

Ethical concerns, community economies and learning to be affected by the Anthropocene

Society in the Anthropocene Conference

Bristol, June 2013

Katherine Gibson

Institute of Culture and Society

University of Western Sydney



**Workshop on
“An Ethics for Living in the
Anthropocene”
February, 2010**



If our species does not survive the ecological crisis, it will probably be due to our failure to imagine and work out new ways to live with the earth, to rework ourselves and our high energy, high consumption, and hyper-instrumental societies adaptively....

We will go onwards in a different mode of humanity, or not at all.

Val Plumwood 2007: 1

Extracts from **A MANIFESTO FOR LIVING IN THE ANTHROPOCENE**

Thinking

Our thinking needs to be in the service of life—and so does our language. This means giving up delusions of mastery and control, and instead seeing the world as uncertain and yet unfolding.

Stories

Stories are important for understanding and communicating the significance of our times. We aim to tell stories that: enliven moral imagination, drawing us into deeper understandings of responsibilities, reparative possibilities, and alternative futures.

Researching

While we continue our traditions of critical analysis, we are forging new research practices to excavate, encounter and extend reparative possibilities for alternative futures.

Colleagues wherever you may be, put your research to work and take a stand for life!

Scholars Concerned for Life in the Anthropocene, Georges River, 8th February, 2010

Michael Hardt's conception of a militant biopolitics

Judith Butler's reflections on the performativity of economics

Michel Callon and John Law on 'qualculation'

William Connolly's insights into temporality, affective registers and the 'sweetness of life'

**TAKE BACK
THE
ECONOMY**

AN ETHICAL GUIDE FOR
TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITIES

J. K. GIBSON-GRAHAM
JENNY CAMERON
AND STEPHEN HEALY



University of Minnesota Press
2013

theory ...to make the present and thus to delimit or invent the subject of that making—a “we” characterized not only by our belonging to the present but our making it.

Militant theory... seeks to govern but to govern differently, creating a new life and a new world

*Michael Hardt “The Militancy of Theory” The South Atlantic Quarterly
110: 1 Winter 2011*

..if new forms of organizing the economic world become available, it will be only on the basis of increased reflection not only on what works and what does not, but also, what is the best way for economics to work? How do we reinforce such normative questions into the theory of performativity?

*Judith Butler "Performative agency" Journal of Cultural Economy 3, 2010:
154*

Qualculation ...

the process in which entities are detached from other contexts, reworked, displayed, related, manipulated, transformed and summed in a single space

Michel Callon and John Law, "On qualculation, agency, and otherness" Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 23(5) 2005

DIVERSE ECONOMIES

Transactions

Enterprise

Labour

MARKET

CAPITALIST

WAGE

ALTERNATIVE MARKET

ALTERNATIVE CAPITALIST

ALTERNATIVE PAID

Fair trade

State-owned

Self-employed

Alternative currencies

Socially responsible

Reciprocal labour

Underground market

Non-profit

In kind

Barter

Work-for-welfare

NON-MARKET

NON-CAPITALIST

UNPAID

Household sharing

Worker co-operative

Housework

Gift giving

Sole proprietorship

Volunteer

Hunting, fishing

Community enterprise

Self-provisioning

Gleaning

Feudal

Slave labour

Theft, poaching

Slave

DIVERSE ECONOMIES

Property

PRIVATE

ALTERNATIVE PRIVATE

State managed assets

Customary (clan)

Community land trusts

OPEN ACCESS

Atmosphere

International waters

Open source IP

Finance

MAINSTREAM

ALTERNATIVE MARKET

State banks

Credit Unions

Micro-finance

Community financial
institutions

NON-MARKET

Sweat equity

Family lending

Donations

Interest free loans

“Thinking in service of life”....

- *making space for a militant biopolitics*
- *opening up economic performativity*
- *attending to the ‘qualculations’
involved in performing diverse non-
capitalist economic relations*

“Thinking with the community of life” ...

- *slowing down to appreciate different temporalities of world becoming*
- *learning to be affected by joining a new collective, a human/non-human ‘being-in-common’*



**CARBON
COPS**



Lish Fejer

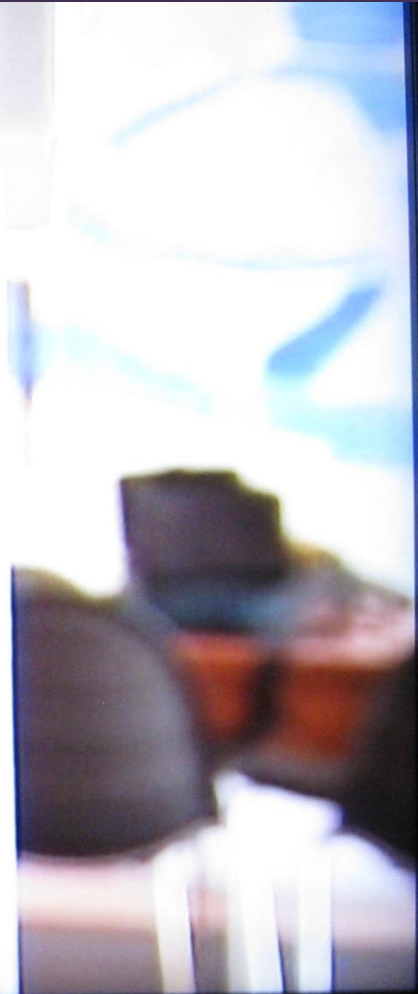
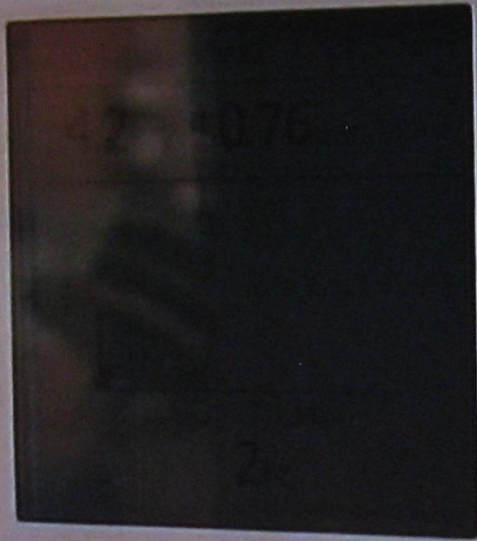
Environment







ecoMeter



CARBON COPS

Transforming energy usage



Tuesdays at 8:00pm on ABC TV

Meet the Families

Fact Sheets

Emissions Calculator

Compare the Pair

About the Show

CARBON COPS

CARBON COPS

CARBON COPS
CARBON COPS

CARBON COPS
CARBON COPS

Carbon Emissions Calculator

Did you know?

