IT and (Un)sustainable Cultures

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Goal: Sustainability
Tools: IT
First Efforts

- EcoRaft
- GreenScanner
- Trackulous
- Sustainable Software
Unsustainable Norms

- Growth
- Consumption
Unsustainable (but Reasonable) Aspirations
Transitions

- Personal
- Institutional
- Infrastructural
IT Will Play a Role

- Greening through IT
- Force multiplier
- IT amplifies culture
Nevertheless…

- Ambiguous
- Symptoms
Shortcomings in my own projects

- Sustainable Software (Efficiency)
- EcoRaft (Symptoms)
• New phone every 18 months
• Commute 16 miles (one way)
• Living in Deserts
• Red Meat - 40:1
• Quality of life
Social, Institutional, Infrastructural Problems
IT may support them.
How?
Especially Hard...
From Here to There
Getting back to root causes
Satisfying Human Needs

- Subsistence
- Protection
- Affection
- Understanding
- Participation
- Idleness
- Creation
- Identity
- Freedom
• Craigswikihowandwhytoons
• Educational resource
  – Animated how-to guides
  – Locally-relevant
  – Collaboratively created
  – Practically applicable
  – Context rich
• Basic Needs
  – Understanding
  – Creation
  – Participation
Discourage the Manufacture of Desire
Stop Shaving Yaks for Happiness
Investing
Excess

- Microlending
- Social Refrigeration
- Prosocial
  Conspicuous
  Consumption
These Are Not New Ideas
We Need Bold Plans
Otherwise, we’re just delaying.
Otherwise, we need research areas with other names.

- Collapse Computing
- Descent Technology
- Peak IT
Thank you for your time.

“And so, while the end-of-the-world scenario will be rife with unimaginable horrors, we believe that the pre-end period will be filled with unprecedented opportunities for profit.”

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