

~~Planners eat Doughnuts~~
~~Planners are Doughnuts~~
Planners and Doughnuts



Don Alexander



Tyler Brown



Pat Maloney



Chris Osborne



Doughnut Economics

Christopher Osborne, Planning Manager

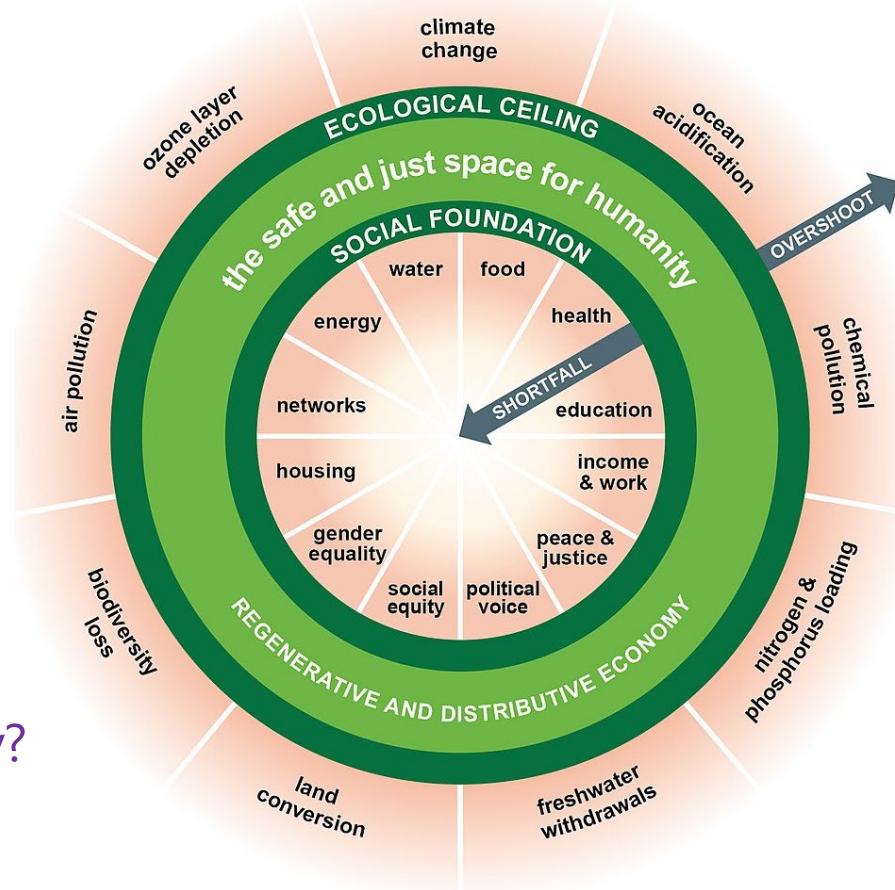
Elevation 2.0, SS-01

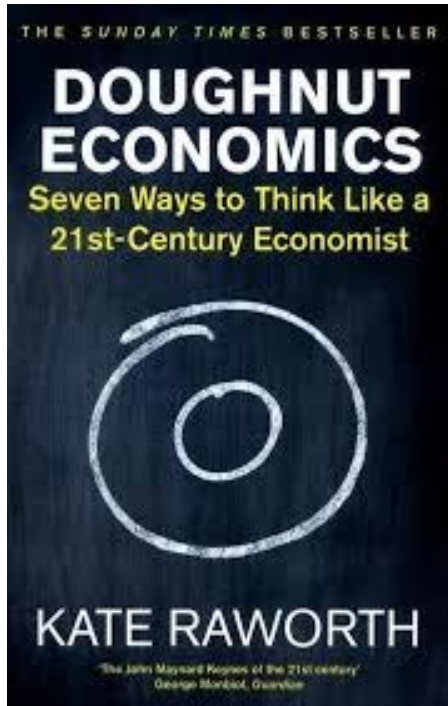
5 July 2022

Overview



- How is this constructed?
- Who's using it, and how?
- What does it suggest for local-level land use policy?





Kate Raworth,
economist

- Conceptualization of Ecological Economics + Social Justice
- Science Based
- Non-prescriptive

*"A healthy economy should be designed to **thrive**, not grow"*



1. The Outer Ring

Ecological Economics:

Economy, Society, Environment: A Nested Relationship



Interdisciplinary
academic field
since 1970s

**Neoclassical
Economics**

Marxism



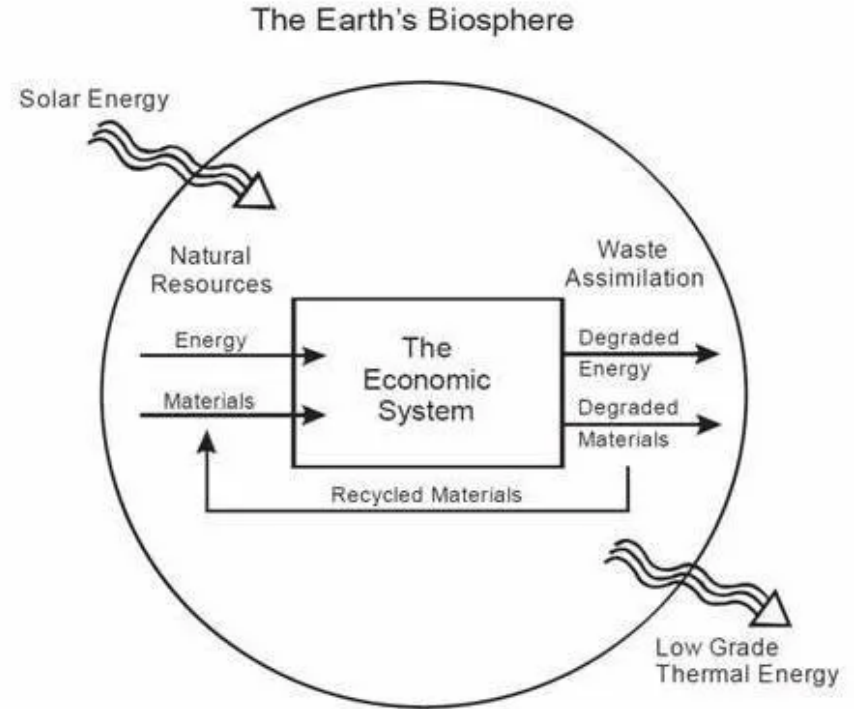
**Economic Growth &
Environmental Exploitation**

