

Policy checker for the Viable Economy



For any policy proposal or plan, ask these questions. If you like you could make comparisons by rating alternative policies on a five point scale and calculate a total score.

1 *Is it economically viable?*

- 1.1 Does it promote resilience in the face of bubbles, crashes, supply chain interruptions and the whim of governments?
- 1.2 Does it help more money to stay local and more democratic and local control over savings and investment?
- 1.3 Does it help the economy to deliver (and measure) what we need rather than growth for growth's sake?
- 1.4 Does it help us move towards a more balanced economy without the over-development of some sectors (e.g. financial speculation, armaments)?
- 1.5 Does it help create an economy that does not have to keep expanding overall (noting that some sectors, like renewable energy, will grow, while some, such as fossil fuels, must shrink)?
- 1.6 Does it encourage investment to come from within our economy rather than from exploitation of other peoples or as profit-seeking from external investors?

2 *Is it socially viable?*

- 2.1 Does it give people and government more control over the economy rather than the economy controlling us?
- 2.2 Does it build and rely on equality, solidarity and cooperation among people, here and elsewhere?
- 2.3 Will it more and more increase equality rather than inequality?

- 2.4 Will it mean less exploitation of the majority world while keeping open channels for communication and learning globally?
- 2.5 Is it rooted in the stewardship of everyone's human and social capital rather than the waste of people's energies and talents?
- 2.6 Does it enable people to live with dignity, free from prejudice, discrimination and stigmatisation
- 2.7 Does it increase the space for non-commercial transactions, supporting a collaborative or solidarity economy?

3 *Is it ecologically viable*

- 3.1 Does it help to radically reduce both the exploitation of finite resources and the emission of pollutants, including greenhouse gases: a one-planet economy?
- 3.2 Is it based on production and consumption for need rather than expansion and profit for its own sake: a frugal abundance?
- 3.3 Does it help protect the environment from further destruction, meaning more security for us all?
- 3.4 Does it build resilience to climactic and other ecological shocks?
- 3.5 Does it contribute to the stewardship of the natural world that we depend on?

Based on our paper, **The Viable Economy**. Steady State Manchester, 2014.
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