A Letter from our Co-Directors

When we look back on 2013, we might see it as the year when, for the first time in human history, the concentration of climate-warming carbon dioxide in the atmosphere passed the milestone level of 400 parts per million (ppm). The last time so much greenhouse gas was in the air was several million years ago, when the Arctic was ice-free, savannah spread across the Sahara desert and sea level was up to 40 meters higher than today. Despite increasingly severe warnings from scientists, the end of easy-to-get oil, and a major economic recession, global emissions have continued to rise to a new record high.

We did not arrive here overnight, but in the last 300 years, we’ve managed to wear out the atmosphere and heat up the planet. When Transition US came on the scene in 2009, it did so to rouse people to envision a different trajectory for their communities and to take local action to make that manifest.

That is why Transition US is catalyzing and supporting grassroots citizen action. Transition efforts are in 147 communities across the country with Initiatives forming in hundreds of others. The Transition Movement is in 43 countries and materials have been translated into 17 languages.

All through these 5 short years, we have had the great fortune to work alongside extraordinary people who are leading and inspiring positive community change. To that end we want to congratulate a few of our local heroes:

- Transition Pasadena for their Repair Cafés, Just Doing Stuff Town Fair, and especially for bringing the community together in such spirited ways;
- Transition Milwaukee for inspiring us all with their Brew City Abundance Week ending with a awareness event for 400+ featuring Mayor Barrett and Transition Network founder Rob Hopkins, and which served as a magnet for Transitioners from all over the Midwest to come together and begin building a regional network;
- Transition Lab from Montrose, CO, a MIT Climate Co-Lab award winner, selected for being the most viable, replicable, and effective idea for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating a more resilient future;
- Northern California Regional Transition Networks’ 3-day skills-building convergence that brought 500 people together to learn, celebrate, and build relationships upon which future projects will emerge;
- Transition Sarasota, for transferring 100,000 lbs of food from field to food pantries;
- Transition Amherst, MA and their newly opened All Things Local store…. And there is so much more!

In these escalating times, partners like these, and partners like you, are more vital than ever. We are deeply grateful to be working together to build a movement of resilience across this nation. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Carolyne Stayton & Maggie Fleming
Co-Directors
Transition US
# Financial Overview

To support the work required to transition the United States to resilience, Transition US has assembled a committed team comprised of: 19 Transition Trainers ranging in age, geographic location and ethnicity, a modest core staff of 2.1 FTE, and a growing national network of emerging community leaders who are constantly creating innovative, local responses which they generously share with the rest of us through TUS’s website, newsletters, and TeleSeminars.

Financial support for Transition US began with the foresight of an angel donor through the Post Carbon Institute. Over the years, we’ve continued to grow our fundraising capacity, raising funds through grants, individual donors, and fee-for-service activities. In 2013 we were fortunate recipients of $94,800 of funding from foundations and corporations and individual support of more than $40,000. Our 2-day Transition LAUNCH and Effective Groups trainings plus sales of the *In Transition 2.0* DVD provided additional revenue streams.

In 2013 TUS was a $220,400 organization. Total revenue from all sources was supplemented with additional countless volunteer hours. In 2014-2015, we will be growing our programs for more impact as well as working collaboratively with dozens of Transition Initiatives on capacity building and fund development. Stay tuned for more action projects, increased visibility, and bigger impact!

# Transition Training

*Transition LAUNCH* is a 2-day, on-site course that is offered across the country. In 5 years of operation TUS has delivered 101 LAUNCH trainings in a total of 35 states.

*Effective Groups Training* was launched in fall 2013 in 3 locations across the county. The robust 2-day course covers topics including: Running effective groups, communication skills, building a culture of trust and collaboration, moving through conflict, power-sharing, leadership & decision-making, facilitation and performance assessment. In addition, a small cadre of trainers was trained to deliver the course. Beginning in 2014 Effective Groups Training will be offered on throughout the country.

