



Resilient Dorchester:

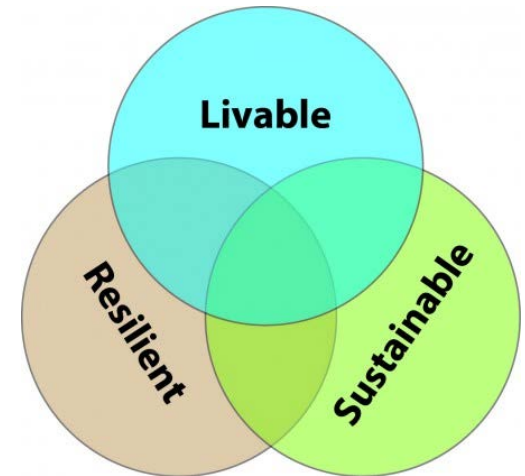
Lessons from an Inter-Connected World

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Overview

- What does 'resilience' mean?
- Why is it important?
- What are the key principles?
- What does a resilient place look like?
- How resilient is Dorchester?
- Endpiece: Pictures from academia



What does 'resilience' mean?

- Oxford English Dictionary Definition: “The **capacity to recover** quickly from difficulties”
- Now used in a **range of areas** of political and economic life (e.g. ecology, personal well-being, engineering systems, organisations, economies)
- **Place-based view:** the ability to “tolerate - and overcome - damage, diminished productivity, and reduced quality of life from an extreme event without significant outside assistance” (Mileti, 1999,p.4).

“Resilience thinking is different because it anticipates change and understands that major **shocks are inevitable** in a world that is facing huge challenges like climate change, resource scarcity, biodiversity loss, economic instability and social unrest. Resilience is not about predicting what shocks we will face, or when they will occur, but it is about ensuring that **we are prepared** for them when they do.”

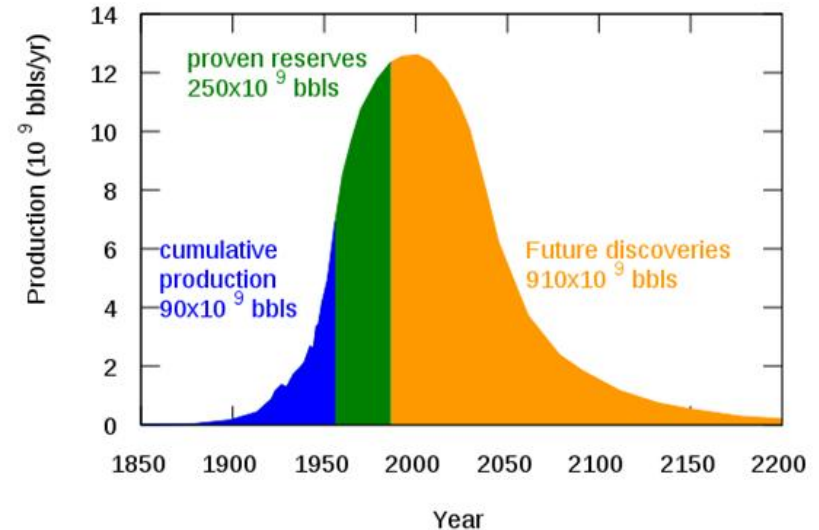
And shocks might be useful....

- “in a resilient social-ecological system, disturbance has the potential to **create opportunity** for doing new things, for **innovation and for development**”

(Folke 2006, p.253).

Why is it important?

