencies  
*Richard Douthwaite & Brian Dillon*

3/ Strategies for developing ‘Nutritional’ resilience  
*Bruce Darrell*

#### 12:30 Plenary Session

#### 13:00 Lunch

#### 14:00 Building Resilience

**Joël Labbé** – “Top Down & Bottom Up”: Policy and community action in meeting the challenges ahead.

**Joan Fitzpatrick** – “Farming in Kilkenny”: Prospects and Challenges for the future.

*Continued...*

**Patrick Lydon** – “The Callan Experience”: A model for local community self-reliance.

#### 15:30 Break

#### 15:45 Concurrent Workshops

1/ Creating Livable Streets and Vibrant Communities

*David Engwicht*

2/ The trend towards resilient local economies in France

*Rafaël Souchier & Cyril Dion*

3/ Integrated area planning and community approaches

*Catherine Corcoran*

#### 16:45 Plenary Session

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May

Butler House, Patrick Street

#### 19:30 Public talk & Wine Reception

**Cyril Dion** – “The Colibri Movement” (tbc)

Official closing of the conference and wine reception.

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May

3 hour field trips by Coach

#### 10:00 depart to Callan ESCOs

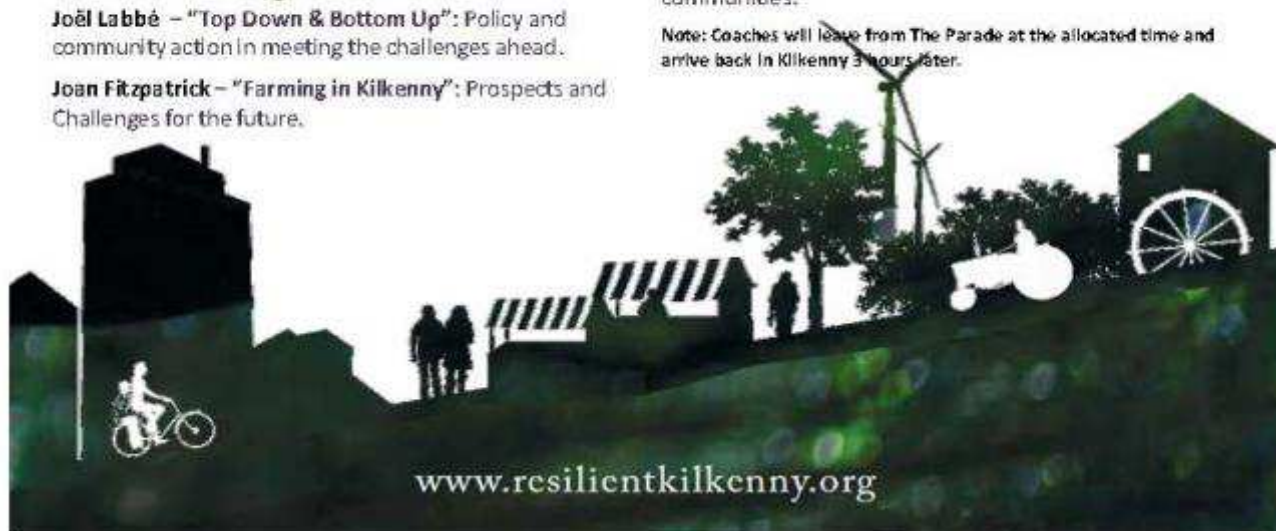
**Callan renewable energy supply project:** Willow coppice, chipping, storage and district heating system.

**Ballytobin Bio-gas facility:** Anaerobic digester, CHP and community district heating.

#### 14:00 depart to Cloughjordan

**Cloughjordan Eco-village:** Tour of The Village Project with director Una Johnston. District heating system, Community Supported Agriculture, Green Buildings, Walk-able communities.

**Note:** Coaches will leave from The Parade at the allocated time and arrive back in Kilkenny 3 hours later.



[www.resilientkilkenny.org](http://www.resilientkilkenny.org)