Transition US partnered with *Art of Hosting* to offer advanced 3- to 5-day courses designed to train leaders in the art of convening broad scale community conversations. In 2013 the first Art of Hosting course co-hosted by Transition US was taught for 66 participants. In process now are two additional courses to be offered in Portland, ME and in Northern California in January 2014.
Transition US (TUS) offers Transition Initiatives (TIs) broad spectrum support. In 2013 this took the form of: direct mentorship assistance, networking, connecting, and skill-building resources. As part of this program, TUS offered these specific resources:

**Monthly TeleSalon:** World Café style forum where leaders and beginners in the Transition movement share their ideas and make suggestions to each other in real time. These calls, along with the LAUNCH training, and on-going mentorship (through in-person meetings, phone calls and email correspondence) fostered the emergence of the 17 new Transition Initiatives this year.

**Virtual, online, long distance training:** In 2013 Transition US hosted 32 on-line TeleSeminars (an increase of 15 events from 2012). The total number of participants who joined in real time were 1,426 with hundreds of others enjoying the events through downloadable recordings. The TeleSeminars covered an assortment of topics including: Decision-Making for Agile Organizations, Legal structures for Local Efforts; Cooperatives and Community Enterprises; Participatory Leadership and Processes for Effective Groups; plus a series undertaken with Post Carbon Institute: Local Energy; Local Dollars; and Rebuilding the Foodshed. While several events featured luminaries from the greater field of community- and resilience-building such as Richard Heinberg, Duane Elgin, and Anna McGrath, many others featured the emerging heroes from within Transition Initiatives themselves.

**Online Communications**

- **Website, Blogs, Listserv:** With over nearly 97,000 page-views in 2013, our website continues to be one of our greatest assets, adding value to those seeking easy access to tools and inspiration. The listserv and blogs have proven to be invaluable for substantive, on-the-ground discussions amongst Transition leaders.
- **Monthly Newsletter:** Subscribers to the newsletter expanded to 8,867 in 2013. That is a rise of 1,575 from the previous year. The newsletter is further syndicated by dozens of Transition Initiatives inside and out of the U.S.
- **Social Media:** Our social media presence is vital in this day and age, especially Facebook where we have seen consistent growth in our following (7,131+ Friends/Followers, up 22% from last year).
National Awareness & Action Project Campaign

Three years ago, Transition US began celebrating May as the month of resilience-building actions with the Transition Challenge national awareness campaign. Local organizers were inspired, encouraged, and supported (with resources, how-to guides, and TeleSeminars) to mobilize their communities in creating action projects to grow food, conserve water, save energy, and build community. Numerous Transition Initiatives and partners installed greywater and rainwater harvesting systems, built community gardens, solarized homes and businesses, mobilized neighbors, and held various educational and skill-building events. Looking back three years later, a total of 12,545 actions (with 6,942 actions registered as part of the 2013 Challenge!) were generated in 700+ towns and cities, strategic partnerships were formed, and awareness was raised about the need to take local action to address climate change.

Building the Network

In 2013, TUS Increased the number of cities/towns with Transition Initiatives from 130 in 34 states to 147 in 37 states. This was achieved using all of the methods mentioned above as well as:

Regional Gatherings: Transition supported several gatherings of individuals, efforts and organizations engaged in resilience-building. These occurred in New York state and Boston, MA (spring); Portland, ME, Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Northern California (fall). Hundreds of participants convened, learned from each other in peer-to-peer learning formats, exchanged resources, and built coalitions for future action projects.

Strategic Partnerships: TUS built collaborations with allied organizations across the country such as Art of Hosting, Whidbey Institute, Gaia University, Institute for Policy Studies, Spring of Sustainability, Bioneers, Movement Generation, Sustainable Economies Law Center, Daily Acts Organization, Post Carbon Institute, Happiness Institute, Canadian Center for Community Renewal, New Economy Coalition and many more. Since 2012, Transition US has become part of a learning community of leaders from 15 other national Transition Hubs. Beginning in 2014, along with Belgium, Italy, Croatia, Latvia, and the Netherlands, TUS will be launching an award-winning, local economy program developed by the Transition Network in the UK.
National “Unleashing Transition” Tour

Transition US orchestrated a national 14 city/town tour for Transition Network founder, Rob Hopkins who offered 17 presentations in 17 days. (New Orleans, Boston, Medford, Portland, Rhinebeck, NYC, Houston, Austin, Oakland, Santa Rosa, Hopland, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Milwaukee).

