



 feasta

annual report 2011

Feasta, the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability, aims to identify the characteristics (economic, cultural and environmental) of a truly sustainable society, articulate how the necessary transition can be effected, and promote the implementation of the measures required for this purpose.

Cad a dheanfaimid feasta gan adhmaid?
Ta deireadh na gcoillte ar lár
What will we do in the future without wood?
The end of the forests has come

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the year: 2011

John Jopling

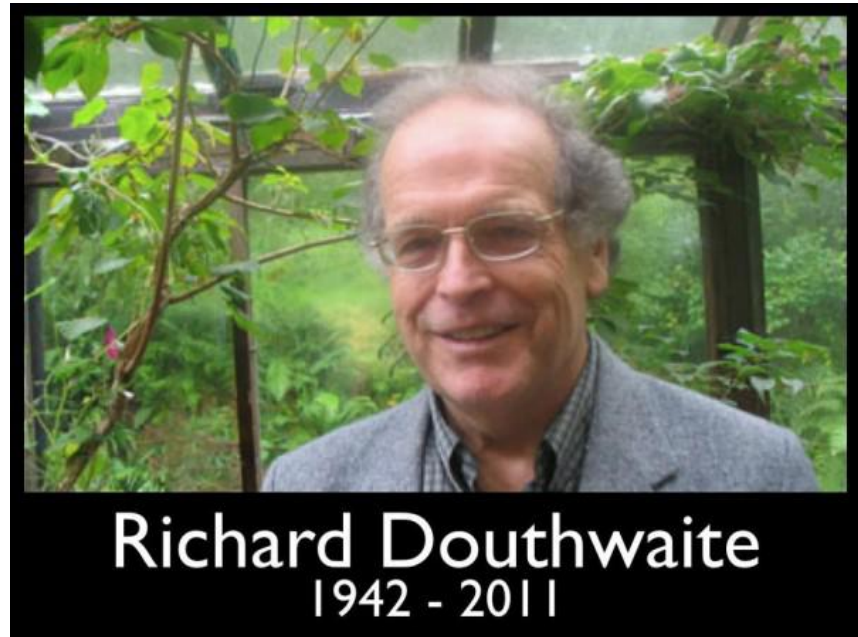
In every year since Feasta's foundation in 1998 one particular event has stood out. In 2009 it was the three-day conference *The New Emergency*. In 2010 it was the publication of *Fleeing Vesuvius*. By far the biggest contribution to both events was made by Feasta co-founder Richard Douthwaite. The same could probably be said of the outstanding event of every year since Feasta's foundation. Which is why for Feasta the event that stands out for 2011 is Richard's death on 14 November.

Feasta was founded to help develop the values and principles for which Richard was well-known through his three major publications, *The Growth Illusion*, *Short Circuit* and *The Ecology of Money*. Whilst Richard's energy and leadership cannot be replaced, these values and principles remain the core of Feasta's work. Every year that passes confirms their soundness and importance. Now it's down to the rest of us to redouble our efforts to promote them.

Like Feasta, Richard was based in Ireland but his friendships and influence were far wider. Tributes to Richard came in from around the world and can be read on the Feasta website at www.feasta.org.

Events in 2011

The year 2011 saw the global economy continuing to lurch from one crisis to another. Governments in many countries, including Ireland, took measures to stave off the far wider collapse that members of Feasta and others have been predicting. We consider collapse to be the inevitable destination that our debt-money-based economy is driving us towards. The staving-off measures only brought temporary relief and have put



the interests of those who benefit from the current system above those of the poor majority, future generations and the biodiversity of life on Earth on which human life depends. This, and the continuing stream of worrying reports relating to issues of sustainability and social justice, was the background against which the events organised in Feasta's name took place. Feasta's public lectures, conferences and workshops presented constructive proposals for addressing some of the most difficult problems, with measures open to individuals, communities and the Irish government.

