

Lesson 3: Solutions Central!

PURPOSE

Having perhaps scared your young cast with the issues raised in Lesson TWO – now is the time to fill them with hope! To make them feel secure and confident that their generation can find the solutions to the global challenges that surround them: *Peace Child* is the story of how they do just that! To emphasise the focus in the *Peace Child* process on solutions, we suggest that if you spend a Day on Lesson TWO – you spend two days on Lesson THREE: if you spend a week on 2 – spend two weeks on 3 – and so on. This is where the emphasis has to be because we have tried doing post-apocalyptic *Peace Child* performances – and they don't work. The point of *Peace Child* is to reach a happy ending by 2050. And happy endings start here. With Solutions!

BACKGROUND READING

Go back to the solutions we started exploring in Lesson ONE:

1. **Reinventing Fire.** By Amory Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute. The Video alone is brilliant: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT-g__695Go
2. **Andrew Winston's Blog:** Read: *Green to Gold* – and understand why business can profit from embracing the Green Economy. <http://www.andrewwinston.com>
3. **The Ellen MacArthur Foundation** – read her explanation of the Circular Economy: <http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy/circular-economy>
4. **UNEP Green Economy Report:** <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/greeneconomyreport/tabid/29846/default.aspx>
5. **The Economics of Eco-systems & Biodiversity(TEEB):** www.teebweb.org
6. **The Post Carbon Institute** – a bit more of the gloom and doom scenario – but a great de-bunking of the Fracking industry, and an effort to change the conversation, as evident in the name of the institute. Going for ten years now, it is one of the best: <http://www.postcarbon.org>
7. ***The End of Growth***, Richard Heinberg. See: <http://richardheinberg.com/>
8. **Steady State Economics:** Herman Daly – the father of the idea that you can only achieve sustainability through having a no growth economy. See: <http://steadystate.org/>
9. **Sustainable Energy for All:** <http://www.se4all.org/>
10. **Resource-Efficient Cities:** http://www.unep.org/pdf/GI-REC_4pager.pdf
11. **Transition Towns:** Rob Watkins brilliant approach to building the Post-Carbon, Green Sustainable Economy one town at a time: <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/about>
12. **Dongtan and Masdar:** <http://www.cnu.org/cnu-salons/2013/04/dashed-dreams-eco-city-failure-dongtan-eco-city-chongming-island-china> and <http://www.masdar.ae/en/#masdar>
13. **Locavores** – the California idea of eating only locally produced food: <http://www.locavores.com/>
14. **Co-housing** (see example at: <http://www.seattlecohousing.org/> and the One Planet Living Concept at: <http://www.oneplanetliving.org>)
15. **Samsø** – Denmark's zero carbon Island; see: <http://www.stateofgreen.com/en/Profiles/Samsoe-Energy-Academy>
16. **The Swedish state of Skane** (Malmo) – its bold environmental targets. See: http://www.skane.se/upload/Webbplatser/Skaneportalen-extern/dokument/Miljopr2010_2020_ENG.pdf
17. **Zero Carbon Nations:** The race is on to become the world's first zero carbon nation. Iceland is in the lead, closely followed by New Zealand, Costa Rica & Norway. See report at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/four-nations-in-race-to-be-first-to-go-carbon-neutral-802627.html>
18. **Zero Net Energy Households:** <http://permaculturenews.org/2013/10/17/zero-net-energy-households/>
19. **Car Free Days:** Hundreds of towns and cities around the world hold days when cars are banned in city centres. See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Car-Free_Days

20. **Liter of Light**: amazing, lo-cost / no cost way of lighting slum and rural dwellings – using just a plastic water bottle! <http://aliteroflight.org/>
21. **Education for all**: It is clearly part of the solution that all children get an education so that they know what is going on. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-all/> and <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTEDUCATION/0,,contentMDK:20374062~menuPK:540090~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:282386,00.html>
22. **The Right to Protection (R2P)**: The solution developed by the UN in 2005, but yet to be properly implemented. It comes up several times in this version of the musical. Start your research here: <http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/about-rtop>
23. **The Sustainable Development Goals**: Not agreed as yet – but definitely one of the better ideas being considered by the UN for the future roadmap of human development. Check it out at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1300>
24. **Inferno** by Dan Brown: a surprising recommendation perhaps – but he has a very interesting solution to the Population Issue;
25. **The Devil's Alternative** by Frederick Forsyth: again, a novelist's extrapolation on the challenge of supplying the world with food.
26. **How to get rid of Harmful Subsidies**: Pat Lerner's paper is brilliant on this. See: <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/Global/international/publications/RioPlus20/Harmful-Subsidies.pdf>
27. **COP-21 - Paris 2015**: See: <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/sustainable-development-1097/21st-conference-of-the-parties-on> The website states: "By the end of the meeting, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, all the nations of the world, including the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases, will be bound by a universal agreement on climate." Is that just wishful thinking? Or could it happen? Explore and see. Check these other websites:
 - www.350.org
 - <http://www.wearepowershift.org/>
 - <http://ukycc.org/> / <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/>
 - <http://tcktcktck.org/>
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. **The need for a Rapid Transition to a Green, Sustainable Economy**: Discuss how are we going to get there? Here at Solutions Central, we want to include everyone – governments, industry, NGOs, environmentalists, schools, universities, think-tanks, youth – EVERYONE. As you will read in the play, the oilman starts off being an almost pantomime villain – but becomes, in the end, the hero who makes things happen. So – no demonization of Big Business! The brown, fossil-fuelled economy was built by the private sector – with help from governments and the support of the general public. The green economy must be built in the same way. So – discuss and prioritise the following solutions and add others as you think of them:
 - ✓ **Green Taxes**: the quickest way to achieve a rapid transition from the Brown to the Green Economy is to tax the Brown economy heavily & give tax breaks to green economy initiatives. (In other words, hike up prices for fossil fuels; lower the prices for renewable energy. Incentivise recycling and the circular economy by lowering taxes on – say – Renault's re-build cars; hike up taxes on built-from-scratch vehicles.)
 - ✓ **Feed-in Tariffs (FiTs)**: make FiTs available in every country: this is the system where members of the public can mount solar electric panels or wind turbines on their roofs – or at their factories – and get paid by the electricity companies for every Kwh they feed into the National Grid. This lets the public experience that "Green Energy Pays!"
 - ✓ **Labelling**: make sure that green economy products are colourfully labeled in the supermarket – and that those which are produced UN-sustainably are labeled with big