This tour was a unique opportunity to shine the spotlight on the Transition movement in the US. Rob’s short trip catalyzed game-changing impact by galvanizing Transition Initiatives and resilience-building groups, bridging partnerships between city mayors and their grassroots counterparts, and catalyzing youth on college campuses. Some pivotal highlights include:

- High profile presentations at: Environmental Grantmakers Association annual meeting in New Orleans, at Omega Institute’ “Where We Go From Here” conference, and at Austin’s SXSWeco conference.
- Events at 3 college campuses: Tulane in New Orleans, Tufts in Boston, Rice in Houston
- Panel discussions with 5 elected officials: Mayor Barrett (Milwaukee), Mayor Bogaard (Pasadena), Mayor McGlynn (Medford, MA), Vice-Mayor Sahli-Wells (Culver City, CA), and Mayor Wong (Fitchburg, MA).
- Transition Initiatives and partner organizations organized 3 large-scale regional conferences gathering hundreds of participants (New England, Northern California, and Midwest), with smaller scale gatherings of Transition leaders in Houston and Southern California.
The Transition Movement in the US witnessed its tipping point in 2013. The national tour of Transition Network founder, Rob Hopkins, and the teams of people mobilized to execute this extensive experience, sealed a legacy of deeply forged new relationships, galvanized Transition teams, and a coalesced national network. Now Transition US is poised, more than ever, to make a significant impact in the months and years to come. In large part this impact will be through regional and national collaborative projects.

In 2014, our program plan is simultaneously ambitious – because we need to be—and by no means rigid, because we need to remain adaptable in these rapidly changing times. With both urgency and agility in mind, our trajectory towards a fully resilient USA is as follows:

One  To *Build Resilience* faster and with more impact we will:
- Continue to build upon, and further develop, our [Building Local Economies](#) program.
- Measure indicators of resilience through the new [Diagnostics and Resilience Indicators project](#).
- Introduce the [Transition Streets Carbon-Reduction Program](#) for household clusters in various Transition Communities. First introduced in England, this project has shown it will reduce individual household emissions up to 1.2 tons per annum and cut household energy costs by ~$900.

Two  To *Increase the Capacity* of local Transition Initiatives we will:
- Execute our fourth national [Transition Challenge national awareness campaign](#) galvanizing hundreds of local initiatives and thousands of citizens, in taking action towards saving water, conserving energy, growing food and building community.
- Expand capacity-building offerings to include [organizational and fundraising assistance](#) to key Transition Initiatives across the nation and augment our webinar and call series to include advanced leadership development, skill-building courses, and collaborative funding bids.
- Expand training offerings to include a national roll-out of [Effective Groups Training](#).

Three  To *Enhance Resource Sharing & Replicate Success* we will:
- Convene forums, [monthly TeleSalons](#), all for peer-to-peer learning in real time whether on-line or in-person.
- Host on-line [TeleSeminars](#) by notable experts and by leaders who are emerging from within Transition Initiatives.
- Work with partner organizations to get their [replicable models](#) to Transition Initiatives in the US through our website, newsletters, blogs, stories, and social media.
Four To *Build the National Network* we will:

- Utilize on-site and on-line components to teach participants the ABC’s of delivering a compelling *Transition talk*, complete with a continually updated slide deck available for download on the TUS website.
- Continue to support and develop regional hubs for improved collaboration and *regional gatherings/conferences* for increased resource-sharing, inspiration, and partnership.
- **Link colleges, teachers and students** engaged in, or ready to be engaged in, Transition activities through on-line forums, teleconferences, and teach-ins.
- Engage **strategic partners and allies in collaborative projects** such as the Transition Challenge, TeleSeminars, Building the Local Economy, Resilience Indicator Project, and Transition Streets as well as engaging Transition Initiatives in various projects led by allied organizations and efforts.
- Catalyze and form an **advisory body of Transition Initiative leaders** to both counsel the national hub with strategic direction from the field and replicate a distributed leadership model.

*Thank you for your support of Transition US.*

*We look forward to working with you in the coming year!*