Other Work

As the global economy teetered on the edge of collapse, Feasta continued to be a place where members of Feasta and others can research, discuss, develop and publish their ideas about the not-so-obvious systemic causes of the obviously dysfunctional economic and political mainstream systems and the not-so-well-known economic and governance systems designed to promote sustainability and social justice. A glance through the last few articles published on the

Feasta website during the year illustrates the wide range of topics covered: our dependence on biodiversity for our health; a New Zealand edition of *Fleeing Vesuvius*; preparing for far more extensive collapse; the parallel economy run by the banks and financial traders; a Eurozone exit plan; the current economic crisis seen as an opportunity for radical action; posters for use at Occupy camps which can be downloaded for free exploring the nature of the current financial crisis, the energy and banking crises, financial predation, and the connection between the Occupy movement and climate change; a budget submission from Feasta's Smart Taxes Network; and will oil production be limited by "economic price"? There were over sixty other items featured on the Feasta website during the year.

The year now under review saw the work of three government-funded projects nearing completion: the Smart Taxes Network, the Carbon Cycles and Sinks Network and the Carbon Social Credit Scheme.

The major Feasta work *Fleeing Vesuvius: Overcoming the risks of environmental and economic collapse*,

published and launched in 2010, had regional launches in Cork on 6 March and in Galway on 16 May. The year also saw the publication of North American and New Zealand editions. You can find out more about *Fleeing Vesuvius* on page 11.

Managing Feasta

I referred above to Feasta as a "place". Feasta itself does not have ideas nor does it research or develop ideas. It's a place where members of Feasta and others can do these things. It is a charitable foundation and over the years it has become a valued 'brand'. So Feasta is there to serve the needs of those doing the researching and the developing of ideas and to publish useful material within Feasta's field of sustainability and social

justice. Richard Douthwaite's death has made these roles and functions all the more important.

To provide this service for individuals and for Feasta groups and projects Feasta has to be managed. Responsibility for the day to day management of Feasta rests with an Executive Committee appointed by Feasta's board of directors. The EC, almost all of whom are volunteers, meets generally once a month with a heavy agenda and its members carry various responsibilities between meetings. The Annual Report for 2010 recorded the start of a process of re-considering the way we manage our affairs. One of the outcomes was a realisation that with so much business being channelled through, a single com-

mittee of this kind might operate as a bottleneck. During 2011 we took this process a stage further. Following the model created by the management cybernetician Stafford Beer, we first identified Feasta's primary activities which need to be allowed to operate autonomously and then began work on the "metasystem functions", to use Beer's terminology, required for the primary activities to be carried out as part of the Feasta entity. The aim is to have the new system fully up and running by the end of the current year: the outcome will be reflected in the format of 2012's annual report.



Risk-Resilience is interested in the systems dynamics, evolution, and stability of the globalised economy. That is, it tries to understand how the interplay of financial and monetary systems, critical infrastructures, supply-chains, economics of scale, and behavioral adaptation together enable the 'normal' functioning of the globalised economy that for example, ensures that there is food in the shops, money works, factories run and social trust maintained.

It studies major systemic risks to the continued viability of the globalised economy arising from hyper-credit expansion and global imbalances, a peaking of global oil production and food constraints. It is especially interested in how increasing complexity, connectivity, interdependence, de-localisation and the speed of processes have changed risk profiles and vulnerability.

It asks about the scope for risk managing large-scale systemic shocks and

for such eventualities.

A short and popular overview of some of the ideas considered by Risk-Resilience can be found in *In the World, at the Limits to Growth* at <http://www.feasta.org/2011/05/14/in-the-world-at-the-limits-to-growth/>.

Throughout 2011 a project was undertaken to look at the implications of a major financial crisis (a Eurozone collapse and global banking crisis) on supply-chains. This is being prepared as a report which will be published at the end of April 2012 as *Trade-Off: Financial System / Supply-Chain Cross-Contagion, a Global Systems' Perspective. Pensions in the New Age of Risk*, a report looking at the down-side risk to the pension system from the hyper-credit/peak oil convergence, and the foundations for risk management was produced for The Smart Taxes Network.

As well as conducting research and writing reports the project engaged in

risk-resilience

forced transitions and is developing basic risk management processes

lobbying and education. Meetings were held with senior officials from the European Commission, and with Irish parliamentarians, on large-scale risk management. There were conference talks, and several public lectures given over the year, as well as lectures to students in TCD, DIT and UCC. Issues of large-scale risk management were brought up a number of times within the National Economic & Social Council (NESC) in the latter part of the year. A series of interviews on US radio stations to coincide with the launch of *Fleeing Vesuvius*, and an interview on RTE's Prime Time were undertaken over the year.

