

Resilience

Insight and Inspiration in Turbulent Times

EDITORIAL INTENT

Helping People Navigate Environmental and Social Breakdown

For nearly 20 years, *Resilience* has been a leading source of information, opinion, and reflection for people throughout the English-speaking world interested in community-scale, environmentally-aware responses to our global sustainability challenges. We are a hub for:

- **Informing visitors** about the intertwined environmental and social crises of the 21st century, including challenging the mainstream mythologies of endless economic growth, consumerism, and techno-utopianism.
- **Inspiring visitors** with positive ways in which people can meet their needs in healthy balance with nature, especially stories of people navigating environmental and social breakdown in prosocial ways.
- **Activating visitors** to take steps toward building resilient and equitable communities that are truly sustainable.

As we enter this period some have called “[The Great Unraveling](#),” with environmental and social conditions deteriorating and more people worldwide facing struggles in day-to-day living, *Resilience* has an opportunity to become an even more consequential resource for people seeking to: (1) access authentic, reliable, and inspiring information; (2) connect with other like-minded folks; and (3) find trustworthy guidance about actions they can take.

At *Resilience* we recognize there are no simple solutions to the environmental and social breakdown caused by an overly consumptive and unjust global economy. That’s why we publish fresh commentary and unflinching analyses, through dedicated application of a systems-thinking lens. That’s also why we spotlight ideas that provide agency and meaning in these transitional times when industrial-age systems are crumbling, the climate is being destabilized, democratic governance is under attack, and energy and materials are becoming increasingly constrained. Now is not the time to succumb to doomer cynicism—it’s a time to resist and remake communities to provide wellbeing for all.

Key Characteristics of Our Content

In making decisions about what to publish, we prioritize content that:

- Fits our [understanding of the world](#) (based in systems thinking, energy literacy, and ecological economics, and valuing community resilience).

- Tells the truth about humanity’s sustainability predicament, no matter how upsetting, while seeking viable pathways forward.
- Maintains the highest standards of accuracy and professionalism.
- Employs originality, presenting novel ideas or synthesizing existing ideas in novel ways.
- Provides practical, actionable ideas that our audience can deploy in their households and communities.
- Expresses openness to the many possible futures (i.e., recognizes that current systems can unravel, or otherwise change, in unpredictable ways).
- Maintains a healthy skepticism of simple techno-solutions.
- Recognizes the urgent need for widespread cultural, technological, and economic changes to end the practice of burning fossil fuels.
- Conveys intelligence in eminently understandable ways.
- Presents nuanced topics in ways that capture attention and fire the imagination.

Topics

Resilience covers the realms of energy, the economy, the environment, food and water, and society, set in the context of community resilience, deep sustainability, the limits to growth, and the Great Unraveling. Examples of more specific topics within this context include interpretation of geopolitical events, ecological restoration, population growth and decline, urban design, regenerative agriculture, holistic living, bioregionalism, and activism.

Formats

Resilience offers content in formats that acknowledge our visitors’ diverse preferences:

- Some people like to take their time reading thought-provoking articles (note: we’ve traditionally published articles between 800 and 1,500 words).
- Some like to listen to podcasts with a variety of voices, soundscapes, and aha moments.
- Some want to attend live, online events with expert panelists from around the world.
- Some appreciate discussing ideas in a forum with others who are concerned about humanity’s future.
- Some learn best by completing an online course.
- Some prefer short videos.

Over its history, *Resilience* has emphasized journalistic articles, but we are embracing live online events and podcasts, have substantial experience with other media formats listed above, and remain open to experimental and creative ways of communicating with our audience.

Tone

The predominant tone of *Resilience* is that of a respected teacher—one who can explain important concepts with exceptional clarity, from a place of humility, with a commitment to the facts, and in the spirit of improving life for all. But given the breadth

of our audience, we also publish content with tonal diversity. Our content can convey a variety of emotions, from humor to grief to gratitude to anger. After all, visitors who are contemplating existential threats to humanity and the biosphere will be arriving with all sorts of emotional responses, and our goal is to meet them where they are. And as we inform, it's often desirable to do so while entertaining, delighting, surprising, or even riling up members of our audience.

Diversity of Voices

Resilience strives to publish voices that can capture a wide range of perspectives. We seek content generators who can provide such perspectives based on diversity in age, culture, ethnicity, geography, gender, and other characteristics.

Goals

To understand the vision for *Resilience*, we have listed our goals in priority order and categorized them by type—content (C), audience (A), and operations (O):

1. To serve as the go-to destination for honest, systems-based insights into the Great Unraveling and meaningful ways of responding to it. (C)
2. To move a significant and growing portion of our audience through these stages of action: first, awareness of some aspects of the Great Unraveling; then, a deeper understanding of the nature of our predicament and appropriate responses to it; and finally, identifying and taking meaningful action in their own lives and communities (and becoming “change seekers”). (A)
3. To grow our audience. (A)
4. To diversify and “youthify” our engaged audience. (A)
5. To connect a growing number of change seekers with one another and to the ecosystem of individuals and organizations building knowledge and place-based community resilience. (A)
6. To serve as a platform and hub for organizations addressing aspects of the Great Unraveling to reach new audiences and connect with one another. (A)
7. To serve as a platform for diverse voices exploring key aspects of the Great Unraveling, responses to it, and visions for a world where resilient, just, and sustainable communities coexist with nature, thrive within ecological bounds, and provide greater protection for both human and non-human lives. (C)
8. To build resilience.org’s capacity to achieve all of these goals by attracting a robust number of small donors. (O)

Final Word on the Word “Resilience”

“Resilience” is often defined as the ability of a system to absorb disturbance and bounce back. In [our usage](#)—drawn from social-ecological systems science—resilience is about responding and adapting to unpredictable changes while building a better future that can be sustained.