Photograph: Alffoto/WWF

MUNICIPALITY OF
NORTH
Cowichan

Ecological Economics recognizes:

- **Resource Limits**
- **Pollution sink limits**
- **Natural ecosystems cannot be commodified/substituted**
- **Value/ethics-free economics are not realistic**



Planetary Boundaries

Genetic Diversity (species extinctions)

Functional Diversity (biodiversity loss)

% land converted to crop/pasture

km³ water used

Sedimentary cycle (slow)

Gaseous cycle (fast)

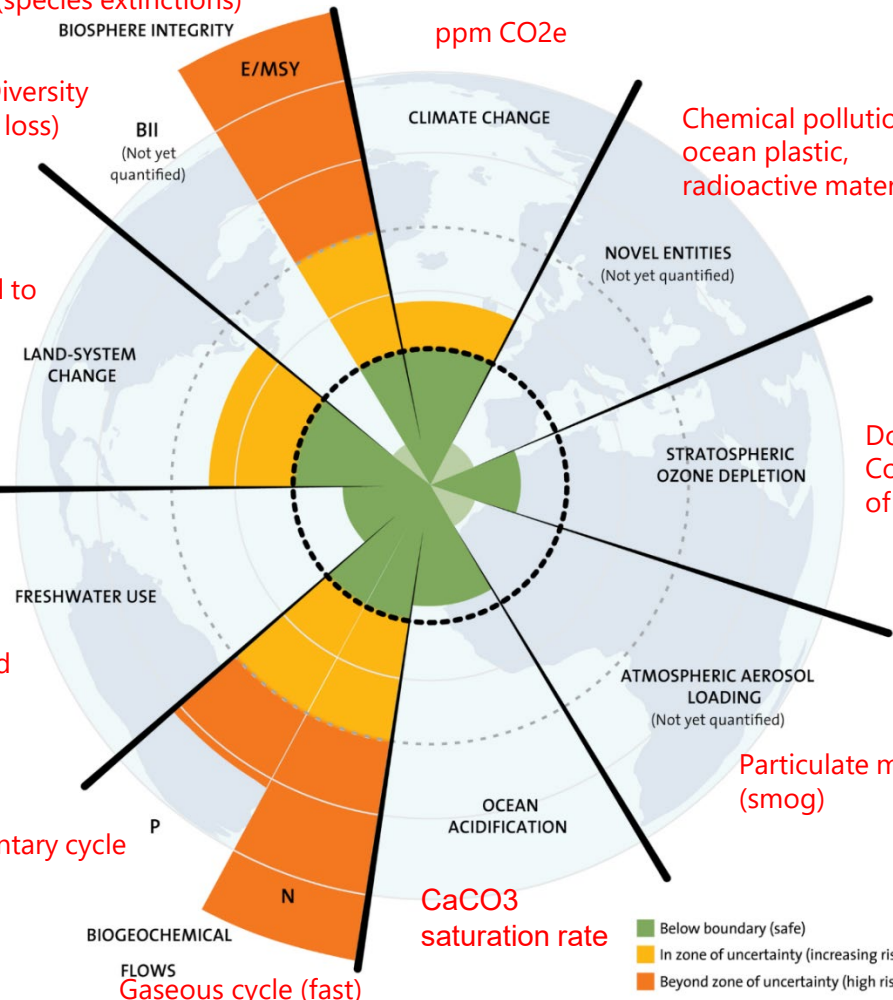
ppm CO₂e

Chemical pollution, ocean plastic, radioactive material

Dobson units: Concentrations of O₃