- Climate change
- End of peak-oil



- ...and associated impacts on economic systems, ecology and human settlement

Damage to buildings

Water supply problems

Disruption to transport & distribution systems

Food shortages

Migration of people

Death of the suburb

Health impacts

Increasing energy costs

Loss of property value

Resource wars

Changing consumer demand

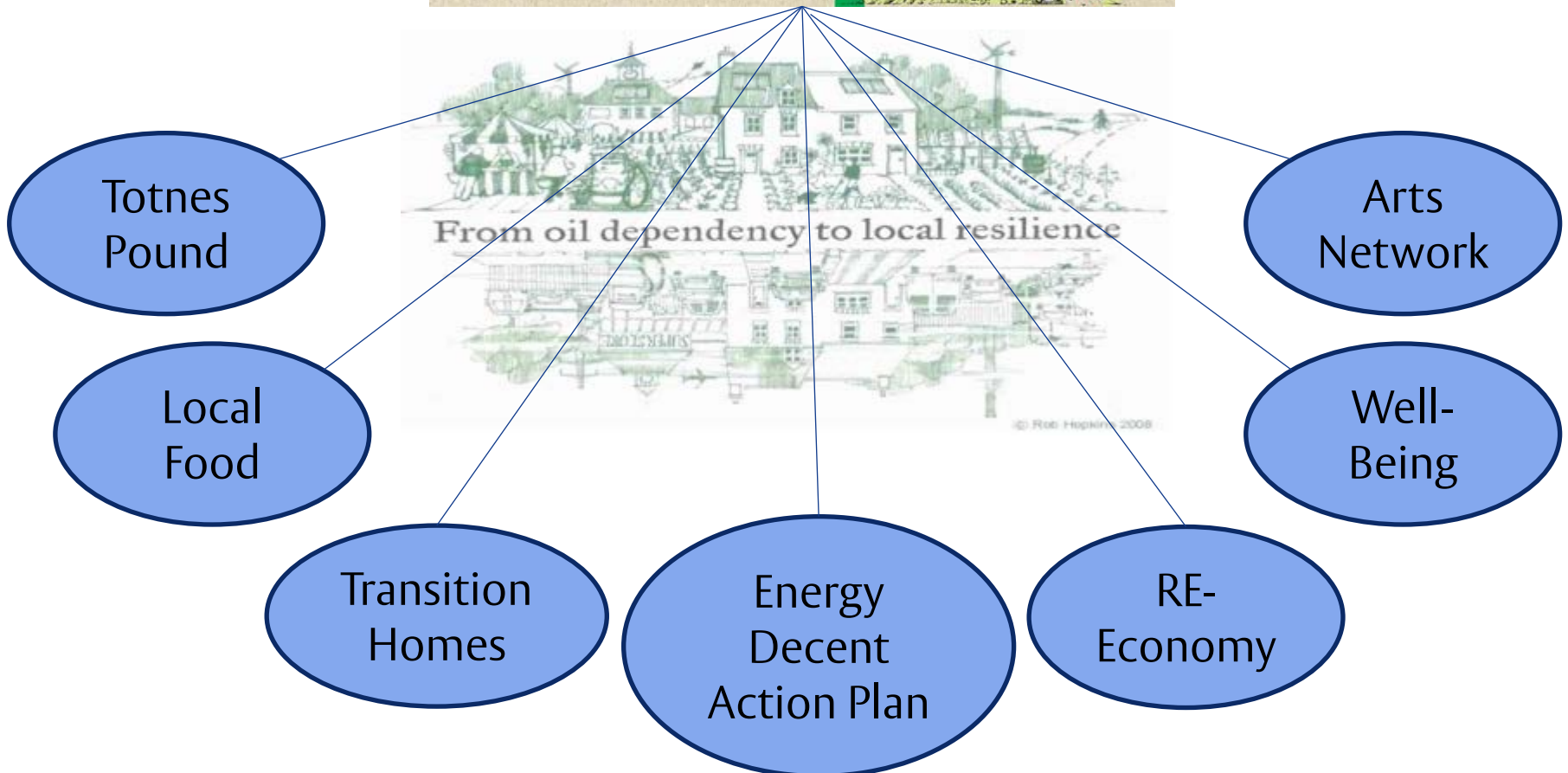
Re-localisation

What are the key principles?

- **Diversity** (reduces risk)
- **Self reliance** (loosen dependences)
- **Social capital** (build the networks)
- **Innovation** (experiment and learn)
- **Overlap** (increase the alternatives)
- **Feedback** (tighten the loops)
- **Eco-system services** (maintain them)



What does a resilient place look like? (Lessons)