Australian households emit almost one-fifth of Australia's total carbon emissions. The average of 14 tonnes (14,000 KG) per household each year.

Part 1 of 3

Household Carbon Emissions

Enter your annual household energy use in whole numbers:

Natural gas or LPG	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Megajoules	<input type="text" value="0"/>
OR for LPG if you buy by the litre	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Litres	<input type="text" value="0"/>
OR Natural gas in WA (units in 3.6 Megajoules)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Units	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Electricity	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Kilowatt-hours	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Oil or Kerosene	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Litres	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Wood (used in a slow combustion heater)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Kilograms	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Wood (used in an open fireplace)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Kilograms	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Annual CO₂e Emissions (KG)

Total Annual Household Emissions

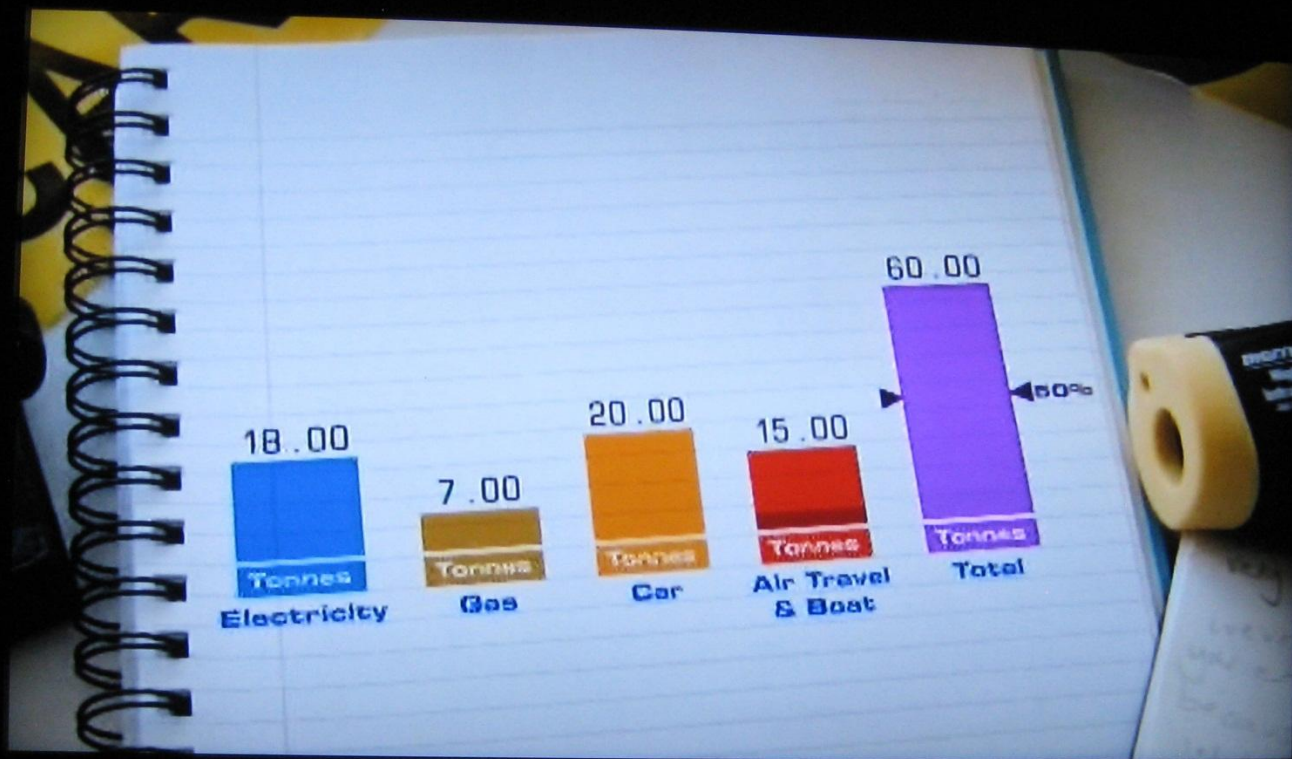
KG

Related Resources

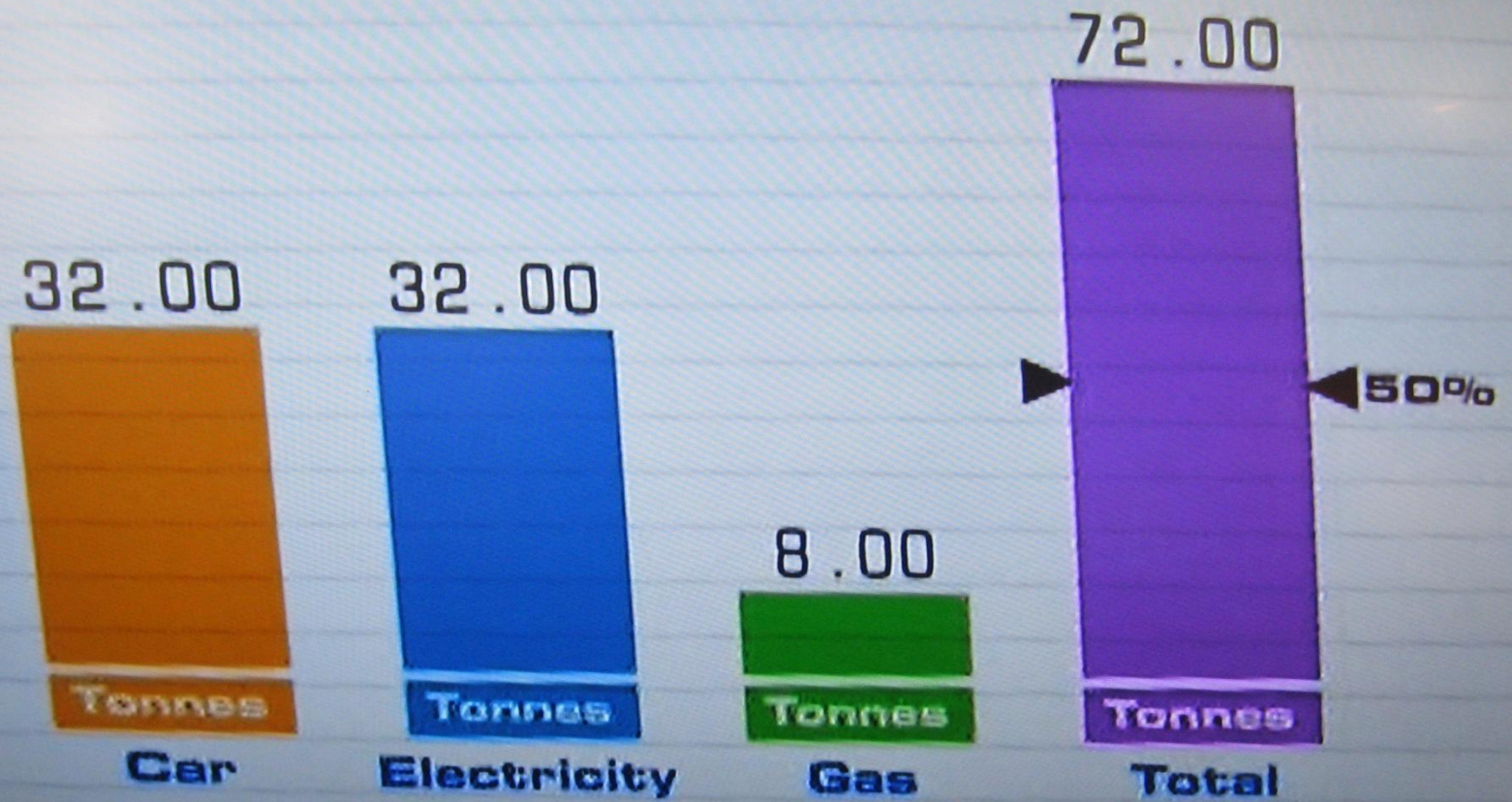
Are you a greenhouse gas? Maybe you're an environmentalist. Find out with the Carbon Cops' 5 minute [greenhouse calculator](#).