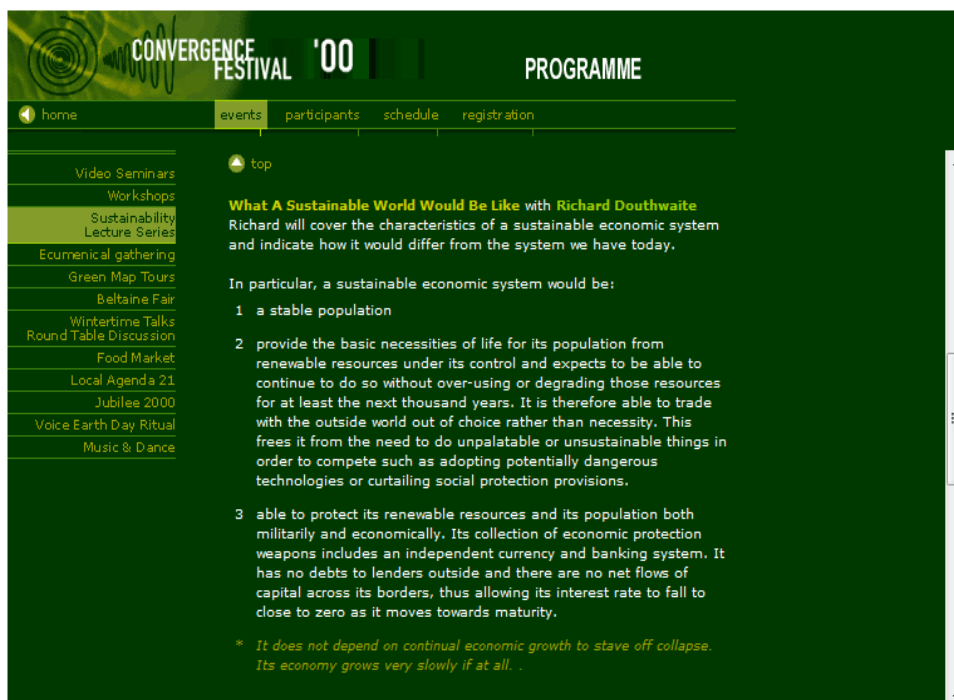
- **Resilient Communities and the development of the Convergence Festival**

For Douthwaite, the Convergence festival was of great importance in signaling (and effecting) an expansion of the environmental concern to include issues of justice, democracy and economics.

"I think it is [very important]. I haven't come across anything similar to that in Britain. Ireland has a lot of organisations in the general 'environmental' area and it's not purely environmental any longer. Organisations for instance like 'Attac', people who are interested in the global debt crisis that has led them into consideration of, for instance, monetary reform; all these organisations essentially have a common event. It's a week that will be taking over Temple Bar. It's been growing bigger year after year...It's very much about what the economic system needs to be, how we need to do things differently (Interview Mark Garavan with Douthwaite, Westport, April 2001)."



## Welcome to the 2000 Convergence Festival Site





## Local Currencies and Transition Workshop April 2009

**Local Currencies and Transition**  
April 26 - Cultivate, Temple Bar, Dublin 8  
Richard Douthwaite

(As part of the Transition Ireland Gathering)

Workshop on the history of local currency and how Transition Initiatives might use local currency to help build community resilience

## Resilient Communities - Convergence 2010

**Resilient Communities**  
green, smart  
and sustainable

# CONVERGENCE

Sustainable Living Festival [www.cultivate.ie](http://www.cultivate.ie)

**Wednesday 26 May - Tuesday 1 June 2010**

**The 15th Convergence Festival** features talks, conferences, workshops and World Café discussions on how urban and rural communities can adapt and thrive in these uncertain times.

This festival brings together people from a wide variety of sectors to strategise on how we develop the resilience of our communities.

**Collaborators:**  
Tipperary Institute, Carnegie Trust UK, Irish Development Education Association, RealEyes Sustainability Ltd, ESD Training Ltd., Sustainable Projects Ireland Ltd., Transition Ireland and Northern Ireland, Near 90FM, ECO-UNESCO and Re-Dress

**Venues**

The new venue (former ENFO Building) for sustainability powered by Cultivate and ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's first ecovillage in Glough Jordan, Co Tipperary | [www.thevillage.ie](http://www.thevillage.ie)

A dynamic higher education, development and research centre in Thurles, North Tipperary  
[www.tipperaryinstitute.ie](http://www.tipperaryinstitute.ie)

Also... Wood Quay Venue, the spectacular new conference centre in Dublin City Council Civic Offices  
[www.woodquayvenue.ie](http://www.woodquayvenue.ie) And...  
Light House Cinema at Smithfield | [www.lighthousecinema.ie](http://www.lighthousecinema.ie)

**Tickets & Booking**

Phone: 01 674 5773  
Web: [www.cultivate.ie](http://www.cultivate.ie)  
Shop: Cultivate at The Greenhouse, St Andrew St, D2  
Save with a Full Festival Pass: €75



## **Feasta & the Ecovillage**

Feasta is now based in Cloughjordan Ecovillage, Ireland's largest eco-neighbourhood. The Ecovillage is located in the centre of Cloughjordan, Co Tipperary, attracting visitors from all over the island and abroad with an interest in sustainability. This eco-neighbourhood is a unique and innovative project that is striving to create a fresh blueprint for modern sustainable living.