2012 & Beyond

Risk-Resilience would be delighted to work with others on evolving issues. Collaboration with specialists in critical infrastructure, major disaster management (possibly from aid/ development backgrounds), systems ecology and economics would be particularly welcome.

food security

Feastas work on Food Security in 2011 continued with the development of the concept of Nutritional Resilience. We worked to better understand the relevance of mineral balancing of soils to the biological productivity of the ecosystems that they support. This has direct links to food security, biofuel production, carbon sequestration and ecosystem health. Several presentations were made throughout the year to articulate this concept and to gain a deeper understanding from others.

Related to this work on minerals was an exploration of how biomass increases and then declines within many ecosystems, a process that can take thousands of years, or just a few years in the case of a garden or farmed land. This process has many parallels to the concept of

peak oil. The potential biomass peak is directly related, among other factors, to the nutrient availability and its depletion through natural or extractive processes. A paper is currently being developed which explains this process and attempts to articulate the similarities to peaking of oil supplies.

We also explored the concept of how food can be measured. If "we tend to get what we measure", then what should we be measuring if we want to get healthy food with minimal resource use, and limited pollution? What unit can be used to compare one crop, and production systems? Through this thinking, we began developing a "Good Food Index" which can be used to relate yield to resource use for comparison purposes. The next phase is to try to incorporate some



form of ecological footprint analysis.

Further work was done to develop food planning, primarily in cooperation with the Cloughjordan Community Farm in helping to develop a 5-year food plan for the village of Cloughjordan. Additional exploration was done on emergency food planning and preparedness, particularly with respect to preservation and distribution of meat and animal products.

Much of this work is ongoing.

carbon cycles and sinks



CCSN started 2011 with the intention of wrapping up year 2 - the final year of its government funding - with a final report drawing together the various strands of its work since its inception in 2008.

In April CCSN worked with the Feasta Climate Group and development NGO Gorta to host several public events, in Dublin and Cloughjordan, which explored the benefits of organic agriculture on climate and food security. The first lecture, "Organic farming's role in improving food security and

combating climate change", featured Gundula Azeez, former policy advisor to the UK Soil Association. The second, "Biochar's role in increasing fertility and reducing fertiliser use", was presented by Dr. Witold Kwapinski and David Friese-Greene. The third was titled "What organic and low-input farming has to offer growers, their customers and the planet" and was aimed at people who are already farming organically or who are thinking of doing so. It featured Gundula Azeez, several organic growers and Sinead Neiland, Chair of IOFGA.

With only funding enough until mid-year it was hoped to have the project's final report completed by then. Unfortunately problems arose, including difficulties with the delivery and quality of one of its major externally commissioned works, which delayed this, and the illness and eventual death

of Richard Douthwaite meant that the work was not completed as planned. With no prospect of further funding the employment of our lead researcher, Corinna Byrne, could not be extended beyond the end of June.

However, the achievements of the project in 2011 were significant. In addition to the public events and ongoing engagement with the network partners, two important papers were written: one outlining a Carbon REPS scheme (submitted to Teagasc) which would reward farmers for increasing the carbon content of their soils; the second an economic and emissions' analysis of switching from beef to biofuel production. Since Richard's death in November Gillian Fallon has taken over editing and finalising the planned Pyrolysis feasibility study which should be ready in the Spring of 2012.

smart taxes

The purpose of the Smart Taxes project is to develop policy options to reform fiscal and other financial and monetary mechanisms in Ireland to deliver environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Smart Taxes collaborated in the organization of two highly successful conferences in 2011. The conference 'Lessons from the Crisis: Money, Taxes and Saving in a Changing World', organised in partnership with the progressive-economy think-tank Tasc, took place in May. It showcased an alternative set of economic policies that aim to recover economic control, staunch the loss of jobs and emigration and create a secure future for young and old in Ireland. Speakers included William Black, Stephanie Kelton and Randall Wray: three leading US based exponents of the Modern Monetary Theory school that is the subject of much excited debate amongst leading economists. Videos of all the lectures from the conference are available on the Smart Taxes website, smarntaxes.org. Smart Taxes also col-

lated papers from our speakers in preparation for a 2012 publication.