Greenhouse FAQ

Do laptop computers use less energy than desktop computers?



Barrie family BEFORE



Donna's household BEFORE

Donna's got a lot more concern about [uncomfortable pause] the environment than I do.

I think a lot of the environmental statements are extremists. I don't accept that we are on the edge of the precipice.

Certainly there are improvements to be had, but fundamentally if we changed all our ways tomorrow there's still China and India are going to keep moving forward doing the same things that we did 100 years ago.

Donna's husband Peter

Navigation bar of Windows Internet Explorer showing the address bar with the URL http://www.abc.net.au/tv/carboncops/factsheets/cc_barries.pdf, search bar, and various toolbars including Favorites, File Tools, Tools, and Page Safety.

This family reduced their carbon emissions from 62 tonnes to 36 tonnes with an annual saving on their bills of \$7000.

What the Cops did

- Changed all the lights to energy efficient globes
- Lowered the ceiling fan 1m and put in a remote control to switch the fan's direction
- Installed low-flow showerheads in the bathrooms
- Installed heat reflecting glass in the light wells
- Added a thermal pool blanket
- Installed an aerating compost bin
- Showed the family a tree-planting program

What the Family did

- Reduced driving and increased public transport usage
- Shopped locally
- Joined the Walking School Bus
- Cut down the time that the pool pumps ran
- Stopped using the in-sink garbage disposal
Started composting
- Used cold wash in the washing machine
- Used dishwasher only when full
- Planted fruit trees
- Bought carbon offsets for their car and plane and boat emissions
- Turned appliances off at the wall
- Changed to green power

This household started with 19 tonnes of emission and cut that to just 9 tonnes. They cut their emissions from cars by 30%, electricity by 49% and gas by 70% for an annual saving of \$1000. Find out how to save on your energy bills with cheap and removable options in our Renters fact sheet.



What's inspired me to ride my bike is the fact that I produce 19 tonnes of carbon emissions a year.

It's just wrong you know.

The least I can do is ride my little bike while I'm at home. It's good for the environment and hey I might even lose a few kilos. I feel better about myself just knowing that I'm making a difference. If no one else in the whole world does it at least, you know, I know I've given it a try.

Verne in rural Victoria



Donna: I'm not pretending that the learnt behaviour of 20 years is going to change overnight but I think that with baby steps that the children are listening and I think that they're interested and that our behaviour will change.

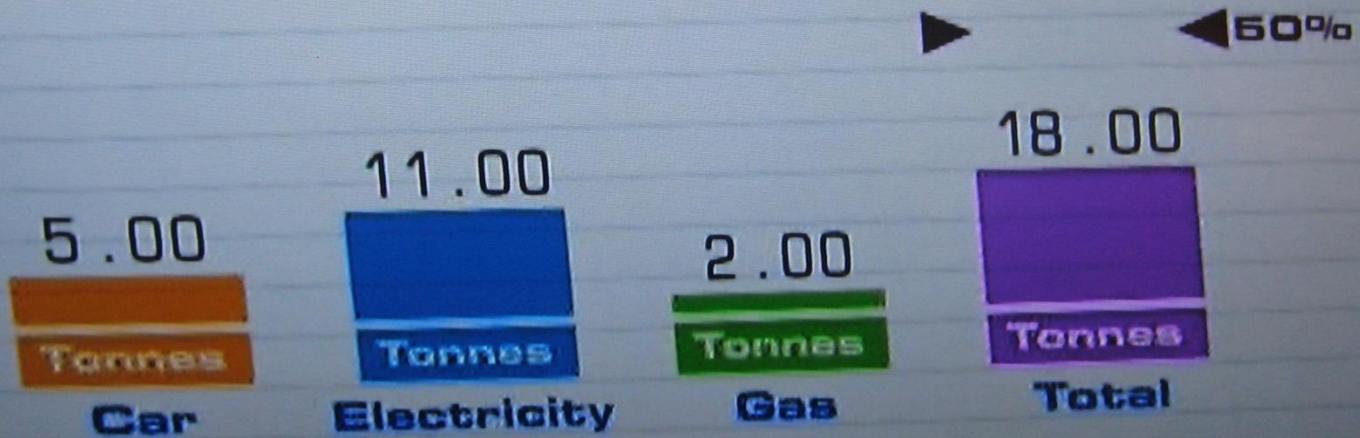
Peter: I think that they've accepted the process but they haven't garnered the understanding, and process without understanding isn't sustainable anyway.