GREENCITY FREIBURG

Solar Energy

Solar Economy

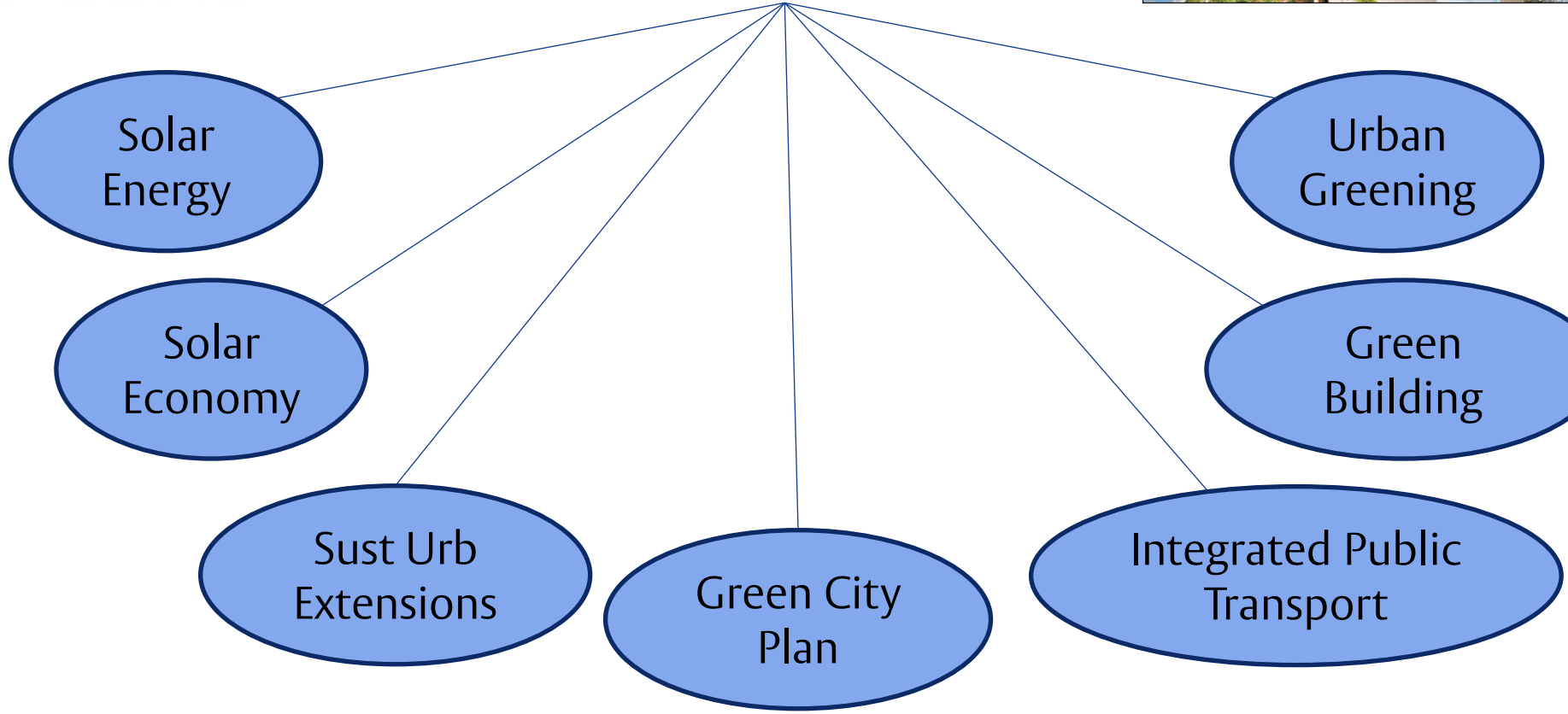
Sust Urb Extensions

Green City Plan

Integrated Public Transport

Green Building

Urban Greening



How resilient is Dorchester?

- Audience participation bit!
- **(In pairs)** identify 2 aspects of Dorchester that support resilience and 2 aspects that undermine resilience (5 mins)
- **(While group)** produce composite list (Joe as scribe, 10 mins)



Resilient Dorchester? (Output)

Supports Resilience

- Number of community groups
- Variety of shops
- Good (**variable**) transport
- Cultural Capital of SW
- Small/compact urban form
- Schools Partnership
- Environmental quality....**but...**
- Farmers market/community farm
- Existence of Transition Town
- Anaerobic digester (renewables)