black marks to make the public aware of what is, and what is not, produced in a green, eco-friendly, sustainable manner.

- ✓ **Legislate to encourage Resource Efficiency:**
- ✓ **Promote Zero Carbon Villages / Towns / Cities / States:**
- ✓ **Zero Waste Initiatives:** Introduce the principle of zero waste into every household, every company: make them pay for their waste disposal. Zero waste is 'No burn, No Bury!' – in other words, EVERYTHING is re-cycled and re-used – as compost, and raw materials for new goods;
- ✓ **Promote Vegetarian Recipes:** - especially in schools. Require by law that every school serve only vegetarian food three days a week. And then up it to five days a week! Wean the public from their appetite for dead animals.

2. **Legislate for Sustainable Consumption & Production(SCP):** Discuss what SCP actually means? The key definitions of SCP could be summarized thus:

- Doing “more and better with less,” reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the life cycle of goods and services, while increasing the quality of life for all.
- Promoting resource + energy efficiency by offering opportunities such as creating new markets for organic food, fair trade, sustainable housing, renewable energy, sustainable transport and tourism thus generating economic growth and green jobs,.
- Enabling developing countries to “leapfrog” developed countries direct to more resource-efficient, Green Economy technologies, allowing them to bypass inefficient and polluting phases of development.
- Decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation by increasing the efficiency of resource use in the production, distribution and use of products.
- SCP keeps energy, material and pollution intensity of all production and consumption functions within the carrying capacities of natural ecosystems.
- SCP uses a “life-cycle perspective” to achieve resource efficiency and pave the way to accelerating the transition to an eco-efficient economy, while turning environmental and social challenges into business and employment opportunities.

There are any number of websites to give your cast background on SCP – which was a central theme of many of the international meetings on solutions to the environmental crisis in the early years of this century. Perhaps the most important was the Marrakech Process – which split the subject into 7 x working groups, thus:

- i. Sustainable Buildings & Construction
- ii. Sustainable Tourism
- iii. Sustainable Lifestyles
- iv. Education for Sustainable Consumption
- v. Cooperation with Africa
- vi. Sustainable Public Procurement
- vii. Sustainable Products

That was in 2005. It's an odd list, isn't it? What topics do you think should feature in a contemporary SCP list of Task Forces? (Sustainable Energy for All – is one obvious addition that the UN themselves have made). Or perhaps the whole idea of sustainable consumption and production as a solution to environmental problems is outdated: what do you think?

1. **Create a United Nations System that Works:** Discuss how we can set up a system of international governance that actually protects people's human rights, avoids the scourge of war, and saves the planet resources for future generations. Here at Solutions Central – this is the most ticklish challenge because, as one character in the musical says, the big

governments do NOT want a strong UN: they want a docile poodle that they can order about. The need for the things that the youth pass their treaties about are absolutely self-evident – and have been obvious for the last 50 years. But – ask the USA, or China, or Brazil – or even the UK or France – to surrender one jot of their sovereignty or power, and they will shut off the conversation with a blunt “NO!” – that shuts the door on any further discussion.

It has been obvious for years that the UK and France should surrender their permanent seat on the Security Council to the European Union – and allow a representative of Latin America or Africa or India – all of whom are more deserving of such a seat than the tiny UK or France! But it is never likely to happen as no elected government of France or the UK wants to go down in history as the one that surrendered their permanent seat at the UN. And what about the right of the UN to collect taxes? – never going to happen! And the right of the UN to have a rapid deployment force to step in to stop wars before they start? – never going to happen. The USA even reserves the right to ignore the rulings of the International Court and the Intl. Criminal Court. And – see the Recent History (Lesson 4 – below) – the UN has not covered itself in glory in its high profile summits at Copenhagen or Rio!! So – discuss: **Has the UN passed its sell-by date? In the Internet age – when every individual is connected online, is a UN really necessary any more? Could we live without it?** (The argument is that some components of the UN are really necessary: like IATA – which makes sure that planes all obey the same rules so they don’t bump into each other!)