Donna: But that will come...I really do think it will



Barrie family AFTER

Savings = \$10000

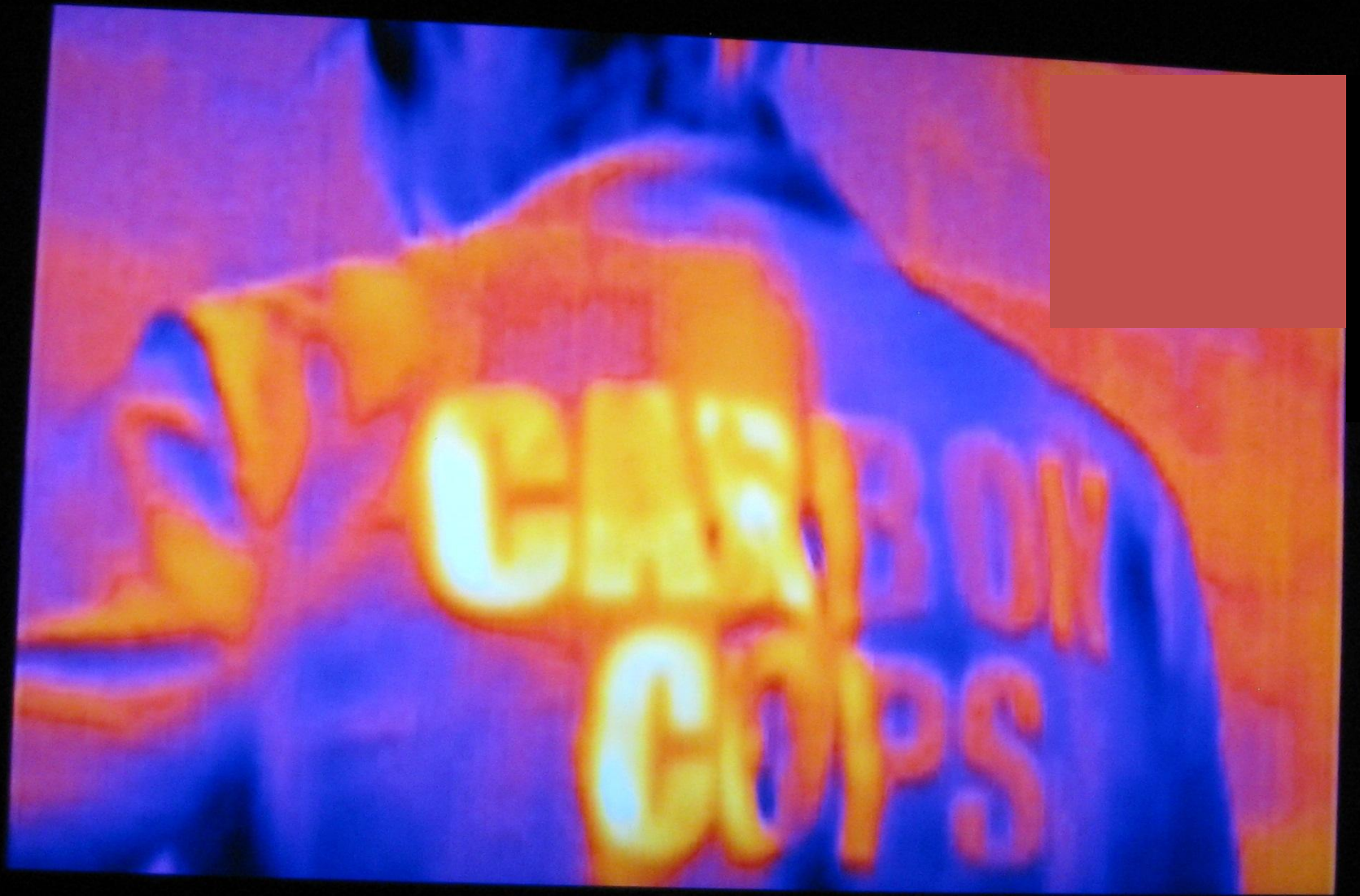


Barrie family AFTER with carbon offsets

Grandmother: And down the track we've got these little grandchildren are growing up and how important is it for them that we're doing all this? If we can make the world better by doing this, well we're very happy about it.

Verne's wife: I'm just conscious of it now, of what I can do for the world.

Kath's partner: I think what we are doing now is just the start. And I'm thinking about what the future is going to be for our kids and what I'm leaving behind.



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ECONOMY**



AN ETHICAL GUIDE FOR
TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITIES

J. K. GIBSON-GRAHAM
JENNY CAMERON
AND STEPHEN HEALY

...for people
and the planet

Surviving together well and equitably

Distributing surplus to enrich social and environmental health

Encountering others in ways that supports their wellbeing as well as ours

Maintaining, replenishing and growing our natural and cultural commons

Investing our wealth so that future generations can live well, and

Consuming sustainably

KEY CONCERNS OF COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

Surviving well

WAGE

**ALTERNATIVE
PAID**

Self-employed

Reciprocal labor

In kind

Work-for-welfare

UNPAID

Housework

Volunteer

Self-provisioning

Slave labor

Distributing
surplus

CAPITALIST

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Slave

Encountering
others

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Gleaning

Theft, poaching

KEY CONCERNS OF COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

Investing in a future

Commoning

PRIVATE

**ALTERNATIVE
PRIVATE**

State managed assets

Customary (clan)