53 eco homes are now completed from the planned 130, renewable energy for heating is in operation, and land for growing food and increased biodiversity is being stewarded.

The Ecovillage has become a destination for learning and hosts events on a diverse range of activities around the themes of biodiversity, community resilience, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, eco tourism, and green building, etc.

Richard strongly believed that “seed projects” coming from civic society or grass roots level were needed as there was no use waiting for governments or policy makers to get to grips with problems. His work on complementary currencies makes this clear; and his practical projects founding liquidity networks and local currency systems bear witness to his ideas and will be analyzed in this contribution.

His insights and calls for more localisation of economies, tackling greenhouse-gas emissions, replacement of earth-damaging monoculture with biodynamic methods of food production and the creation of local currencies, are now a feature of many “Transition Towns” in Ireland, Britain and worldwide.

The (Eco)Village in Cloughjordan in Ireland is a direct practical example of such localised economies.

## **Conclusion**

We have seen in this paper that Richard's impact was primarily through his thinking, his teaching, and also through his personal lifestyle, his charisma and personality. He was one of those few teachers and thinkers who lived what they preached.

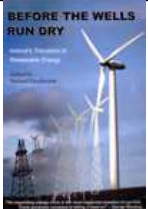
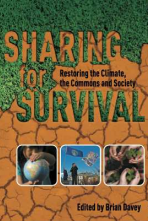

In terms of concrete examples of his impact we would refer to his instrumental influence in setting up Feasta and accompanying and perhaps also guiding it, his writings and his influence on Irish seed projects such as Cultivate/ Convergence festivals, Irish regional Conferences, Workshops and Coop festivals.

On reflection it is the author's view that Richard Douthwaite will achieve what he himself wrote in his introduction to the second edition of *The Growth Illusion*: to get a substantial number of people to accept the necessity to move beyond the Growth Economy in order to open up a new path for humanity. The author and his collaborators believe that the substantial amount of testimonies in the attachment are living witnesses to that.

## References

	<p><i>Fleeing Vesuvius</i> <i>Overcoming the Risks of Economic and Environmental Collapse</i></p> <p>Richard Douthwaite, Gillian Fallon</p>
	<p><i>The Post Carbon Reader</i></p> <p>Peter Whybrow Richard Gilbert Daniel Lerch Richard Heinberg Anthony Perl Bill McKibben Bill Sheehan Brian Schwartz Chris Martenson Cindy Parker David Fridley David Hughes David Orr Erika Allen Gloria Flora Hillary Brown John Kaufmann Joshua Farley Michael Bomford Michael Shuman Richard Douthwaite Rob Hopkins Sandra Postel Stephanie Mills Tom Whipple Warren Karlenzig Wes Jackson William Rees William Ryerson Zenobia Barlow Asher Miller October 2010</p>
	<p><i>The Ecology of Money</i></p> <p>Richard Douthwaite 2000</p>
	<p><i>Short Circuit:</i> <i>Strengthening Local Economies for Security in an Uncertain World</i></p> <p>Richard Douthwaite 1998</p>
	<p><i>The Growth Illusion</i></p> <p>Richard Douthwaite 1992</p>
	<p><i>Growth - the Celtic Cancer - Why the Global Economy Damages Our Health and Society</i></p> <p>Richard Douthwaite, <a href="#">John Jopling</a> and other contributors</p>



	<p><i>Before the Wells Run Dry - Ireland's Transition to Renewable Energy</i></p> <p>Richard Douthwaite</p>
	<p><i>Sharing for Survival: Restoring the climate, the commons and society</i> 2012</p> <p>Editor Brian Davey</p> <p>Other authors include <b>Nick Bardsley, James Bruges, John Jopling, Justin Kenrick, Laurence Matthews</b> and <b>Caroline Whyte</b>. The book concludes with the final piece of work by our much-loved late colleague, <b>Richard Douthwaite</b>, with help from <b>David Knight</b>: an essay entitled "Time for some optimism about the climate crisis".</p>
	<p>Feasta Review: No. 1</p>
<p><b>Websites</b></p>	
<p>1 Feasta</p>	<p><a href="http://www.feasta.org/">http://www.feasta.org/</a></p>
<p>2 Cultivate</p>	<p><a href="http://cultivate.ie/">http://cultivate.ie/</a></p>

## **Addendum: Personal Impact & Testimonies**

Richard placed enormous emphasis on the need for informed collaboration in order to achieve meaningful change. As mentioned in the paper, he wrote in his introduction to the second edition of *The Growth Illusion* of the need for a "substantial number of people" to accept the necessary move beyond a growth-based economy, in order for a "new path for humanity" to be able to open up.