The second conference, 'National strategies for dealing with Ireland's debt crisis: exploring the options', took place in September 2011. Leading international and Irish economists, including Marshall Auerback, Charles Goodhart and Bernard Lietaer, discussed urgent national strategies for dealing with the fall out of the eurozone crisis in Ireland. The two-day event addressed several key questions – Can Ireland rely on global economic growth to resolve its public debt crisis? What is the relationship between energy, the crisis and future economic growth? What about private debt problems including mortgage debt? Can the Euro survive? Should Ireland plan for a Euro-zone break up? Is anything to be gained by leaving first? Could a new Irish currency working in parallel with the Euro be a better solution? Again, all the presentations from the conference are available online at the Feasta website www.feasta.org.

In May 2011 Smart Taxes concluded its research report on fisheries conservation. The report, conducted by Edward

Fahy, recommends that the lower rate of excise duty taxation for marine diesel be removed when vessels fish in recovery zones with active gear. Smart Taxes also made a submission for Budget 2012 Ireland in which it outlined a proposal for a Jobs Program for Ireland in which low-yield tax-backed Jobs Bonds would be issued in order to fund green jobs. This would provide much-needed employment while maintaining Ireland's natural resources of biodiversity, clean waters, soil fertility and carbon store.

In August Smart Taxes published a brochure which provides an overview of Site Value Tax. A paper by Ronan Lyons discussing the implementation of Site Value Tax in Ireland is planned for publication in early 2012. This paper on Site Value Tax Revenue Potential will conclude our research on this topic, and we will collate our research in a book. In 2012 we plan to continue with our work in fisheries, rural land taxation and the Green Job Guarantee. For information and updates on all these things, check our website, smarntaxes.org.



climate group

The terms of reference of the Climate Group were defined at the group's annual meeting in Cloughjordan at the end of April 2011. Activities listed include research, discussion, meetings, web forums and other means of organising the exchange of ideas, searching for ways in which responses to climate change can be developed in political, business and community policy arenas - local, national and international.

Cap and Share, an organisation with its roots in the Feasta Climate Group, is promoting a system for cutting greenhouse gas emissions that would be rigorous, equitable and robust. In May 2011 Brian Davey and Laurence Matthews, the Chair and Coordinator of Cap and Share, met officials from the Climate Action Directorate-General of the European Commission at their offices in Brussels in order to explore future possibilities for extending the EU ETS using upstream approaches and to outline some of the principles behind Cap and Share, in particular with regard to the political counterweight it might give to corporate lobbying.

Much time was also devoted in 2011 to preparing the forthcoming book *Sharing For Survival: Restoring the Climate, the Commons and Society*, a collection of essays by nine members of the Feasta Climate Group and edited by Brian Davey. The book explores climate policy with a heavy emphasis on social justice and equity, recognising that the UNFCCC process is going nowhere, and contains in-depth analysis of how a system such as Cap and Share could play out in the world economy. It looks at those aspects of climate policy neglected and sidelined in the official narrative which is dominated by national governments in thrall to fossil fuel and financial sector lobbies. Its approach to the climate crisis is consistent with the transformation in politics the global Occupy Movement aims to achieve.

Among other topics the book describes policies that would need to be introduced along with Cap and Share in order to ensure its effectiveness, the possibilities for political change on a

global level, the kinds of institutions needed to bring about change and the challenge of distributing emissions allowances in a manner that is fair and empowering to those most in need. The final chapter, by Richard Douthwaite with help from David Knight, presents reasons for optimism about the climate crisis. The book will be produced by Feasta Books and distributed by Green Books in the UK and Ireland early in 2012.

Last year's Annual Report stated that The World Resources Institute was to produce a working paper describing its research carried out on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme and paid for by the Irish Government, at Feasta's request. This working paper was duly produced in 2011 and analysed numerous proposals relating to climate change outside the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) process, including Feasta's Cap and Share. However, disappointingly, the report does not appear to have advanced the case for Cap and Share or increased support for it. It is available online at <http://www.wri.org/publication/building-the-climate-change-regime>. Feasta was represented by Feargal Duff at the report's launch in Dublin and at a side-event held about it in Durban in December 2011.

