

## ACTIVITY

# PRODUCING A TIMELINE

People:	Ideally everyone in your group
Time:	1-2 hours
Resources:	This activity sheet, a place to meet, flipchart paper, pens

### *Why should we do this?*

A timeline is a useful way of setting down some of the practical steps needed to Transition your community. It is a way of realising your vision in a practical way, by looking at what you would actually have to do, and when, to get there. You can do this exercise without creating a vision using the visioning exercise, but it may be better to do that activity first, it can be downloaded here: <http://transitionnetwork.org/resources/visioning-post-transition-future-activity/>

### *How to do it:*

#### Backcasting as a tool to produce your timeline

Backcasting is a great way to produce your timeline. This involves starting from where you want to end up and working backwards. So if you decided in your visioning exercise that you would want a car free community you would then work back from that idea to the situation now by deciding what you would need to do when to make this dream a reality.

For example:

- Public transport has to be:
  - Affordable - contact travel companies about the costs
  - New routes would be needed - speak to travel companies, or setup minibus services
- Speak to council about increasing cycle lanes to cover area
- Build more cycle storage places
- Setup bike share scheme etc.

So backcasting is a process of identifying what new infrastructure, training and skills would need to be in place by when in order to achieve the vision.

#### Backcasting in action

- Depending on the amount of people you can backcast together, but if there is more than 5 of you probably better to split into groups
- Once in groups then discuss the practical steps that you would need to undertake to get to the future you identified in your visioning exercise

## ACTIVITY

- It may be helpful to break the timeline into topics such as:
  - o Food
  - o Energy
  - o Transport
  - o Well being
  - o Community etc.
- You could have different topics on tables and people walk around putting their ideas down on post it notes on to a big piece of paper
- Remember that you are thinking about practical tasks like in the car free community for example
- Once this is done people can then put their post it notes onto the big timeline that stretches from the present to twenty years in the future
- This can then be looked at by the group as a whole and discussed and gaps filled in or steps moved about
- Once completed then it is useful for someone to take this away and write it up

By working through this process your group will have the beginning of an vision and the initial steps needed to achieve that vision in your community. It also provides you with a vision for your community to show other people when talking to them about Transition.

### Tips:

1. Don't get too attached to outcomes and ideas, this is a rough guide and will begin to give you some direction in the practical projects and enterprises you might want to set up.
2. Everything will change! Revisit this exercise periodically.
3. Bring it along to annual general meetings, celebrations and see what has worked out how you thought and what hasn't.

### More support:

For more support and information on creating visions and analysing how we see the world go here:

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

Check out the 7 essential ingredients of Transition here:

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

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**End.**