

List of “Elephants in the Room”: significant issues that are often ignored  
From November 18, 2021, session #5

Suggestions and ideas from the group:

- “Rebuildables” (they are not renewable) cannot give life style we have now
- Population
- Consumption drives the climate emergency
- Economy cannot continue to grow
  - This will require HUGE collective maturity ...
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- Capitalism, based on continual growth, cannot continue
  - Problems: power and economy and profits, perpetual growth
- Consumerism
- We want technology to change and keep earth from heating up, rather than look at or change ourselves
- Fear, greed – behind so much of what is happening
- Poverty: fear that if I take care of poor then I'll suffer
  - Need to realize we're all connected, doesn't matter unless we all do it...
- Jem Bendell's work: big elephant is that society might collapse
- Collapse could lead to a positive outcome: more local activities, increased connection to others, slower life, doing what matters ...
- Natural disasters wiping out people and economies failing;
  - We will get beyond this; actually **some** of us will get beyond this
- Our system is not set up to be able to change as radically as needed: MOC's up for re-election every couple years (and won't get elected again if they tell the truth about our climate predicament), lobbying, corruption, etc.
- U.S. Military: “During the Kyoto Accords negotiations in December 1997, the US demanded as a provision of signing that any and all of its military operations worldwide, including operations in participation with the UN and NATO, be exempted from measurement or reductions”.
- The carbon costs of imports are tallied to the country of manufacture rather than the importing country using the product
- Big money given to big politicians: resulting in development and urban sprawl, destroying local farming to build huge buildings ...
- We've overshoot the earth's carrying capacity
- Our situation is that we need an “intervention” with an addictive behavior: growth
- Important topic for discussion: are humans wired for competition or cooperation, or both?