Undermines Resilience

- District Council
- 'Feudal' culture
- Dormitory town
- Age structure of 'active' people
- Poor connections between groups
- Traffic congestion
-Env is constraint (e.g. wind energy)
- Lack of FE facility
- Missed opportunities (at Poundbury)
- Type and quality of jobs



Endpiece: Pictures from academia

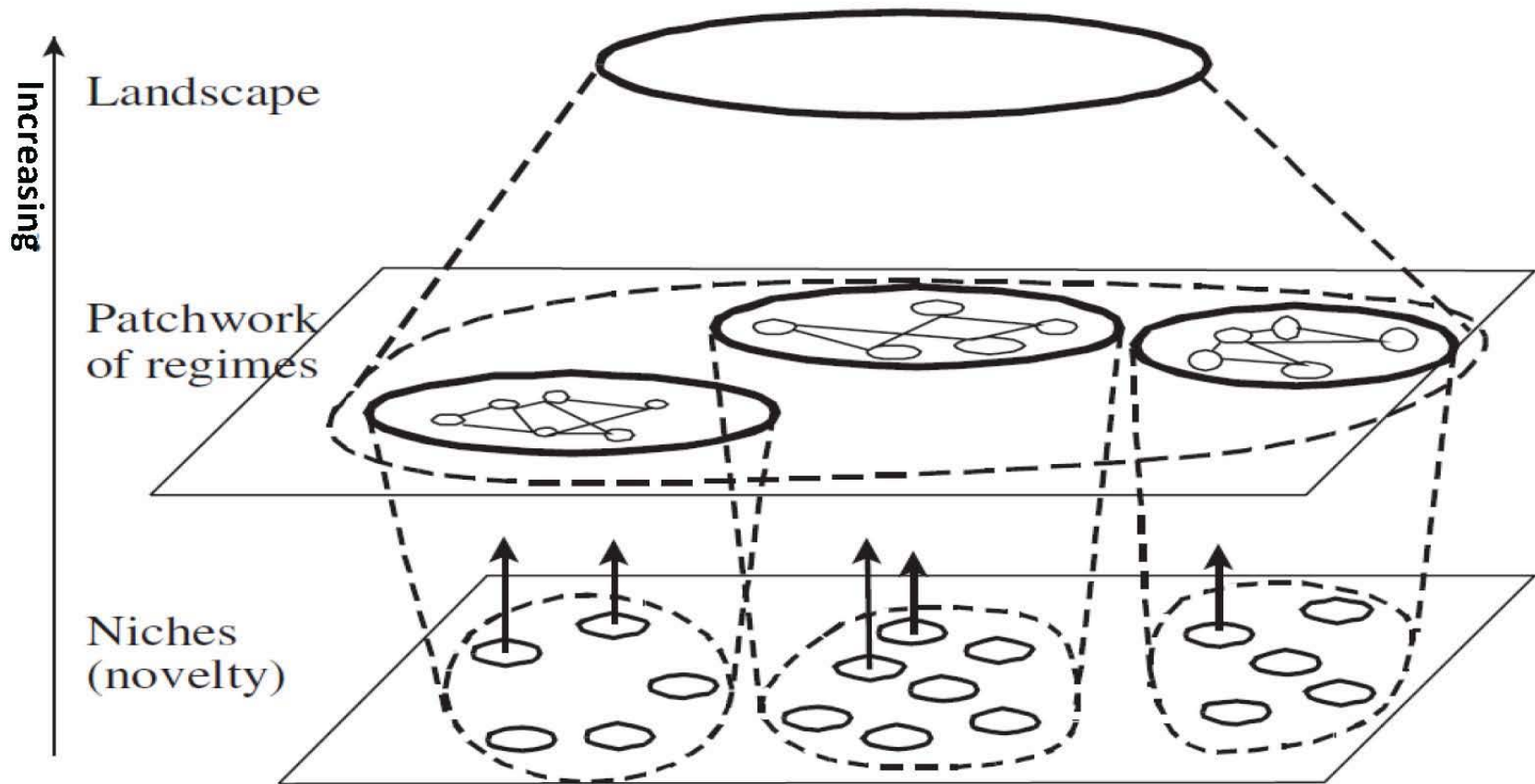


Figure 1 Multiple levels as nested hierarchy (Source: Geels, 2002: p.1261)