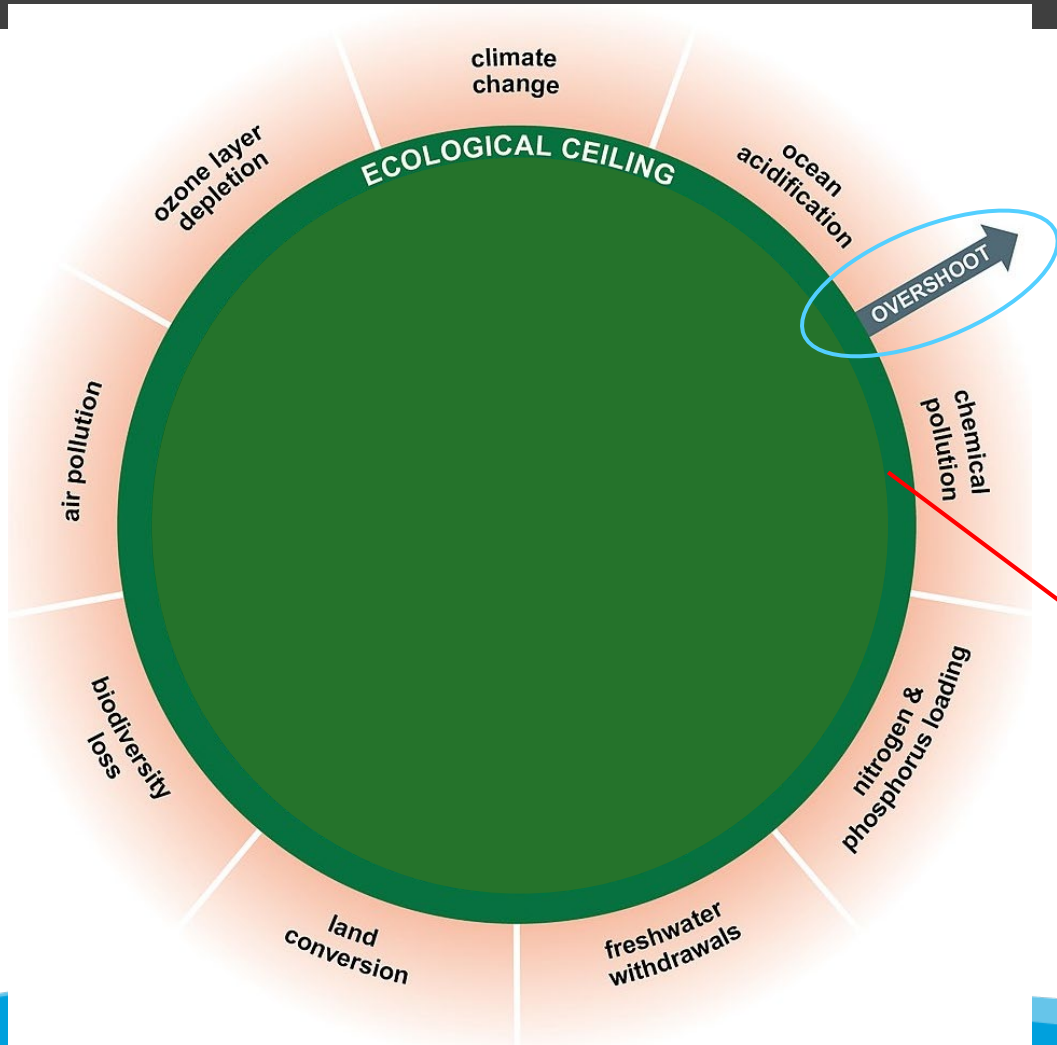
Particulate matter (smog)

CaCO₃ saturation rate



■ Below boundary (safe)
■ In zone of uncertainty (increasing risk)
■ Beyond zone of uncertainty (high risk)

Rockström, J., Steffen, W., Noone, K. *et al.* A safe operating space for humanity. *Nature* **461**, 472–475 (2009). <https://doi.org/10.1038/461472a>



Outer ring: "Ecological Ceiling"

Scientifically determined

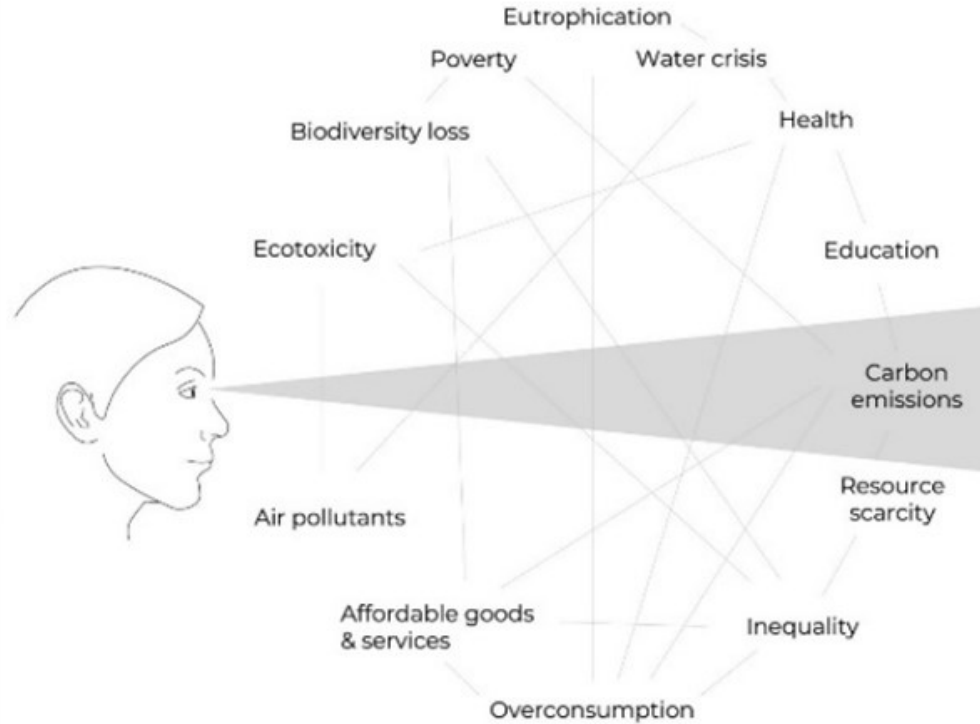
Overshoot

Ecological Overshoot: when a population uses more resources than the environment can provide

What happens if the Earth reached Ecological Overshoot?

