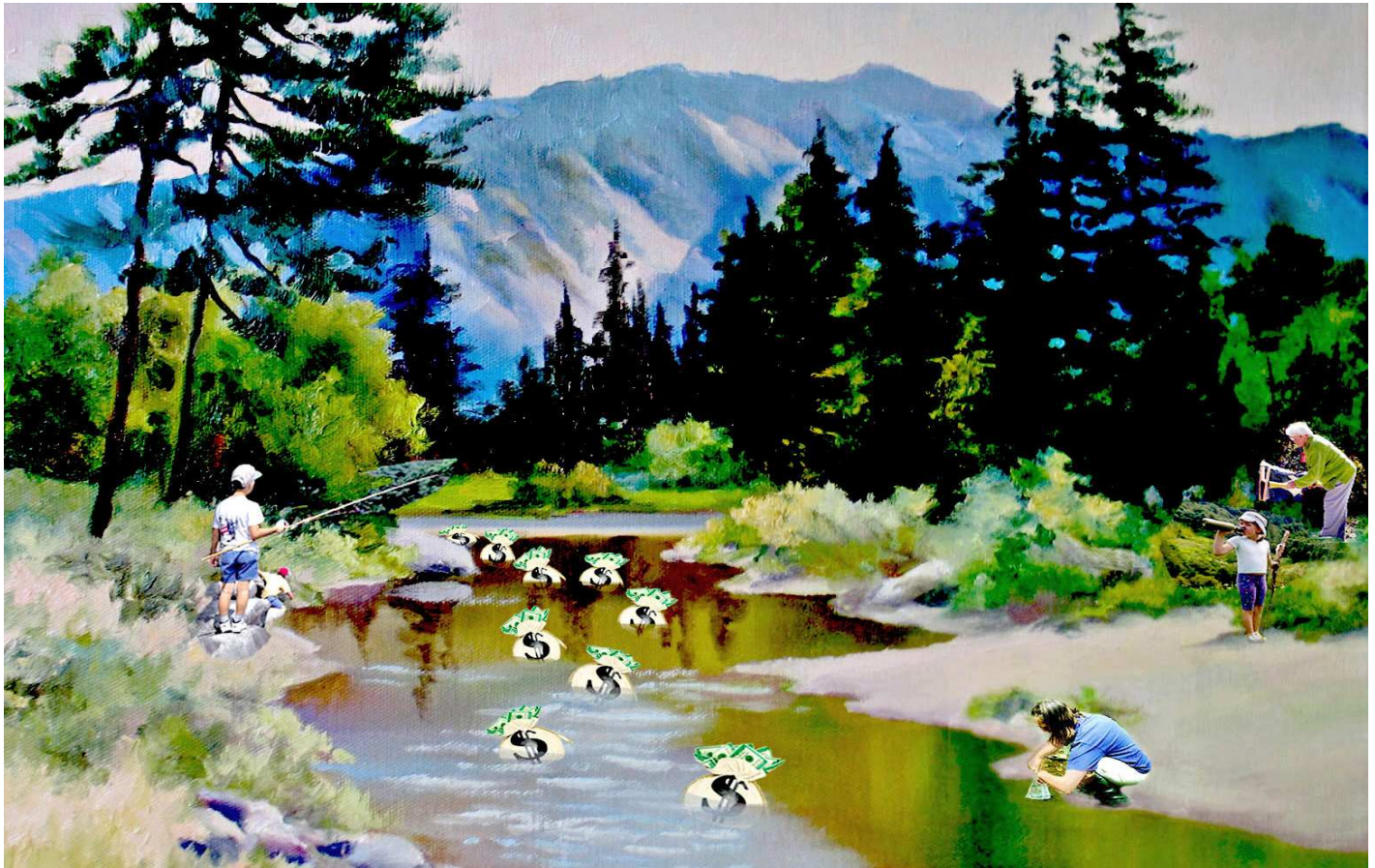


Sustainable Cities: Caring for the Greater Commons



“Sustainable Cities” started with Caring for our Cities as Commons

Neglecting The upstream burden of their wealth and the World They’re In as a Commons

Statement:

A scientifically better way to measure the true scale of economic footprints is as fractions of the whole. It’s easy and accurate for scale, treating fractions of world GDP as shares of world resource use and impacts too⁽¹⁾. Cities thrive as hubs of creativity and growing concentrations of wealth, cells within a greater whole. Without self-restraint, growing parts can become cancers on the whole, profiting by conquering others, not by caring for their world. A city’s limit is then exhausting their world, as done by ancient Rome, the Mayans and others.

New York City with $\sim 1/10^{\text{th}}$ of one percent of the world’s population has a \$1,350 billion/yr GDP, $\sim 2\%$ share of world GDP, so causing $\sim 2\%$ of world economic resource demands and impacts, with its plan for real repeated doubling of all three. Wealth earned on New York’s 13 sq mi uses the products of $\sim 380,000$ mi² of farm land around the world, $\sim 2\%$ of the world’s, with resource pressure causing $\sim 2\%$ of the world’s 1,460 mi² of deforestation. Its services produce $\sim 2\%$ of the world’s CO₂, $\sim 141,750$ million lbs/yr, $\sim 170,000$ lbs. per NYC resident.

The question is, what would make New York and other cities turn from consuming to caring for the world they generate their wealth from(2)? Now each World Capital, as an island of high GDP, is growing its impacts on the world commons by growing amounts each year, as innocently as if living by a lazy stream grabbing floating bags of money going by now and then. Jessie Henshaw

Jessie is an environmental and human systems scientist quite familiar with defining units of measure. She’s been doing advanced research on emergent organization in nature and economic systems for over 30 years. The scientific basis for this measurement method is a peer reviewed research paper

1) “Getting the incentives right requires redefining the units of measure”. www.synapse9.com/signals/?p=2721

2) “Ideal Model new architecture: Capitalism with a Purpose” www.synapse9.com/signals/?p=2692