Community managed
resources eg land trusts

OPEN ACCESS

Atmosphere

International waters

Open source IP

MAINSTREAM

**ALTERNATIVE
MARKET**

State banks

Credit Unions

Micro-finance

Community financial
institutions

NON-MARKET

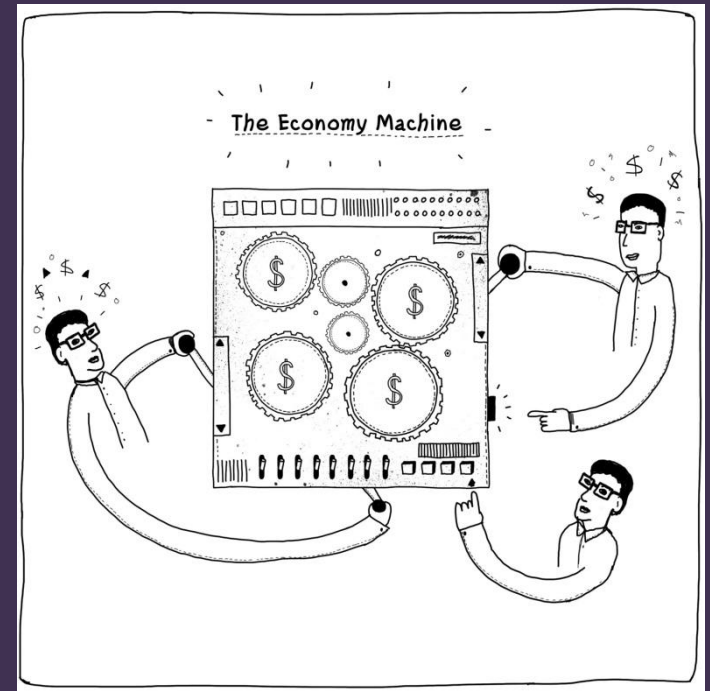
Sweat equity

Family lending

Donations

Interest free loans

subjects of the capitalist economy



EMPLOYEE

higher and higher wages

BUSINESS OWNER

more and more private profit

CONSUMER

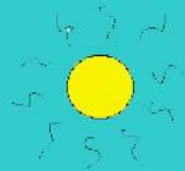
cheaper and cheaper goods

PROPERTY OWNER

higher and higher private returns

INVESTOR

more and more private returns



wage labor
produce for a market
in a capitalist firm

in schools **on the street**

in neighborhoods

within families **unpaid**

in church/temple

the retired **between friends**

gifts *self-employment* volunteer

barter moonlighting children

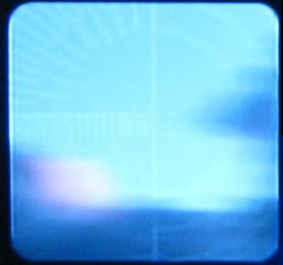
informal lending not for market illegal

not monetized **self-provisioning**

under-the-table **producer cooperatives**

consumer cooperatives non-capitalist firms

the ice-berg economy



ECONOMY

COPS

KEY CONCERNS OF COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

Surviving well

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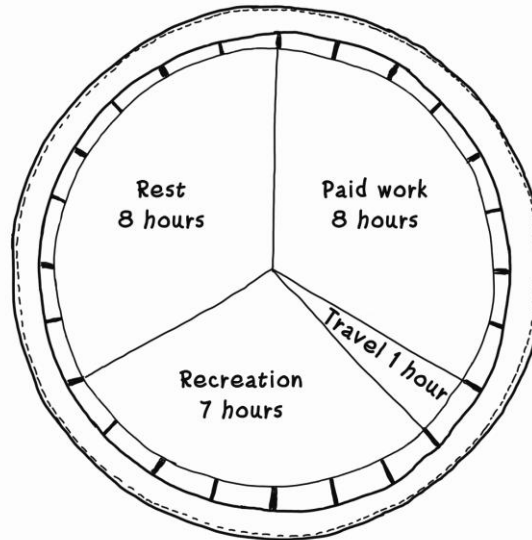
Slave labor