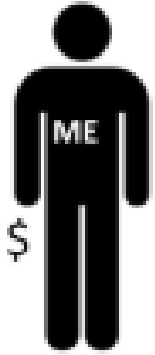


Carbon Tunnel Vision



Sustainability transition

2. The Inner Ring



Sp. Homo economicus

- Normal and rational
- Not influenced by emotions
- Perfect knowledge of consequences/outcomes
- Exhaustive search for alternatives

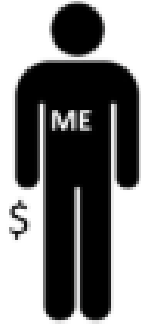
Rene Descartes

Conventional economic accounting forgets:

- Value of unpaid domestic work
- Value of voluntary work
- Culture and emotion
- Physical & biological constraints

- ▶ Ego at his heart
- ▶ Nature at his feet
- ▶ Either working or shopping
- ▶ Loves money
- ▶ Lacks empathy
- ▶ **Profoundly damaging**

What are people really like?



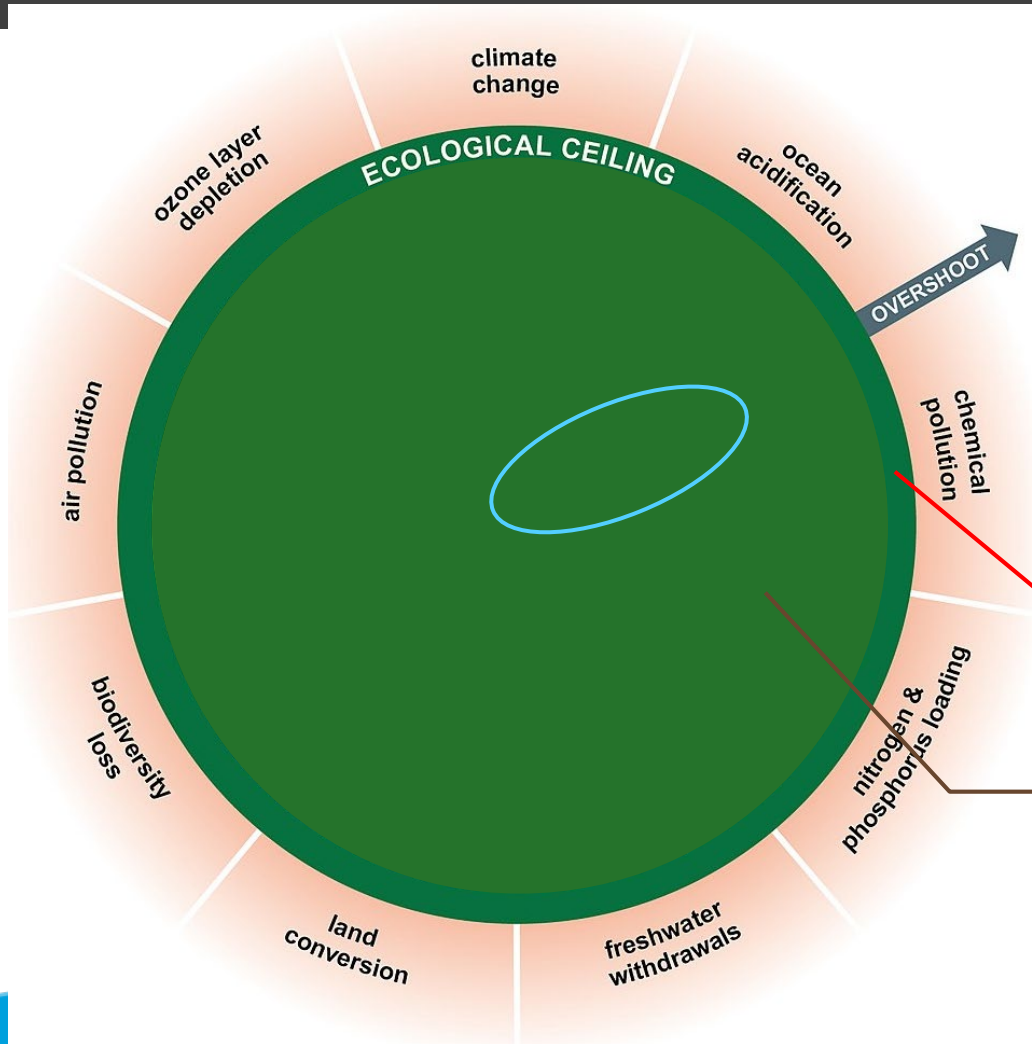
a) Rational economic man



b) Social heuristic humans

Image Credits: Kate Raworth

<https://www.kateraworth.com/2014/09/29/econ101quiz/>




Outer ring: Ecological Ceiling

Inner ring: Social Foundation

Socially negotiated

Who's using this & how?

Tyler, Don...



Don Alexander, Vancouver
Island University

Amsterdam

A Doughnut
Case Study

- Not only the first to implement the doughnut model, but the furthest along, and has been directly aided by the concept's author – Kate Raworth – and the organization she helped found, the *Doughnut Economics Action Lab* (DEAL).
- The interested parties include the City government, the Amsterdam Circle Economy group, and the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, which has been supplying research assistance from students and professors.
- An overall Amsterdam Doughnut Coalition of changemakers from different sectors has been the primary vehicle for galvanizing the process.

