

Transition Initiative checklist – response from transition tison

Date: 26/04/2014

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to help you prepare the groundwork for a successful transition initiative.

We're finding that the most unobtrusive way of influencing the development of initiatives and hubs is by setting a few criteria that ensure each group/initiative is heading in the right direction with the right kind of mindset and with the right intentions. These criteria have been developed in conjunction with other transition initiatives and by observing what's worked, and what hasn't.

In essence, these criteria will tell you how ready your community is to embark on this journey to a lower energy future. Take a look at this list and make an honest appraisal of where you are on these points. If there are any gaps, it should give you something to focus on while you build the initial energy and contacts around this initiative.

We've introduced this formal approach to registering Transition Towns/villages for several key reasons:

- Our trustees and funders want to make sure that while we actively nurture embryonic projects, we only promote to "official" status those communities we feel are ready to move into the awareness raising stage. This status confers additional levels of support such as speakers, trainings, wiki and forums that we're currently rolling out.
- In order to establish coordinated programmes (such as combined funding bids to the National Lottery) we need a formally established category of Transition Initiatives that we're fully confident can support and deliver against such programmes.
- We've seen at least one community stall because they didn't have the right mindset or a suitable group of people, and didn't really understand what they were letting themselves in for.
- The distinct roles of "Local Transition Initiative", "Local Transition Hub" and "Temporary Initiating Hub" are very different and need to be discussed at the outset (see below).

This form contains the list of criteria for becoming an official transition initiative – complete the responses and send in to michaelthomas@transitionnetwork.org

with a meaningful subject line (it'll avoid the spam filters).

2. Before emailing this in to us, make sure that...

... you and the core team have added the necessary content to the website:

- a) the individual profiles for at least 4 people in the your core team (www.transitionnetwork.org/user/register)
- b) your Initiative profile (www.transitionnetwork.org/node/add/initiative-profile)
- c) add the individuals to the initiative profile (just type in their names into the "core team" section, and the system will make the associations automatically)

3. We'll respond...

Ben'll get back to you quickly and, assuming the response is fine and dandy, he'll do the "behind the scenes" web noodling to promote your initiative to "official" status.

4. Criteria – (these develop over time in response to feedback from Transition Initiatives)

	Criteria	Response
1	An understanding of peak oil and climate change as primary drivers and the intention of writing them into your constitution or governing documents	We are talking about the structure of the global situation for several month, and already

		integrated climate change and peak oil in our vision drafts.
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2	A group of 4-5 people willing to step into leadership roles (not just the boundless enthusiasm of a single person)	Our core group consists of 7-9 people that are already meeting for the last year, and a couple of month ago even started small specific cells in three different subjects: local economy, transportation and food security.
3	At least two people from the core team willing to attend a two day Transition Training course (information re locations and timing can be found at: http://www.transitionnetwork.org/about/training/training-transition . For countries where we haven't established a training resource, this'll have to wait.	Three of us attended the first & only Transition training course that was held in israel a month ago.
4	A potentially strong connection to the local/district council	We are building it. We have made some connections with the local network of community centers; we have a good connection to one council member (at least) that started giving our work attention; and we have establish a firm connection with the cities union for the environment.
5	An understanding of peak oil, climate change and the 12 steps of Transition (see Primer) across the entire core team	Peak oil and climate change are well understood. We are familiar with The 12 step of transition, but has done things a bit differently in our work.
6	A commitment to ask for help from the Transition Network and other Transitioning communities if/when needed	Of course. We are already using yoav's experience as our main source for "transition knowledge". Help from the network and other communities are welcome, although we will need to overcome language and culture differences , as there isn't any other Israeli initiatives that we can learn from.
7	A commitment to keep your website updated with developments (either the "community microsite" that we make make available to you <i>or your own webspace</i>)	We are, just now, builing our website exactly for that. Of course, it is in Hebrew. Also, we understand the importance of translating some of our materials and experience to English for the benefit of the entire transition network. http://www.transitiontixon.org.il
8	A commitment to write up something on the Transition Towns blog <i>periodically</i> (the world will be watching) – will be available on the new website soon...	As mentioned above... :)
9	A commitment to network with other TTs	Of course. We started doing that here in Israel, and hopefully that the transition training course pushed some of the other participants to start their initiatives. We are filling a little lonely for now... :)
10	A commitment, once you're into the Transition, for one of the group to give a presentation to at least two other communities (in the vicinity) that is considering embarking on this journey (a "here's what we did in our community" talk)	We already connected with a group from small settlement 20 km from tixon that want's to start transitioning.

11	A commitment to work cooperatively with neighbouring Transition Initiatives	Of course. Goes without saying.
12	Minimal conflicts of interests in the core team	One of our primary understandings, from the beginning, is that Transition is about what we can agree on that can be done, rather than what we don't agree on. And about doing it, of course :)
13	A commitment to work with whatever entity emerges as the national coordinating group for Transition in your country (eg currently Transition Network in the UK, Transition Aotearoa in New Zealand) re grant applications for funding from national grant giving bodies. <i>Your own local trusts/sources are yours to deal with as you see fit.</i>	Already committed, with a close connection between Transition Tivon and Transition Hub Israel. Yoav primarily, but also the others members of THI.
14	A commitment to strive for inclusivity across your entire initiative. We're aware that we need to strengthen this point in response to concerns about extreme political groups becoming involved in transition initiatives. One way of doing this is for your core group to explicitly state their support the UN Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948). You could add this to your constitution (when finalised) so that extreme political groups that have discrimination as a key value (for example the British National Party in the UK) cannot participate in the decision-making bodies within your transition initiative. There may be more elegant ways of handling this requirement, and there's a group within the network looking at how that might be done...	Point taken. For now we are still trying to recruit a wider diversity of participants, so this is still on the positive side of inclusivity, but we will try to foresee that potential problem.
15	A recognition that although your entire county or district may need to go through transition, the first place for you to start is in your local community. It may be that eventually the number of transitioning communities in your area warrant some central group to help provide local support, but this will emerge over time, rather than be imposed. (We've seen several instances of people rushing off to transition their entire county/region rather than their local community, and it doesn't work very well.) In exceptional situations where a "Local Coordinating Hub" or "Temporary Initiating Hub" needs to be set up (such as Bristol, Forest of Dean), that hub will have certain responsibilities. These are developing over time – see the Primer for current details. Further criteria apply to initiating/coordinating hubs – these can be discussed person to person.	Isn't that what Transition is all about? We are defining tivon as our main effort, while interacting with the surrounding communities for symbiosis relationships, like the CSA's and local farmers around tivon, of the beduin's villages bordering tivon.
16	We recommend that one person (preferably more) on the core team should have attended a permaculture design course... it really does seem to make a difference	Asaf is practicing Permaculture for a decade, and is on the verge of submitting his Permaculture diploma, first locally in Israel, and then (maybe) also to gaia university. Orit also participated at a PDC.