DIVERSE LABOUR IDENTIFIER

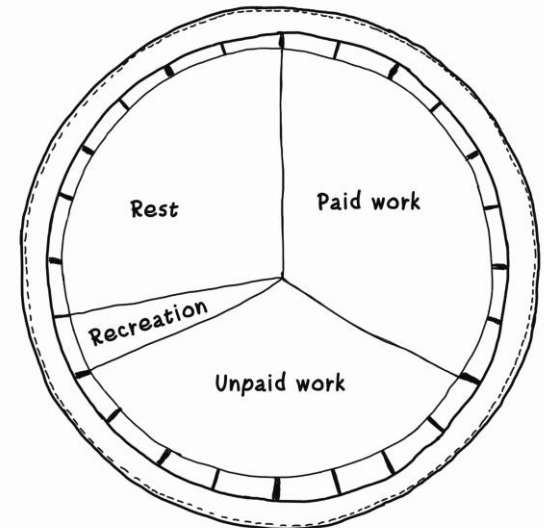
Labour

WAGE

WORKING MAN'S 24 HOUR CLOCK



SINGLE MOTHER'S DOUBLE DAY
24 HOUR CLOCK



UNPAID

Housework

Volunteer

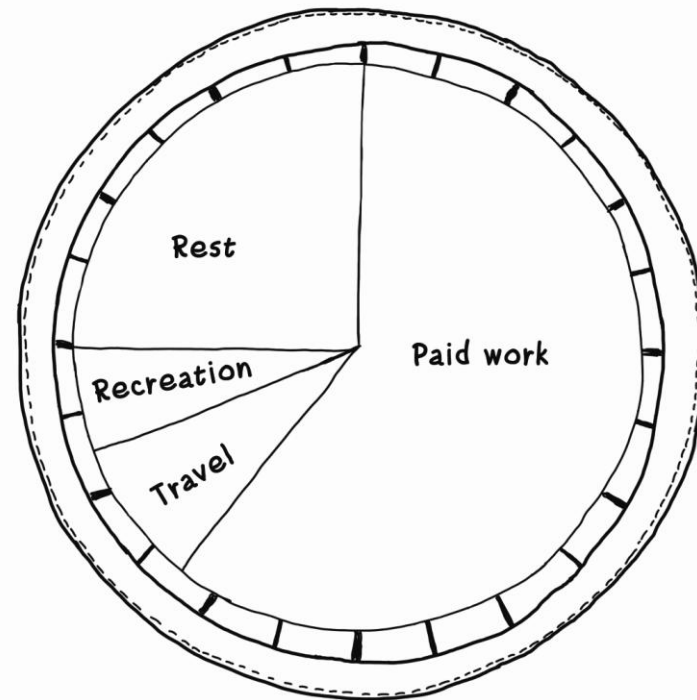
Self-provisioning

DIVERSE LABOUR IDENTIFIER

Labour

WAGE

MAYA'S 24 HOUR CLOCK



DIVERSE LABOUR IDENTIFIER

Labour

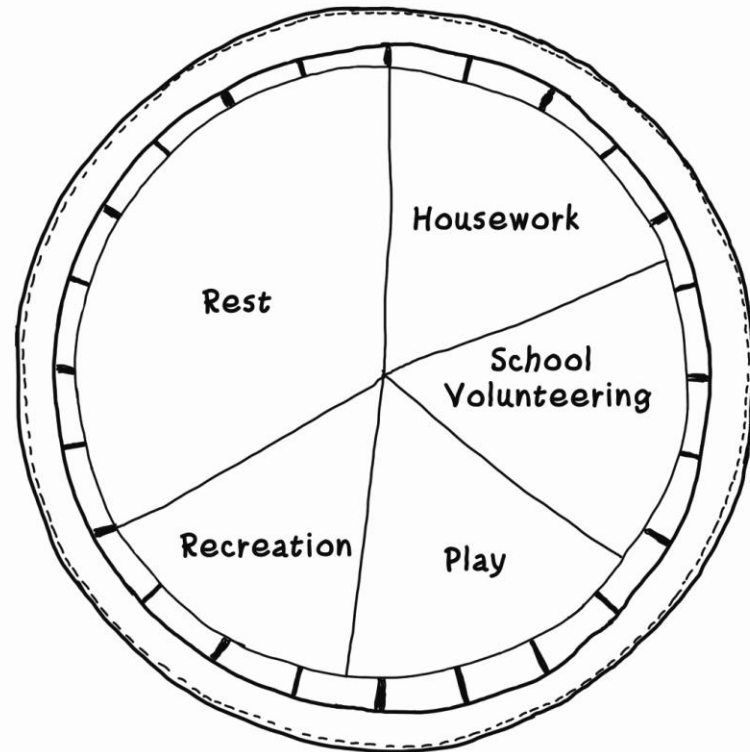
ALTERNATIVE PAID

Self-employed
Reciprocal labor
In kind
Work-for-welfare

UNPAID

Housework
Volunteer
Self-provisioning

JOSEF'S 24 HOUR CLOCK



WELLBEING SCORE CARD

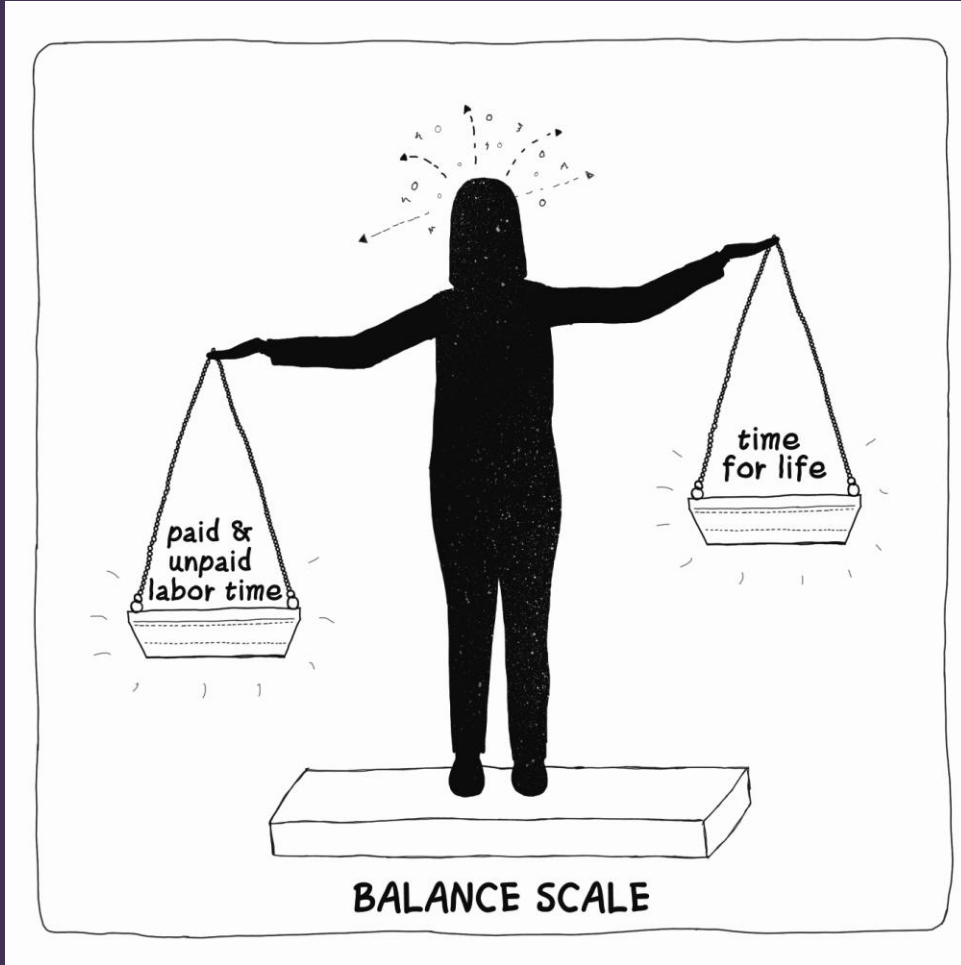
WORKER'S WELLBEING	1	2	3
Material		X	
Occupational		X	
Social			X
Community			X
Physical			X

MAYA'S WELLBEING	1	2	3
Material			X
Occupational		X	
Social	X		
Community	X		
Physical		X	

WELLBEING SCORE CARD

SINGLE MOTHER'S WELLBEING	1	2	3
Material	X		
Occupational	X		
Social	X		
Community	X		
Physical	X		

JOSEF'S WELLBEING	1	2	3
Material		X	
Occupational			X
Social			X
Community			X
Physical			X





MAKING AUSTRALIA HAPPY

JOIN US

HOME

THE SHOW

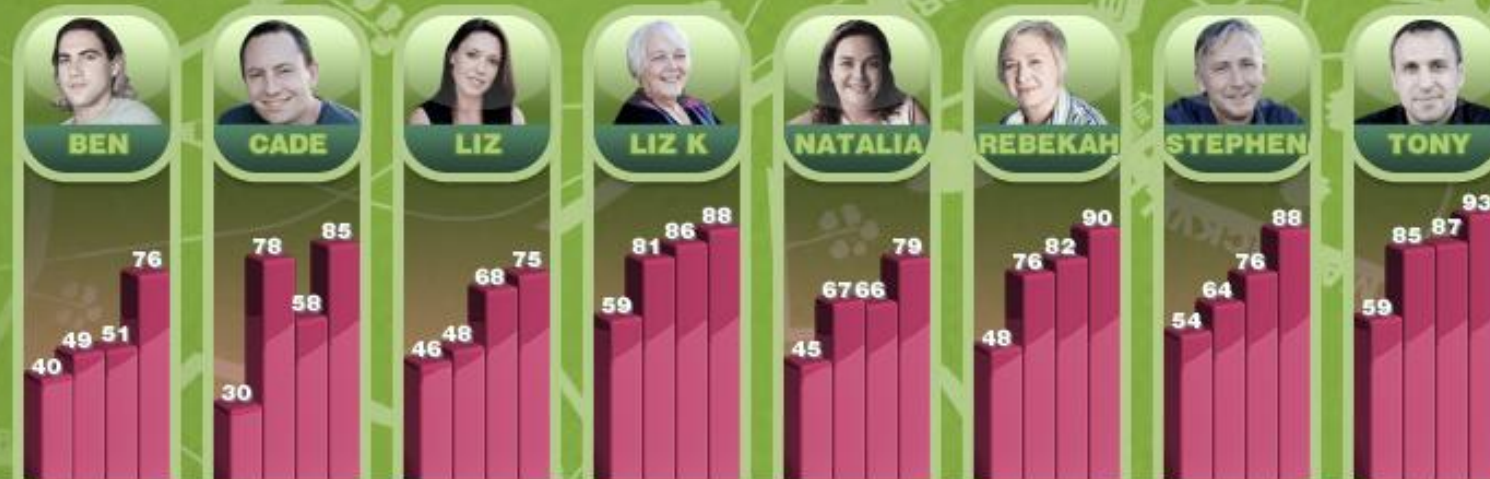
VOLUNTEERS

SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS

EPISODES

GET HAPPY

Search this site



Happy minds = health

Monday 29 November 20

Volunteers prove that good for your health

To truly road test the "science of happiness", we chose eight volunteers from eight walks of life. They all lived within the Marrickville area but were unknown to each other. We needed the group to represent a range of ages, backgrounds and life circumstances. What they shared in common was the desire to get happy. Over the eight weeks, we measured their changing happiness levels with the **Happiness 100 Index**.