The Organizers Have Been Using 'Four Lenses'

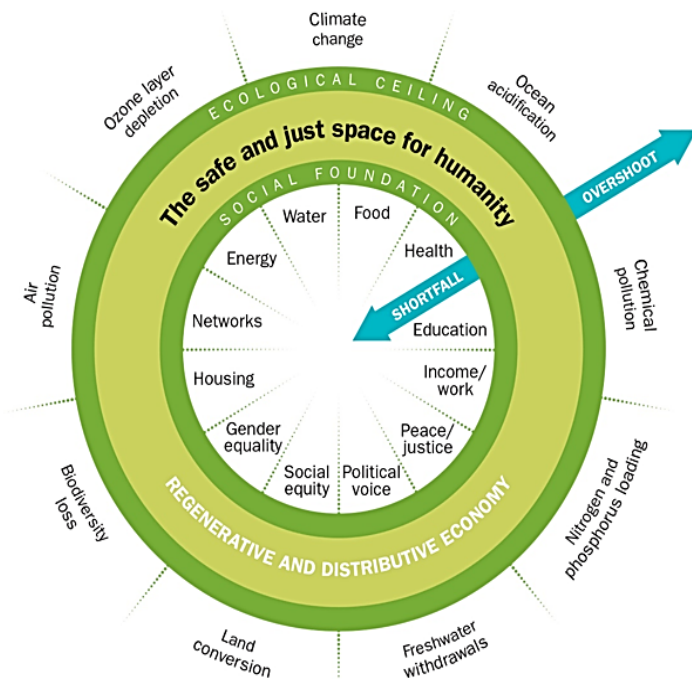
	SOCIAL	ECOLOGICAL
LOCAL	<p>What would it mean for the people of Amsterdam to thrive?</p> <p>1</p>	<p>What would it mean for Amsterdam to thrive within its natural habitat?</p> <p>2</p>
GLOBAL	<p>What would it mean for Amsterdam to respect the wellbeing of people worldwide?</p> <p>4</p>	<p>What would it mean for Amsterdam to respect the health of the whole planet?</p> <p>3</p>

Using the 'Four Lenses' Involves Asking Challenging Questions

- For instance, in what areas is the city/ society failing to meet people's needs, failing to provide the essential social foundations? For instance, in what areas is the city/ society failing to meet people'
- How can the city's inhabitants learn from and emulate what local nature does so well – build soil, absorb pollutants, conserve and purify water, support a diversity of species, rely on direct and indirect solar energy, recycle and re-absorb wastes, etc.?
- How can a city's inhabitants respect the needs of all of humanity everywhere through not supporting through our consumption socially and ecologically exploitative industries, repressive governments, and be able to welcome refugees – whether victims of war, persecution, and ecological collapse?
- How can a city's inhabitants reduce their ecological footprint so as not to contribute to exceeding overall planetary limits, such as greenhouse gas emissions, declining biodiversity, ocean acidification, deforestation, chemical pollution, etc.

They Started with a 'City Portrait'

- Building on Raworth's model and what the City aspired to ("city targets") and, using available data, where did stand with respect to each of the categories in the model ("city snapshot")?



WHAT WOULD IT MEAN FOR AMSTERDAM TO RESPECT THE HEALTH OF THE WHOLE PLANET?

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

CITY TARGET
Reduce the city's in-boundary CO₂ emissions to 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, and to 50% below by 2050.

CO₂ emissions in Amsterdam has increased the level of ocean acidity by 30% since the beginning of the industrial revolution.

EXCESSIVE FERTILIZER USE

The Dutch agricultural sector is responsible for 40% of the total amount of nitrogen emissions, mainly caused by fertilizers.

OVERFISHING

Fish consumption has more than doubled in the Netherlands since 1980, leaving the country to eat 20% of fish caught globally in the world.

FRESHWATER WITHDRAWALS

The Netherlands has the highest water footprint in Europe, with almost 50% of total water consumption embedded in imports such as meat, wheat and feed.

CLIMATE CHANGE

CITY TARGET
Reduce the city's in-boundary CO₂ emissions to 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, and to 50% below by 2050.

In 2017, Amsterdam is its boundary CO₂ emissions were 20% above 1990 levels. Furthermore, 40% of the city's total CO₂ emissions are produced beyond city boundaries, embedded in the building materials, food and consumer products that the city imports.

AIR POLLUTION

60 tons of air pollution in China is associated with products and services that are exported to other countries including the Netherlands.

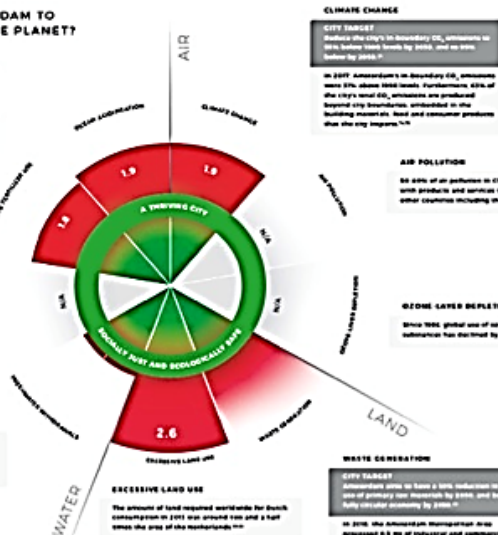
ECOLOGICAL DEPLETION

Since 1960, global use of ozone-depleting substances has declined by over 90%.

WASTE GENERATION

CITY TARGET
Amsterdam aims to have a 50% reduction in the use of primary raw materials by 2020, and to be fully circular economy by 2050.

In 2016, the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area generated 4.6 m of industrial and commercial waste and 1.1 m of household waste, equivalent to one and a half Egyptian Pyramids.