He was also strikingly lacking in arrogance, to the extent that he frequently did not claim credit for his own work. One of the last pieces of writing he contributed to, a paper for the Irish electricity supply board entitled "Aggressive Mutuality," was not even signed by him.

A tribute to him on the Feasta website, by a group in Waterford, describes how when he was invited to give a talk there he used public transport and stayed in budget accommodation (in marked contrast to a 'celebrity' economist who insisted on red-carpet treatment). In this author's view, this attitude affected the whole ethos of Feasta in a profound way.

His impact was impressively wide, cutting across many professional boundaries. In preparing this paper we sent out a request to people who knew Richard asking for information about his impact on their lives. Below is a brief sample of quotes from some of the replies we received, along with quotes from some previously existing commentary on Richard's impact.

David Korten, the US-based author of *When Corporations Rule the World* and founder of Yes magazine, wrote in 2000 that Richard "has more effectively than anyone else in my experience challenged the orthodox view that economic growth is essential to eliminating poverty and improving the quality of life for all". He added that his debt to Richard is "considerable".

Mark Garavan, the current chair of Feasta's board of directors, did research on Feasta's role as an Irish NGO in the early 2000s which included extensive input from Richard. As mentioned above he saw Feasta, under the leadership of Richard, as taking a new approach to environmental activism, going beyond the traditional dichotomy of protest versus co-option by the powerful: "In Feasta, not only might activism have moved beyond protest, but environmental politics may also have moved beyond the political arena as traditionally conceived."

Anne Ryan, a lecturer in adult education at Maynooth university in Ireland and Feasta trustee, mentioned in her commentary to us that "his works are widely cited and drawn on by scholars and activists in the field of sustainability, resilience and social justice." She describes him as "an intellectual cornerstone of the environmental movement in Ireland and a model independent public intellectual and activist." Also in academia, Tina Evans, a professor in sustainability studies in Colorado, commented that "He was well ahead of his time. Actually, he was right where we all need to be in our thinking about issues of sustainability and economy, but most people are not there yet." She uses his work extensively in her lecturing.

Rob Hopkins, a prominent campaigner in the Transition Towns movement and author of *The Transition Handbook*, commented in a video made for Feasta that "I was really honoured to live in Ireland during the time that Feasta started and to see how it emerged under the compassionate, committed and visionary leadership that the late, much missed and very dear Richard Douthwaite brought to the whole thing."

Barbara Panvel, co-ordinator of the New Era Network that is active in Britain and India, described Richard as a 'much valued member' of the Network.

David Hirst, an inventor and consultant in information technology, wrote that Richard's was "a huge boost" to him in promoting his inventions concerning electricity and tariffs that could help the electricity system become more sustainable and renewable.

Roy Johnston, a physicist and systems analyst, described how Richard's economic thinking seems to him to provide a way beyond traditional Marxist analysis: "there is scope for development here in

addressing the problem of how politically to make a transformation towards democratic ownership of the capital investment process". He regrets not having had time to interact more with Richard during his lifetime.

Phoebe Bright, a former trader at the London Stock Exchange, commented that "had I not read Richard's book, had I not been bold enough to call him with a question and found a new friend, my life would have been much the poorer. I would not have joined Feasta or Cork Environmental Forum and or had the voice to make a contribution to future thinking on economics."

Graham Barnes, a co-organiser of the Feasta Currency Group, writes that "Richard's contribution was unique. His intellect and clarity of thinking generated the various radical ideas he was committed to and wrote about, but he worked on such a broad front, with such energy, commitment and warmth, that he attracted many more into the Feasta fold to develop on his ideas. Unlike some endowed with great intelligence he was inclusive and enjoyed sharing his work." Graham went on to describe how Richard's inclusive approach was highly effective within his own field of currency development.

Liam Réamonn was the official in charge of environmental economics at the Irish Department of Finance when he met Richard, with an assignment of envisaging measures that would enable Ireland to meet its Kyoto targets. As he puts it, "this great and most approachable gentleman, in timely fashion, handed me such information as would ensure a robust basis for my work".

On a more international level, Deirdre de Burca, a former Irish Green Party senator who now works in Brussels as a policy advocate, is promoting debt sustainability, global monetary reform and Cap and Share as a response to global climate change. As she writes, "my thinking on these issues was hugely influenced by Richard".

Some of Richard's ideas are also being promoted in Washington DC by Mike Sandler, an environmental activist. He described how Richard's work influenced him to campaign successfully for a Cap and Share type system for handling emissions from electricity in California. He comments that "through Richard's grounded personality and good-humour, he encouraged me and countless others to join in the cause".

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