GET

Smile before you phone. Works for

Thursday 18 N



Ecological Footprint

Measuring our impact on the environment

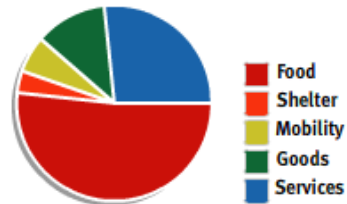


YOUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

Many activities impact our Footprint. If everyone lived like you, we'd need **2.1** Planet Earths to provide enough resource.



Here is how your Ecological Footprint breaks down:



To support your lifestyle, it takes **3.7** global hectares of the Earth's productive area.

(4.1 tonnes of carbon)



Can you reduce your Ecological Footprint?

edit your footprint

go back and retake parts of the quiz

explore scenarios

explore simple actions to change your Footprint

continue

continue without exploring

reset quiz

NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS 2008

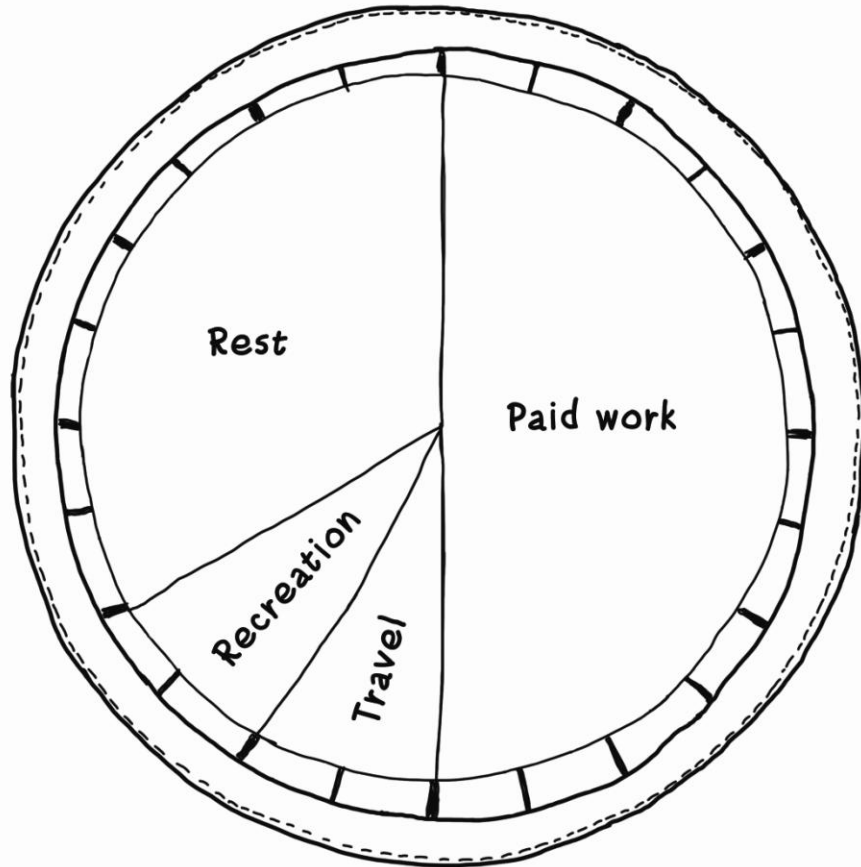
COUNTRY	PLANETS
USA	4.0
Australia	3.7
Canada	3.6
UK	2.6
Mexico	1.8
China	1.1
Cuba	1.0
Philippines	0.7
India	0.5
Timor Leste	0.3

WELLBEING SCORE CARD

INDIVIDUAL	1 <i>poor</i>	2 <i>sufficient</i>	3 <i>excellent</i>
Material			
Occupational			
Social			
Community			
Physical			

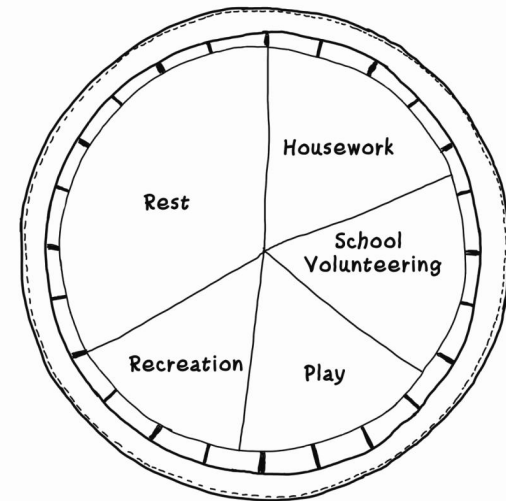
PLANETARY	1 <i>larger</i>	2 <i>same</i>	3 <i>smaller</i>
Ecological Footprint			