Based on that they worked on a “city-selfie”



- The “city-selfie” mapped on to the city-portrait all the initiatives that the City, business, and civil society were already taking to meet doughnut-related objectives, whether consciously or not.

- These were told in the form of stories and images drawn from organizations & neighbourhoods and intended to encourage the public to embrace and take ownership of

Having completed the “city-selfie,” the next step was developing concrete actions, using the “9 M’s” for guidance

- Finding synergies between addressing affordable housing and issues of health, climate, energy, air pollution, education, and gender equity;
- Taking action on food and biomass;
- Addressing excessive consumption;
- Seeking optimal efficiencies in construction;
- And overall: seeking to reduce inputs, reduce throughputs, reduce waste and pollution outputs of all kinds, and strength-en the social foundation in all sectors...

8 WAYS TO TURN THE CITY PORTRAIT INTO TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

- MIRROR** Reflect on the current state of the city through the portrait’s holistic perspective
- MISSION** Create a compelling vision of what it means to become a thriving city
- MOBILIZE** Bring together the city changemakers and stakeholders needed to bring about change
- MAP** Identify existing initiatives, policies and strategies that are already taking the city in this direction
- MINDSET** Embrace the values, ways of working, and new narratives that underpin the deeper shifts required
- MOMENTUM** Create an iterative process that drives cycles of transformative policy and action
- MONITOR** Assess progress against leading indicators that enrich the City Portrait
- MMM!** Make it irresistible: be creative, have fun, share learning and stories of success - and celebrate!

LESSONS FROM AMSTERDAM & OTHER cities

- 'catalysts'/ conveners are essential, but it's important they not take over the process
- buy-in by local government is very important
- it's essential to relate the model to current existing problems
- stable funding makes a big difference in achieving success
- negotiate obstacles such as lack of conceptual clarity, turf wars, silo thinking, the attitude that the 'doughnut' represents nothing new, and lack of buy-in by government and the business community
- a broad-based coalition is essential...

Resources


- *City Doughnut: A Tool for Transformative Action*, produced by Doughnut Economics Action Lab, Circle Economy, C40 Cities, Biomimicry 3.8, March 2020.
- Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL) Newsletter #18 (2022). 'Doughnut Unrolled' Suite of Tools. <https://doughnuteconomics.org/>.
- Goodwin, Kate. *Designing the Doughnut: A Story of Five Cities*. Doughnut Economics Action Lab, 2022. <https://doughnuteconomics.org/>.
- Koulumpi, Hektra. *Putting Doughnut Economics in Practice in Cities*, n.d.
- Nugent, Ciara. *Amsterdam Is Embracing a Radical New Economic Theory to Help Save the Environment: Could It Also Replace Capitalism?* *TIME Magazine*. February 1, 2021.
- Raworth, Kate. *Introducing the Amsterdam City Doughnut*. April 8, 2020.
- Raworth, Kate. 2022. *Doughnut Economics: Thinking Like 21st Century Economists* [2nd edition]. Harmondsworth: Penguin Random House.

A woman with long blonde hair is shown from the chest up, looking through black binoculars. She is wearing a dark jacket. The background is a soft-focus natural setting with warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is serene and focused.

THE NANAIMO DOUGHNUT

The aim is to meet the needs of all people
within the means of the living planet.

– *Kate Raworth*

A child wearing a colorful floral shirt and a pink hat stands on a beach covered in large pieces of driftwood. The child is holding a rope that is attached to one of the logs. In the background, there is a body of water and a forest of trees under a clear sky. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. A large orange circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

Destiny is not a matter of chance, but of choice. Not something to wish for, but to attain.

– *William Jennings Bryan*

The Municipal Problem

- Lack of Vision (and ambition)
- Lack of Coherence
- Misguided Frameworks
- Poor Communication