During the report's consultation pro-



cess and at the request of the WRI the Feasta climate group made significant input, producing a paper outlining how the climate crisis demands a completely new paradigm of global governance: <http://www.feasta.org/2011/09/17/climate-governance-a-new-paradigm>.

It was therefore even more disappointing to see how little reference the final report made to Feasta's work. Undaunted however, members of the Group continued to work on the concept of an independently established Global Climate Commons Trust to administer a global Cap and Share Scheme. A short introduction to the project was prepared, backed by a longer description to circulate among well-known leaders in the climate justice world.

currency group

During 2011 the Group reassessed its approach to progressing The Liquidity Network (LQN), Feasta's design for a local exchange currency.

The vision and principles behind LQN remain unchanged, and as set out by the late Richard Douthwaite, Feasta's co-founder. Richard's death in November left us stunned but re-energised to follow through his work.

The challenge of pursuing innovative proposals with risk-averse local authorities had been clear for some time, despite the opportunity that local currencies give authorities for meaningful re-engagement with their communities. For the time being, therefore, the Group has been concentrating on two new approaches:

i) co-designing currencies with well-resourced partners who either already have good connections and influence within selected local authorities, or want to undertake commercially-led currency projects. In both cases we are exploring the potential for embedding LQN design and values and squaring those values with the design aims of the partner.

ii) building and facilitating a Community of Practice for currency advocates to mutual benefit. Here we are concentrating on developing tools and techniques for assessing a locality's economic circuits and suitability for a new currency.

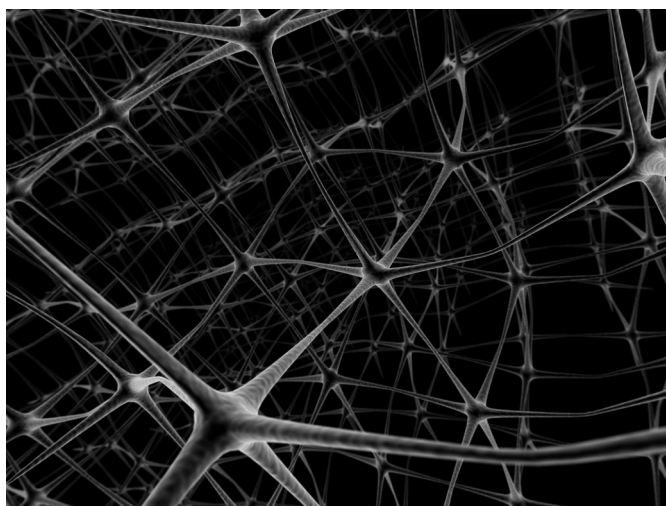
The Liquidity Network's principles and aims remain the same - to add liquidity to the economy via currency that is given or spent into circulation rather than created via debt; and to ultimately be owned and managed by its users. The currency is not 'neutral' - in our view currency never is - but can be designed to recognise and reward desired behaviours - pro-currency, pro-local or the complementary desired behaviours of our co-design partners.

During the year, Richard Douthwaite and Phoebe Bright gave a number of presentations and workshops in Kinsale, Tralee, Cork and elsewhere to support local currency initiatives. An article on LQN was written by Graham Barnes for Feasta's *Fleeing Vesuvius* publication (which also carries a seminal piece by Richard entitled "The Supply of Money in an Energy Scarce World").

In April we delivered a study to the Dublin Regional Authority on the potential for a Carbon Social Credit Scheme for South Dublin (2CS) - looking at green loyalty and timebanking. Consultancy studies such as this provide Group members with much needed income while at the same time stimulating the progression of ideas for core LQN activity and may be an important element of our future work.

In September we were retained by Bioregional, the UK-based Social Entrepreneur of the Year to advise on the design of a OnePlanet currency as part of the development of their OnePlanet methodology for ecological footprinting.

