

GUIDE

HOW TO BUILD NETWORKS

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| People: | Those is your group invovled in building networks |
| Time: | 30 minutes to read through guide |
| Resources: | This guide and a place to meet |

How can this help us?

We are all part of networks, be it our family, friends or community. Networks are what really help us to. Building networks is about building mutual friendships and support for your project and the work of others. Networking is really helpful for building Transition in your community as it raises awareness of what you are doing and builds support within your community which can bring all kinds of surprises, such as:

- More opportunities coming your way
- Support when developing projects
- New relationship with potential partners
- Help and support from your community when you need it

The guide:

Building networks is all about supporting each other:

Supporting each other to do things is one of the best ways to build a network that is strong and useful, here are some of the ways that you can do this:

- Organize a fair or public gathering where local resources can be promoted
- Support & publicize each other's work on your web site, newsletter, events
- Ask a local group or agency to host a web site listing all the brilliant and dedicated local Resource Groups & People!
- Ask local groups and respected individual leaders to be Advisors for your group/ projects

Who to network with:

Through doing the Big List Exercise <http://transitionnetwork.org/resources/big-list-activity/> you can come up with a list of all potential groups or individuals in your community who may support your work, some of these you would want to develop partnerships with and others you would want to network with. If you haven't done the big list exercise, you can just produce a list of groups in your community who you know would be supportive of Transition, but we recommend doing the big list exercise as it helps you think more deeply about your community.

Ways to build your network:

Make initial contact with all groups and individuals, it is great to arrange to meet face to face if possible.

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Before you make any contact prepare yourselves by:

- Learning a bit about the group you are meeting
- Thinking about what it is that you like about their group
- Considering how you will introduce yourself and your group
- Think about the common concerns and aims that you may have
- Some of the ways that you can support their group in their activities
- Thinking about the mutual benefits that being in contact with each other would bring

Example of a first meeting outline:

The following outlines a potential first meeting outline that you could use, feel free to modify it to fit your own context.

1. Honour the past accomplishments and ongoing work of the group before telling them about Transition:
 - a. Learn about their mission, goals, programs
 - b. Who do they reach, or seek to reach, in the community?
2. Share information about specific Transition issues that may affect them, such as rising energy costs and the economic impacts on the community
3. Ask: How might the Transition movement in our community support your organization's work in the transition?
4. Ask for support: What would you like to give to support the community's transition? (e.g. help connect to other groups and leaders, places to meet, copying, events, etc.)

Building long term relationships:

As Transition is about embedding yourself within a community then it is very important to maintain your networks, stay in contact with groups and support each other wherever possible. Here are a few ways you can do this:

- When planning events or projects always think about other groups that you could get involved
- Can you support an existing project, such as helping a community orchard out during harvesting time
- When putting on events can you promote other groups events at your event
- Invite other groups to your social events

Transition needs to have strong networks to be really effective, so take time to build up those relationships as you never know where they might lead. It can be useful to print out this guide to refer to it in the future and show new members.

More support:

For more support and information on building network and partnerships go here:

<http://transitionnetwork.org/do-transition/starting-transition/7-essential-ingredients/networks-and-partnerships/>

Check out the 7 essential ingredients of Transition here:

<http://transitionnetwork.org/do-transition/starting-transition/7-essential-ingredients/>

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