AUSTRALIAN COAL MINER



NT
ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT
OF > 3.5 PLANETS

JOSEF'S 24 HOUR CLOCK



Less than 3.5 planets

DIVERSE LABOUR IDENTIFIER

Labour

WAGE

**ALTERNATIVE
PAID**

Self-employed

Reciprocal labor

In kind

Work-for-welfare

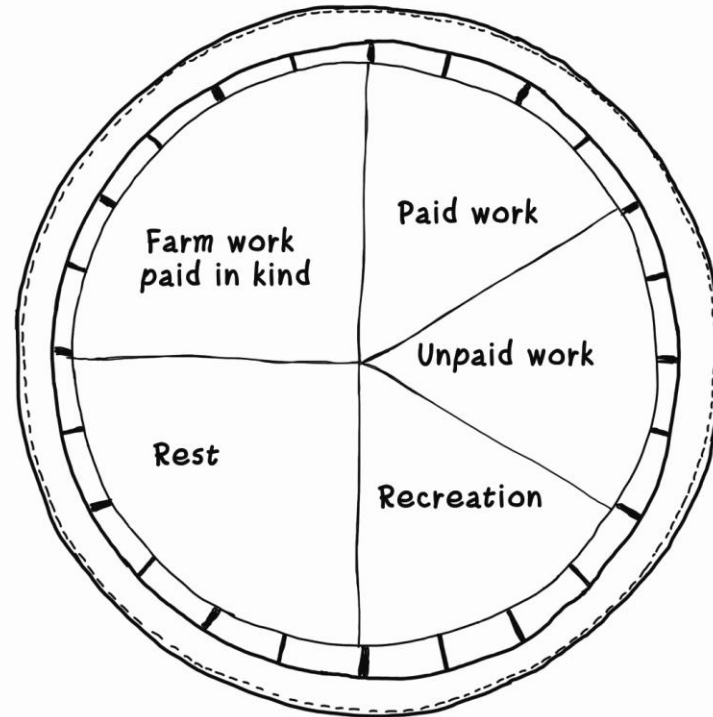
UNPAID

Housework

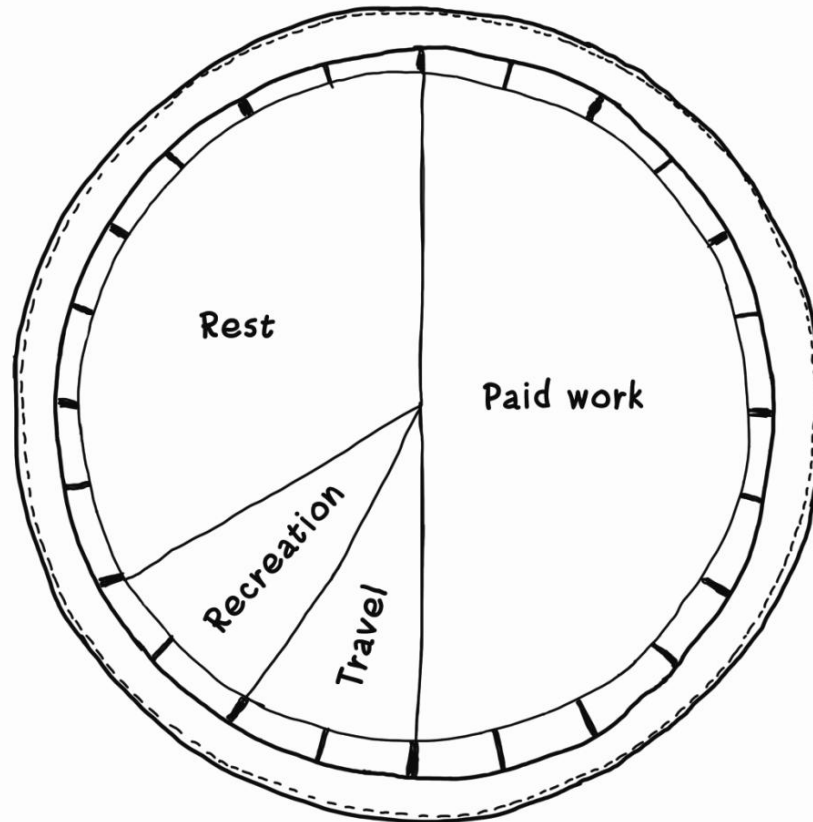
Volunteer

Self-provisioning

DANILO'S 24 HOUR CLOCK

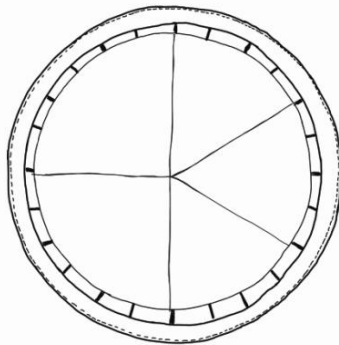


AUSTRALIAN COAL MINER



ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT
OF > 3.5 PLANETS

PHILIPPINES FARMER



ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT
OF < 0.7 PLANETS

TWO Toughest Place to be a...

[Home](#)
[Episodes](#)
[Clips](#)
[Galleries](#)
[Producer's story](#)
[Participants](#)

Series 1

Three British workers: a midwife, a bus driver and a paramedic. Experienced. Qualified. Looking for a challenge. They are on a quest to do their jobs in some of the toughest conditions on the planet.

Midwife

3/3 A midwife abandons a maternity unit in Sutton Coldfield to work in Monrovia.

FIRST BROADCAST: 27 Feb 2011



Clips



Buzz about this

On blogs

- It's Called a Jeepney - BBC
- Just my two pennies' worth
- The Toughest Place To Be

Links are found automatically and the...
Find out more or report a problem.

They discovered they share the same values and believe in working hard, driving members of the public around their country's capital city.

But though they have similar jobs, the rewards are very different.

Josh West: Bus driver



Age:
39.

Location:
London, England.

Training:
Six-week bus-driving course.

Salary:
Approx £24,000 per annum before overtime

Typical working day:
Each day is different and we work a variety of routes. We tend to drive one bus route, but if we do over the weekend we can drive a variety of routes. We have to be at each stop, when we have to write down what happens.

Kit:
Obviously we have a uniform; we also have a bag in case the payment system packs up and we can give them a note to pay later. We also have a pen to write down what happens.

Tell us a secret:



Rogelio Castro: Jeepney driver



Age:
49, turning 50 on July 24.

Salary:
I usually take home between 500 pesos (£7) and 1,000 pesos (£14) a day (before tax).

Training:
I learned driving through experience, but I also had some professionals teach me.

Typical working day:
I start driving at 6.00am and go on til 8.00pm. I can no longer count the number of hours I work.



It would seem though that if it's going to be taken on as a long term issue that we have to plan for the long term not just in our households but in our neighbourhoods and in our country.

Kath in the Carbon Cops

A photograph of a person wearing a blue t-shirt with the word "COPS" printed on it in yellow. The person is holding a yellow object, possibly a piece of clothing or a bag. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red rectangular box containing the word "ECONOMY" in bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters. The background is dark, and the overall image has a slightly grainy, high-contrast appearance.

ECONOMY

revealing the *ethical* abilities in actors who did not know before that they had them

making sure that some of these new competences are sunk into *common sense* through a new set of practical tools.....

Thankyou

www.communityeconomies.org

ABOUT COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

KEY IDEAS

RESEARCH PROJECTS

PEOPLE

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES & CHAPTERS

BOOKS

CONFERENCE PAPERS

THESES & DISSERTATIONS

DIALOGUES

RESOURCES

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

TEACHING RESOURCES

PRESENTATIONS &
LECTURES

STORIES

The **Community Economies Collective** is an ongoing collaboration between academic and community researchers and activists in Australia, North America, Europe and South East Asia.

The goal of the Collective is to theorize, discuss, represent and ultimately enact new visions of economy. By making multiple forms of economic life viable options for action, the Collective aims to open the economy to ethical debate and provide a space within which to explore different economic practices and pathways.

The project grew out of J.K. Gibson-Graham's feminist critique of political economy that focused upon the limiting effects of representing economies as dominantly capitalist. Central to the project is the idea that economies are always diverse and always in the process of becoming. This project developed as a way of documenting the multiple ways in which people are making economies of difference and in the process realizing their interdependence with others.

Our work aims to

- produce a more inclusive understanding of economy
- highlight the extent and contribution of hidden and alternative economies
- theorize economy and community as sites of becoming
- build sustainable non-capitalist economic alternatives
- foster ethical economic experimentation



Nuestras Raices social enterprises, Holyoke, Massachusetts

