

“On American Sustainability”—Significant Findings and Conclusions

Following are the significant findings and conclusions associated with “On American Sustainability”. The entire paper can be found at - <http://www.wakeupamerika.com/PDFs/On-American-Sustainability.pdf>.

1. Our American way of life—300+ million people enjoying historically unprecedented material living standards—is not sustainable; it must and will come to an end, soon.
2. America is irreparably overextended—we are living hopelessly beyond our means, both ecologically and economically.
3. For centuries, we have been persistently and systematically eliminating the ecological resources and economic resources upon which our American way of life and our very existence depend; available supplies associated with many of the most critical of these resources will soon be insufficient to support our existing population level and material living standards.
4. The extent to which we are overextended is appalling. Under the best case scenario, sustainable US resource supplies can support less than 20% of our existing population, living at less than 20% of our current average living standard.
5. Our culture of persistent resource overexploitation, which has enabled our “success”—our extraordinary American way of life, is also responsible for our “predicament”—our unsustainable American way of life.
6. Sustainability is inevitable. We can transition voluntarily to a sustainable lifestyle paradigm, or we can allow Nature to orchestrate our transition for us, through societal collapse.
7. There can be no soft landing. If we transition voluntarily to a sustainable lifestyle paradigm, we will experience devastating reductions in our population level and/or living standards; if we allow Nature to orchestrate our transition, we will experience apocalyptic reductions in both our population level and living standards.
8. There is only one rational solution to our predicament. We must, as a society, transition quickly and beginning immediately to a sustainable lifestyle paradigm, one in which we live entirely within our means—on renewable natural resources exclusively—forever.
9. Unfortunately, we are “culturally incapable” of transitioning voluntarily to a sustainable lifestyle paradigm—the inescapable consequence is imminent societal collapse.
10. In the absence of an almost inconceivable series of 11th hour miracles, our Societal Collapse could possibly occur within the next 5 years, will probably occur within the next 15 years, and will almost certainly occur within the next 25 years.

Author Bio (Chris Clugston): For the past three years I have conducted extensive independent research into the area of sustainability, the goals of which are to quantify from a combined ecological and economic perspective the extent to which our American society is currently overextended—living unsustainably beyond our means—and to understand the causes, implications, and possible solutions associated with our predicament.

Prior to that I spent thirty years working with information technology sector companies in marketing, sales, finance, M&A, and general management—the last twenty as a corporate chief executive and management consultant. I received an AB/Political Science, Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Penn State University, and an MBA/Finance with High Distinction from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. I can be reached at [coclugston “at” comcast “dot” net](mailto:coclugston@comcast.net).