As we progress our ideas, the challenge of re-localising and revitalising local economies against a backdrop of globalisation and centralised supply chains becomes ever more apparent. The need for other non-LQN currencies to fulfill the needs for savings and capital investment is also clear - an exchange currency is only part of the emerging picture. But we go into 2012 in good heart and keen to develop Richard Douthwaite's legacy in ways he would approve of.



national welfare index

Since the 1960s, GDP forecasts calculated by central banks, expert groups and institutes for economic research have been presented to the general public as if the quality of every single citizen's life was solely dependent on the forecast figure. However an increasing number of analysts are recognising the weakness of GDP as a measure of progress and are looking for alternatives. Early in 2010, a German member, Dr. Hans Diefenbacher who works at FEST, an Evangelical Church policy research institute in Heidelberg, wrote to us to say that he and a colleague had just completed a national welfare index (NWI) for the Federal Environment Agency in Germany and that he would like to do one for Ireland.

Indices of Sustainable Economic Welfare have been prepared for at least two dozen countries in the past but not for Ireland. These have generally shown that although national incomes have gone up, the rises have not been sustainable because they have been produced by the

increased use of non-renewable resources or by damaging society or the environment. Hans' new index improves on its forerunners by correcting the national income data to allow for additional factors such as changes in income distribution, crime, CO2 emissions, the value of voluntary work, the loss of species, changes in indebtedness and several other factors.

Hans needed an Irish collaborator, of course, and after the Budget Speech at the end of 2010 it looked as though he would be working with the CSO on it. However there was some difference of opinion on the structure and content of the index and, in any case, the CSO was not ready to start immediately. So it seemed a good idea that Feasta should prepare its own index so that, if and when the CSO one came along, it would then be possible to get a good public debate going on the relative merits of the two approaches.

In response to an appeal for help with this project by Richard Douthwaite on



the Feasta website, two people, Ciaran Mulloy and Ruth Barrett, volunteered to work on it. They have run into some challenges with the availability of the necessary data, making it a longer project than originally anticipated. The plan for 2012 is for the gathered data to be processed by Hans Diefenbacher and Fest in Germany.



website

2011 saw the long-awaited rehaul of the Feasta website, switching it over to a blog-based format. Our new site was created with the help of graphic design firm JDK Design and is dynamic and eye-catching, making use of an e-news-paper format to show the pace and variety of the work Feasta does across all its various areas. We intend the site to highlight and further promote the interests of Richard Douthwaite, who had considerable input into its development. Two of his books are available for free download from the site, as are numerous papers and articles written by him.

Since the relaunch in April we have been posting original articles on the site at the rate of 2-3 a week on a wide range of topics related to sustainability and resilience. While Feasta is a text-heavy organisation, the new site makes much creative use of images to reinforce its message.

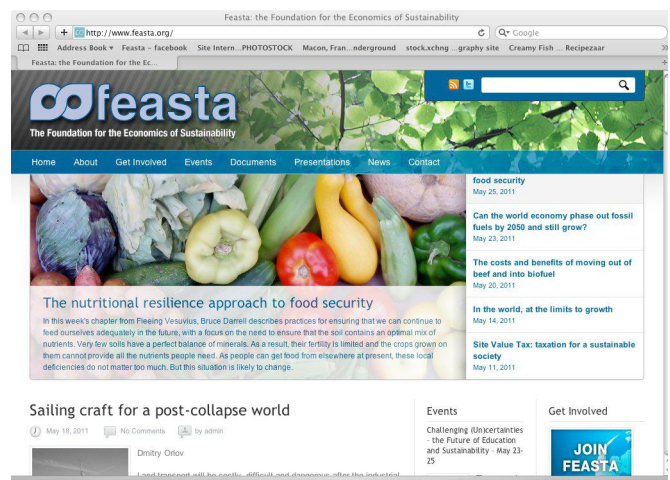
In addition to many commentaries and papers, some of which are mentioned in John Jopling's introduction to this report, Feasta member Patrick Noble's book *The Commons Of Soil* has been published in full on the site along with Tina Evan's doctorate thesis on enforced dependency. There are also several articles by Theresa Carter of the Transition Network which place a highly practical

focus on preparing your home and community for economic crises; these have generated considerable discussion.

The website is a communications portal to both the wider world and to our members - keeping them up to date with Feasta news and upcoming events as well as providing news of events and publications of related interest.