4. **Create a Peace Child Passport – Empowering Young People to Unite Nations:** Discuss the idea of a Peace Child Passport and the idea that young people really *can* help Unite Nations? We at Peace Child Intl. think that youth can – and, at Geneva, PCI President, David Woollcombe, announced – in public, for the first time – the idea of the Peace Child Passport. This is modeled on the UN staff passport, which allows UN Staff visa-free access to any UN Member State. PCI argues: “*Why, if governments really want to unite nations – can they not make it a whole lot easier for the young people of their countries to meet?*” The PC Passport would give an entry visa to a young person to enter any country to attend a training, course, meeting or cultural event. The passport would issue visas for a nominal fee of, say, \$25. Each visa would be strictly time-limited to the length of the meeting or course and, if the young person stayed beyond the time-limit, their PC Passport would be withdrawn, with no chance of appeal. PCI trusts young people to do what they say they are going to do – and come home when they say they will.

But the wider point of discussion is: would such a system do any good? Would not young people just follow the orders of their government and, if that government ordered them to fight and kill young people of a nation that they had just been visiting, should not the young people follow their government’s orders?

IMPROVISATIONS

There is really only one improvisation to have in this lesson: the exploration of Despair vs. Hope in relation to the future survival of humanity on earth. We propose 2 x ways of doing it, and we make no apology for urging you, whatever the age, faith, culture or ethnicity of your cast – to try both:

ONE: The Secular – Trial by Jury: This is based on the famous case tried by Jewish Prisoners in one of the Concentration Camps during the 2nd World War – where they put God on trial for breaking His Covenant with their people. (The result was that they agreed that God probably had broken His covenant but – what were they going to do?! It was hard to send God to jail....!) Here – we want you to put Humanity on trial for destroying the earth. Humanity’s Defense Counsel will marshal all the arguments at Solutions Central to convince the Jury that Humanity is exploring all kinds of practical, effective solutions for solving our global challenges – that we shall solve them, and that therefore, the Jury – who can be the

rest of the cast, or your year group, or a whole school assembly, or a parents' evening, or who-ever! – should find Humanity NOT guilty. The Prosecution Counsel should marshal all the arguments explored in Lesson TWO – to show why Humanity is Guilty as charged. Get several cast members to prepare the arguments for each side – and do the improvisation as a class exercise.

TWO: The Spiritual – Sermon Off! Imagine a church, synagogue or temple with TWO pulpits – or two imams, or two Rabbis. One (*Erland in the show!*) is full of hope and enthusiasm for a merciful God who has the best interests of His people at heart – and who is, behind the scenes, preparing to deliver Humanity from the global problems this generation faces. The other is full of bitterness and fear that God is an avenging God and – like He did with the Flood, and Sodom and Gomorrah, and Lot's wife – he is preparing to punish Humanity mightily for the sin of Greed, and careless destruction of the environment and natural resources of the paradise planet on which He placed us.

Again – get several cast members to prepare each sermon – and invite the cast – or an independent audience of students or parents – to watch the 'Sermon-off.' Then let them decide which side has made the better case.

DROP-IN THREE

The Drop-in is to the dialogue between Mei and Erland in **Scene SIX – An Ending**, particularly this section on Page 27:

Erland Don't think about it too much. I don't believe God has plans to wipe us all off the face of the planet any time soon: she's working things out! Have faith!

Mei I don't have your gift of faith. I believe in humanity and the strength of our communities. We can achieve so much with our minds without faith in a higher power. I have faith, that soon, all our human advances in science and technology will propel our society into a truly green planet; that the more (we humans) educate ourselves with rational thought based on a global mutual need, the more easily the peace we want to see will just come. I believe in humanity's capabilities.

Mei actually wrote that speech herself – and it expressed her humanistic belief that humanity can solve its problems rationally without faith – or waiting, as I put it, for “God to parachute in and sort everything out!” I love her line about the ‘gift of faith...’ It is a gift – and Erland had it: his performance of the song, “*I believe!*” – was a show-stopper, and – whether you are atheist, humanist, Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Jew – or agnostic, it is lovely to be able to acknowledge the differences between us in relation to faith – and to celebrate every perspective.

DROP-IN IDEA

Based on your improvisations, discussions and research here at Solutions Central – think about re-writing this whole scene – maybe for a bunch of different characters. The sense of failure we all felt after Copenhagen (See Copenhagen Blues – next lesson) – was pretty absolute: this lesson has been all about finding both rational and spiritual / faith solutions to the challenges faced by young people growing up today. Your decisions / conclusions here should shape every line – and the whole atmosphere – of your production. And BEWARE: young people, in our experience, prefer – on a ratio of 2 : 1 – to be apocalyptic in their view of the future. Make sure that you do NOT end up with a Peace Child show that fails to achieve the Happy Ending!