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The old economic prescriptions have failed....but the viable economy is an alternative.

The single-minded pursuit of economic growth

- Has increased inequality and absolute poverty.
- Continues to increase the emissions that lead to climate change.
- Makes us all vulnerable to shocks from climate change, international conflicts, the ups and downs of the financial system and arbitrary austerity politics.
- Encourages us to value consumption over happiness, health and a long term future for ourselves and our children.
- Is already running out of steam – growth is slowing, stalling, reversing.

The Viable Economy, will mean

- Living well and more equally. More is produced locally, providing decent green jobs and spreading the wealth.
- We are more secure because the environment is protected from further destruction.
- Resilience: access to goods, especially food, will be more secure should there be shocks.
- More money stays local - our city's wealth will be used for needed developments, for example energy efficient, affordable housing.
- Balance. Some sectors must grow, (e.g. renewable energy) and some must shrink (e.g. fossil fuels).
- Focussing on the things we want the economy to deliver, rather than growth for growth's sake (GDP or GVA measures).

Turn over to find out what Steady State Manchester is doing.

Over the last three years **Steady State Manchester** has initiated conversations on steady state economics, the benefits and costs of different kinds of growth, ethical investment, alternative financial systems, measuring well-being and sustainable and sustainable food supply. These continue with public bodies, the media, voluntary and community organisations, business and individuals through:

- ✓ Well researched and authoritative reports, including **In Place of Growth, Living Well, In Place of Income Inequality, The Viable Economy** and more than 200 blog posts all with an emphasis on aligning economic, social and environmental well-being.
- ✓ A network of supporters and associates.
- ✓ Work with organisations and groups working for ecological, economic and social justice.
- ✓ Workshops and events, organised by ourselves and in partnership.

SSM is deepening our own understanding of the opportunities, challenges, benefits and practicalities of moving towards an economy that is viable ecologically, socially and indeed economically.

In the coming year, we will :

- ➔ Open up Steady State Manchester to a wider membership.
- ➔ Continue to focus on economic equality, ethical investment, divestment and finance, as well as convivial, green, economic and social policy, including the food and energy economies, as essential features of the viable economy.
- ➔ Critically examine the development of devolution in the region, pressing for a democratic alternative that can deliver economic, social and environmental justice.
- ➔ Through research and advocacy, continue to promote, to inform and educate on the post-growth, viable alternative.

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