New Feasta resources available online in 2011 include the entire text of the original (Irish) edition of *Fleeing Vesuvius*, which has its own website at www.fleeingvesuvius.org with articles feeding through to the main Feasta site. You can also watch videos of all the presentations from the Debt Crisis conference in September and download a submission by the Smart Taxes Network on green jobs and a paper for the World Resource Institute on global climate governance.

The site includes feeds from the websites of Feasta projects such as Smart Taxes and the Liquidity Network and has a section devoted to 'Stories We've Found' which features links to articles



from elsewhere. There are also a number of reviews of books on the economy and sustainability. We've improved links to the social networking sites so that you can receive tweets about new posts or read about them on Feasta's Facebook page.

All of the earlier Feasta books and videos are also still available online and in 2012 we plan to extend the site's search engine so as to include everything in one search function. We will also be launching a website for Feasta's forthcoming book *Sharing for Survival: Restoring the climate, the commons and society* and plan to gradually upload its content.

submissions

David Healy: Rio + 20 submission:

<http://www.feasta.org/2011/09/17/submission-to-the-consultation-on-rio20/>

Climate Group submission to WRI on climate governance:

<http://www.feasta.org/2011/09/17/climate-governance-a-new-paradigm/>

Smart Taxes - Green Jobs:

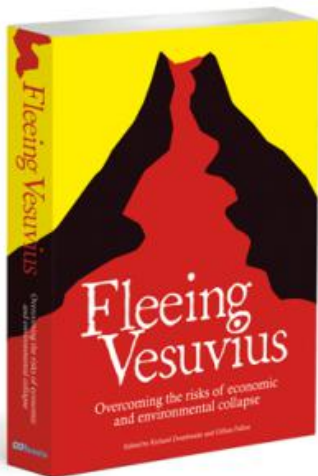
<http://smarttaxes.org/2011/11/08/2012-jobs-programme-smart-taxes-budget-submission/>

Smart Taxes - Fisheries Conservation report:

<http://smarttaxes.org/2011/05/03/smart-taxes-releases-fisheries-report/>

Carbon Cycles and Sinks - Carbon REPS proposal to TEAGASC (as part of CAP reform process)

fleeing vesuvius



The Cork and Galway launches of Feasta's 440-page book *Fleeing Vesuvius: Overcoming the Risks of Economic and Environmental Collapse* took place in the spring of 2001. The book had been launched in Dublin in November 2010. The Cork event on March 21st featured a talk by David Korowicz described as 'riveting' by the Cork Environmental Forum, while the Galway event on May 16th included a brief introduction by Richard Douthwaite followed by a discussion. David's talk is available to watch on YouTube.

The North American edition of the book was published by New Society books in April 2011 and made its appearance in bookshops in the US and

Canada. Its introduction was written by Richard Heinberg of the Post Carbon Institute, replacing that of then-Minister Eamon Ryan in the Irish edition, and the Irish appendix, which was a three-part emergency rescue plan for Ireland written by Richard Douthwaite, was replaced by a discussion between Richard and Tom Konrad entitled "Should the United States try to avoid a financial meltdown?".

Meanwhile the Australasian edition of the book, published by Living Economies and featuring a 100-page-long appendix of extra material, was ready for publication in September 2011. The new essays were written by 13 New Zealanders from a wide range of professional backgrounds who share a common interest in building resilience in their communities. Topics included practical discussion of the implementation of community supported agriculture schemes and the establishment of a permaculture village, as well as more philosophical discussion of the need to reclaim our time from the many demands that the economic system makes on it, and the psychological

factors influencing people to listen to ideas concerning sustainability and resilience.

All of the essays from the Irish and US editions of the book are now freely available online at fleeingvesuvius.org and the New Zealand essays are gradually being uploaded to the site. Plans are afoot for translations into Korean and Hungarian, with some of the chapters having already been translated into French and German.

Although the book was not as widely reviewed as we had hoped due to its launch date coinciding with the time of the Irish bailout, a number of positive reviews did appear in papers over the course of 2011, including the *Sunday Business Post* and *Irish Independent*, as well as in magazines and websites. Some of the authors were asked to speak on North American public radio as well. The website's essays have attracted a fair number of comments which also feed through to the main Feasta website, and we hope that the discussion will continue to be enriched by readers around the world.

feasta events

It was a year of intense activity, with the turbulence of the Irish and world economy generating considerable interest in Feasta's analyses. We hosted and co-hosted many events, including 2 major conferences (featured in the Smart Taxes report), both of which discussed the economic crisis and examined possible solutions. Additionally, several presentations were made on building resilience in the era of peak oil and economic collapse, including one that was given to over 40 TDs and senators in the Dáil.

