

PRESS RELEASE

14 March 2008

POSITIVE ENERGY CONFERENCE BRINGS TOGETHER LEADING PEAK OIL LUMINARIES

A major international conference at the Findhorn Foundation in Moray, Scotland brings together a rich crop of thinkers, artists and activists to explore how communities can draw benefit from the current energy and climate change crises. *Positive Energy – Creative Community Responses to Peak Oil and Climate Change*, running from March 22 – 28, pulls together an extraordinarily diverse and impressive group of presenters including celebrated US thinkers, Joanna Macy and Richard Heinberg, mythodrama founder Richard Olivier, and creator of the Transition Towns movement, Rob Hopkins.

“We are trying to do something distinctive and new with this event,” said conference organiser, Jonathan Dawson, “This is to explore how we might respond to the issues surrounding peak oil and climate change not just on the intellectual level, but also by drawing on our deepest reserves of creativity. This is why we have invited people from the world of the arts and theatre, from deep ecology and from practical projects on the ground at community-level. We need to be thinking outside of the box and engaging all of our talents to navigate through the challenges that face us. This conference is aimed at doing just that.”

“We will have an unprecedented concentration of much the expertise and experience that exists globally in how communities can work positively with the changes needed to deal with the current energy crises and not lose quality of life.”

There will be an especially strong Scottish contingent among the presenters, including Scotland’s Minister of the Environment, Richard Lochhead MSP. “In terms of how communities might use the coming energy crisis to enrich themselves socially and economically, Scotland may well have much to teach,” said Jonathan Dawson. “There are a growing number of pioneering community-owned renewable energy projects in the north of Scotland, for example, that are generating both ecological and economic benefits to the communities that own them.”

The Findhorn Community and ecovillage, where the conference is being held, is a partner in UN initiative CIFAL Findhorn, one of only 12 training centres in sustainable development around the world that are associated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. The Findhorn ecovillage has the lowest ecological footprint for any community measured in the industrialised world, just half the UK national average.

For further information, contact Jonathan Dawson: jonathan@gen-europe.org.

www.findhorn.org/positiveenergy