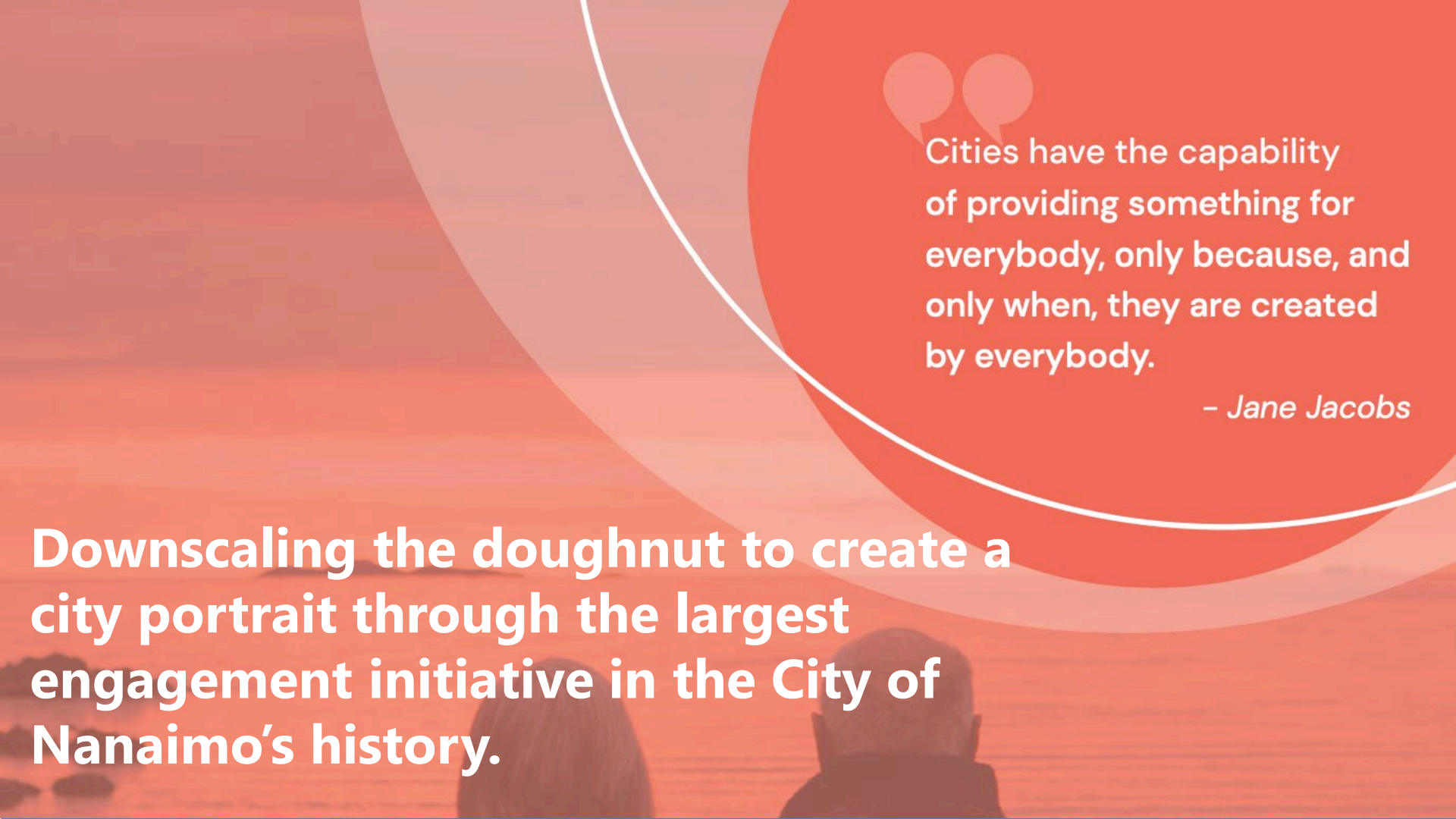
How can our city be home to thriving people, in a thriving community, while respecting the wellbeing of all people and the health of the planet?

reimagine



An aerial photograph of a city waterfront, likely Seattle, showing a marina with several boats docked, a large building complex, and surrounding urban development. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter and a white text box containing a list of community plans.

Official Community Plan
Transportation Plan
Active Mobility Plan
Health and Housing Action Plan
Parks, Recreation Culture & Wellness Plan
Economic Development Plan
Transit Re-Development Plan
Climate Resilience Strategy
Community Sustainability Action Plan
Accessibility & Inclusion Plan