Early in the year we co-hosted the Ir-

ish premiere of the acclaimed documentary *The Economics of Happiness* with a number of other groups. In addition to the normal programme of our annual Climate Group discussion and planning Weekend we held public events on the role of biochar and organic agriculture in combatting climate change. We held workshops on the Peer-to-Peer Network. This network promotes the model of the Free Software movement, with its goal of extending the commonwealth and pragmatic approach to democratic and consensus-building decision-making, as one that can be ap-

plied to many other spheres of life.

Working with Transition Town Kinsale in March, Richard Douthwaite gave a talk entitled "The Future of Money" presenting the thinking of Feasta's Liquidity Network on how our present money system works, why the crash happened and to explore what can be done for the future. Members of the network found themselves in demand throughout the year, with local and alternative currencies being seen as solutions to the liquidity problems stemming from the economic crisis.

feasta management

Feasta Executive

Over the course of 2011 Emer O'Siochru and Corinna Byrne stepped down for personal reasons and in November we lost our dear colleague Richard Douthwaite after a long illness. The Executive is now made up of Graham Barnes, Phoebe Bright, Bruce Darrell, Gillian Fallon, Dara McHugh, Morag Friel and David Korowicz. With the reorganisation, described already in John Jopling's Introduction to this report, it is foreseen that the work of the Executive will be redistributed, so we are not filling the vacancies left by our colleagues' departures.

Feasta Directors

John Fitzgibbon's term of office came to an end in 2011 so he stepped down. The remaining directors were eligible to continue. They are Sean Conlan, Mark Garavan, John Jopling, C  il  n Nunan and Anne B. Ryan.



feasta in the media

Feastas was featured numerous times in the national and international media in 2011. Articles on Feasta and its projects appeared in publications including the *UK Independent*, *Irish Examiner* and *Construct Ireland* magazine. In addition we were featured on several radio shows, including Q102 and a Voice of America programme which reaches 60 million listeners. Feasta also got considerable attention from Irish and international blogs such as *Finfacts*, *the Koanga Institute*, New Zealand, and *Energy Bulletin* and *Extraenvironmentalist* in North America.

collaboration

While we have always worked in collaboration with other organisations and individuals 2011 emerged as a big year for outreach and co-operation. Despite shrinking budgets and overstretched resources we were able to contribute to and draw from the huge pool of activism and inspiration of a much wider community. Our existing networking capability continues to grow with the adoption of our new organisational

structures and as our interaction with others expands.

Working with other engos and ngos; TINI (Transition Ireland and Northern Ireland), Cultivate, ASPO and the Village to name but a few, we hosted events and explored possibilities for collaboration and pooling of resources. We continued our work with the Environmental Pillar where our representative, Emer O'Siochru, did stellar work bringing is-

ssues of economics to the environmental agenda. David Korowicz continued as a member the Comhar Executive (until its amalgamation with NESC at the end of the year), contributing his unique knowledge on matters of risk and resilience. This and all of our outside engagement brought back knowledge and deepened our understanding of constraints within the various other organisations and sectors.

staff and membership

Dara McHugh continued as Smart Taxes co-ordinator and Caroline Whyte as Feasta website administrator. Due to shrinking funding we reluctantly had to let go Mayra Guerra, our bookkeeper, and Corinna Byrne, co-ordinator of the Carbon Cycles and Sinks project. Morag Friel continued in her role as members' agent, providing office admin and support to members in their various

Feasta projects and interests. Beyond the day-to-day running of the office she facilitates and communicates activities, projects and events with, and on behalf of, members. She welcomes new members, offers them any assistance they need in connecting with other members or workgroups in their area of interest and promotes the use of the website as a resource. She encourages new and re-

newing members to contribute articles and comments on the website. In 2011 she continued to work on the marketing of *Fleeing Vesuvius* and communication with publishers. In 2012 she will be working with the Climate Group on sales and promotion of the new book *Sharing for Survival*.

