Tips for Transition Streets Initiators

Facilitation/Organizing Your Group:

- Past participants have suggested meeting every other week, to allow time between sessions to absorb the material, yet keep the material somewhat fresh.
- Share the Transition Streets handbook (or at least the introductory chapter) with your group members prior to the first meeting, to help to set the tone and resolve some questions.
- If possible, group members should read/review the chapter prior to the session.
- Consider rotating facilitators among group members who are willing/interested, and ensure the facilitator has looked over the handbook material and facilitator guide for whichever chapter they are facilitating.
- Please note that the agenda and times provided in the Facilitator Guide for each chapter are only suggestions - feel free to adjust based on what works best for your group.
- One way to break up the info within each chapter and share the facilitation is to have each person be assigned to a particular section and present the info they learned, as well as from their personal perspective. For example, Lily likes to walk and shared the info on "Walk this Way". This encourages everyone to participate and draws in people that are more quiet.
- Consider assigning a note-taker for simple notes about the discussion (ie a word or two about things of interest in your group discussion) and to take more extensive notes about follow-up actions and intentions. You can send the notes and "to-do’s" along with the agenda 1-3 days before the next meeting. This helps folks who have missed a session, helps build a sense of community, and holds the intention to make changes. For example:
  - _______ agreed to bring most recent power bill to share
  - _______ will look into local CSA options
  - Bring back borrowed electrical monitors
  - Please review new draft of Resource List
  - _______ bringing extra CFL’s for ______
- For the introduction/opening, you may want to ask your group members how familiar they are with Transition.
- Comparing water bills was really useful; one couple actually discovered a big discrepancy (but realized they had already repaired the leaky toilet).
- Ideas for icebreakers/opening include asking your group one of the following questions at the beginning of each session:
  - “Why do you like living in your neighborhood?” (first session)
  - Brainstorm fun/funny ways to conserve energy (second session),
  - “What are you excited about?” (third session)
  - “How could our neighborhood be improved?” (fourth session)
  - “What resources already exist in our neighborhood?” (fifth session)
  - “What are our own assets as neighbors?” – ex: skills, things to share, etc. (sixth session)
  - and “What’s your vision for our neighborhood?” (final session).
• Your group may want to come up with your own set of group agreements, different than those listed in Chapter 1.
• Take turns hosting the meeting at different group members’ houses.
• Bring healthy snacks to help your group members bond and stay energized.
• May want to consider hosting a party for last session, or adding an 8th session.
• Transition Streets is a tool – your conversations can go far deeper than the material in this book. Tap into the wisdom of your neighbors!
• Transition Streets is a beginner-level project, for people who care and want to have more ideas for actions they can take. It might not be advanced enough for Transition leaders or others who have been practicing sustainable living for many years – but you can use it as a tool to reach out to your neighbors, help them make changes, and build a stronger, more resilient neighborhood.

Printing Tips:

• See if a local printer will donate or give a discount on group printing
• Try printing black & white
• People can print individual copies at home, if they want one
• Some may prefer to read the pdf online rather than print
• Use a projector to view the online workbook as a group, rather than printing individual copies
• Provide clear instructions that each person should print out the chapter if they want one before they come and if a projector is available have the slide show ready to go!