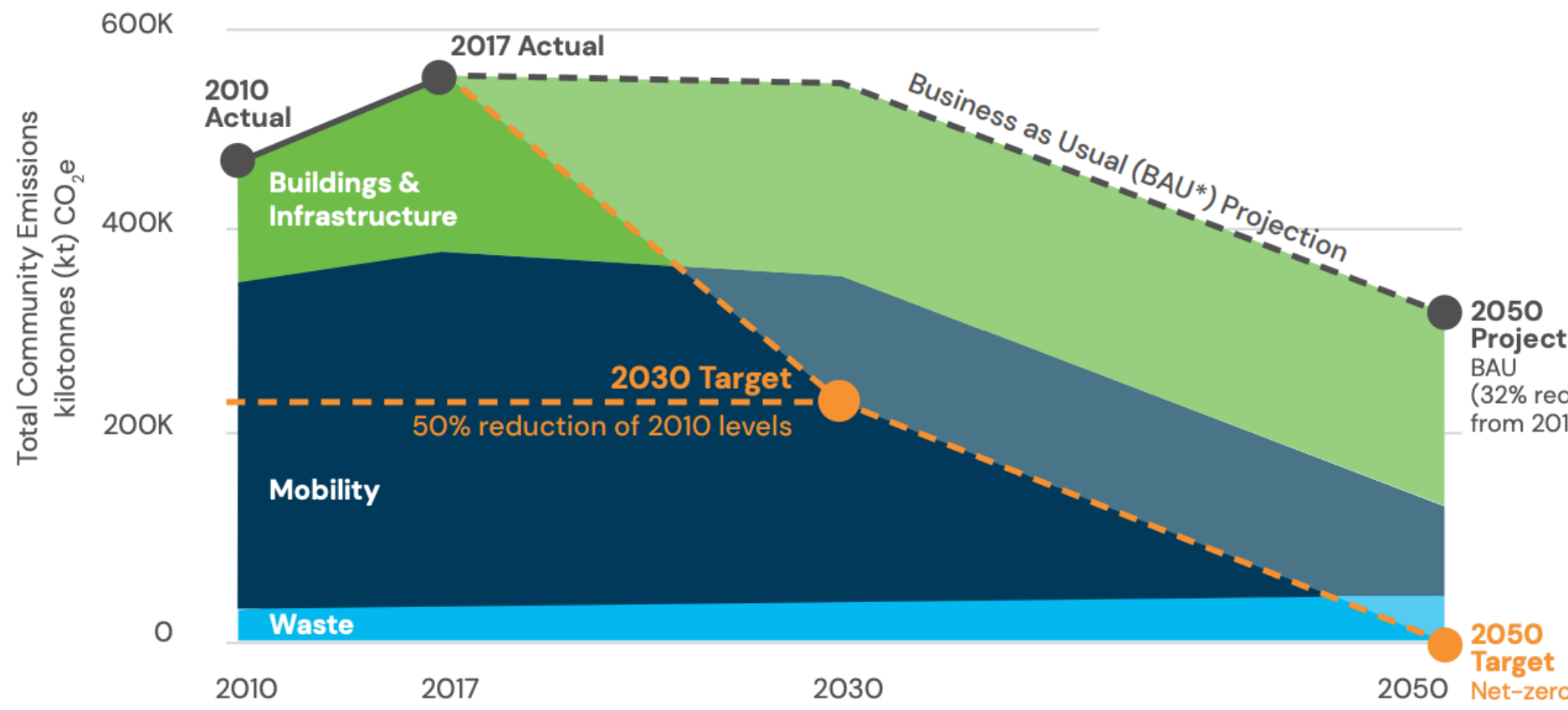


Cities have the capability
of providing something for
everybody, only because, and
only when, they are created
by everybody.

- Jane Jacobs

**Downscaling the doughnut to create a
city portrait through the largest
engagement initiative in the City of
Nanaimo's history.**

2020 Modelling of Nanaimo GHG Emissions Reduction



ONE FRAMEWORK  FIVE CITY GOALS



**A GREEN NANAIMO:
RESILIENT & REGENERATIVE
ECOSYSTEMS**

[Go to Section C1](#)



**A CONNECTED NANAIMO:
EQUITABLE ACCESS &
MOBILITY**

[Go to Section C2](#)



**A HEALTHY NANAIMO:
COMMUNITY WELLBEING &
LIVABILITY**

[Go to Section C3](#)



**AN EMPOWERED NANAIMO:
RECONCILIATION,
REPRESENTATION & INCLUSION**

[Go to Section C4](#)



**A PROSPEROUS NANAIMO:
THRIVING & RESILIENT
ECONOMY**

[Go to Section C5](#)

What's next?

Walk with the dreamers, the believers, the courageous, the cheerful, the planners, the doers, the successful people with their heads in the clouds and their feet on the ground. Let their spirit ignite a fire within you to leave this world better than you found it.

– *Wilferd Peterson*



What does this mean for local planners?

SOCIAL
(inner ring)

ECOLOGICAL
(outer ring)

LOCAL

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to thrive & prosper?

What would it mean for [*community*] to thrive within its own natural habitat?

GLOBAL

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to respect the wellbeing of people worldwide?

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to respect the health of the planet?

Matrix of social and ecological questions at the local and global scale – adapted from Donut Economics Action Lab

SOCIAL
(inner ring)

ECOLOGICAL
(outer ring)

**EXAMPLE
ACTIONS**

LOCAL

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to thrive & prosper?

What would it mean for [*community*] to thrive within its own natural habitat?

- **Localize economy**
- **Generate more products locally**
- **Grow *quality* of economy, not size**

GLOBAL

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to respect the wellbeing of people worldwide?

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to respect the health of the planet?

- **Housing & childcare access**
- **Development design and amenity**
- **Equality & education**
- **Food security**

Matrix of social and ecological questions at the local and global scale – adapted from Donut Economics Action Lab

SOCIAL
(inner ring)

ECOLOGICAL
(outer ring)

EXAMPLE
ACTIONS

LOCAL

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to thrive & prosper?

What would it mean for [*community*] to thrive within its own natural habitat?

- **Green belts**
- **Expand parks and green/wild spaces**
- **Regenerative agriculture (supply managed systems?)**
- **Harmful product bans**
- **Prioritize biodiversity**

GLOBAL

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to respect the wellbeing of people worldwide?

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to respect the health of the planet?

Matrix of social and ecological questions at the local and global scale – adapted from Donut Economics Action Lab

SOCIAL (inner ring)

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EXAMPLE ACTIONS

LOCAL

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to thrive & prosper?

What would it mean for [*community*] to thrive within its own natural habitat?

GLOBAL

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to respect the wellbeing of people worldwide?

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to respect the health of the planet?

- **Less consumption**
- **Fewer private vehicles**
- **GHG reductions**
- **Evaporate traffic: reallocate road space**
- **Invest in transit**
- **Migratory species habitat restoration**
- **Reuse, repair, recycle**

Matrix of social and ecological questions at the local and global scale – adapted from Donut Economics Action Lab

SOCIAL (inner ring)

ECOLOGICAL (outer ring)

EXAMPLE ACTIONS

LOCAL

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to thrive & prosper?

What would it mean for [*community*] to thrive within its own natural habitat?

- Ethical procurement
- Ethical consumption
- Zoning/business restrictions
- Advocacy

GLOBAL

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to respect the wellbeing of people worldwide?

What would it mean for people of [*community*] to respect the health of the planet?

Matrix of social and ecological questions at the local and global scale – adapted from Donut Economics Action Lab



"Yes, the planet got destroyed. But for a beautiful moment in time we created a lot of value for shareholders."



- **Pandemic has:**

- *Changed the way we live in cities*
- *Highlighted disparities*
- *Opened new options*

If you take a car, the park is too far!

Recreate
responsibly.
Walk, ride,
roll from
home.



PHOTOGRAPH: SCOTT STRAZZANTE/SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE



IMAGE: EPA, BBC

First cruise ship in two years arrives in Victoria following pandemic pause

Posted: Apr. 9, 2022 10:37AM | Last Updated: Apr. 9, 2022 6:20PM



The Victoria Harbour Ferry's welcomed the Koningsdam cruise ship as it arrives in Victoria.

LINDA ANGELO



Questions?