

Catalyzing Sustainable Regional Communities, Environments and Enterprises

Some First and Possible Next Steps for the New England Region

A Whole of Community Planning Process - for Co-Designing a Sustainable New England Region
Connecting people across regional communities, enterprises and govt. agencies - 'breaking down the silos'



evolving new ways of thinking, seeing, knowing
and being for enabling sustainable futures

Evolveris is a not for profit
action think tank based in New England
on the east coast of Australia

An Evolveris Ideas Paper No 1- supporting discussions on catalyzing and growing sustainable regions
August 2008

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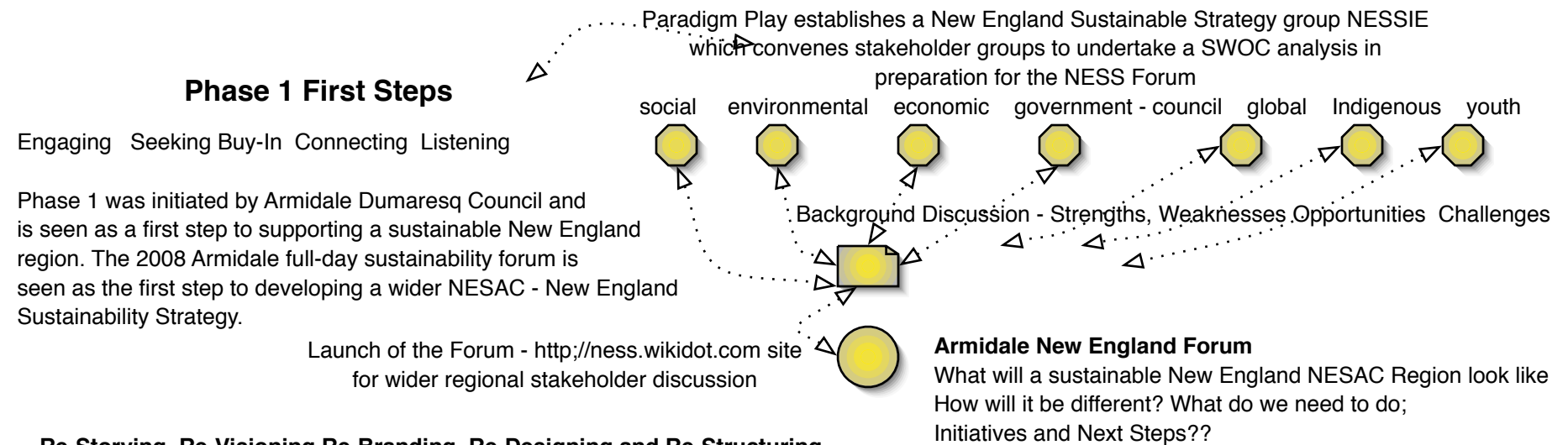
Some First and Possible Next Steps for the New England Region

Set out here is a 'whole of community' approach to catalyzing sustainable regions, their communities, environmental systems and enterprises. It is based on action research projects (local & international) into new collaborative sustainability planning approaches for regions and enterprises as complex systems. This 'discussion paper' puts forward some ideas around building an inclusive regional consultative process and some possible next steps for developing a regional sustainability strategy.

This whole regional system **co-design process** emphasizes the need for building the adaptive capacity of communities and stakeholders. It seeks to harness and synergise the local, place, stakeholder, landholders insights and expert knowledge and community aspirations to identify and support adaptive pathways to sustainable futures.

This regional planning as 'a collaborative learning and re-design process' to growing sustainable regions, envisages the importance of discovering local solutions - designs and seeks to improve the well-being of the regions various social, economic and eco-systems, the 'liveability' and attractiveness of its towns and villages.

However each place & region needs to discover its own process suitable for its communities and places. This inclusive 'whole of community' process for a transition to a sustainable region is based on what has been initiated in the New England region and looks at what could be some of the next possible steps. But the whole regional community needs to own and drive the next steps. **Set out here are just some possibilities** - based on some discussions between Adam Blakester of Paradigm Play and Mick O'Loughlin & Rebecca Spence of Evolveris in Armidale, who are helping to facilitate these regional conversations around a sustainable strategy for the New England Region. They include ideas on a new network governance structure representing regional communities, key stakeholders and local state, federal governments that can support and enable a regional sustainability strategy.



**Re-Storying Re-Visioning Re-Branding Re-Designing and Re-Structuring -
 Developing a Whole of Community Sustainable Strategy for New England**

Evolveris Ideas paper No 1 August 2008 Micheal OLoughlin 1

Some may see sustainability as just a 'green' lobby issue. But the advent of carbon emissions trading, pollution reduction schemes and global - climate changes, has made it something we can no longer avoid. We see building a sustainable region as full of opportunities to build a dynamic resilient region, cities, towns, villages and new enterprises, to preserve our biodiversity, ecosystems and build a new regional identity. By working together as a regional community we can attract new clean and smart enterprises, industry clusters and people to our 'liveable' places.

**Next Steps in Building a Sustainability Strategy
what's needed first, initiatives, building on our regional strengths**

Regional Sustainability Scorecard
and
A 'Whole of Community Sustainability Plan
& a Digital Story of the Armidale Forum Process

Identifying Challenges, Opportunities & Strengths
eg the cultural diversity & richness of the region with its extensive knowledge professional worker base

facilitating a wider, inclusive regional dialogue

'Co-Designing' sustainable regional communities, environments and enterprises

Exploring & Listening

Probing Issues
Making Sense of the Challenges

Sensing opportunities

Re-Designing

Acting - Learning Together

Reflecting on what we need to do Differently

Acting on what we have learnt

Priorities, Regional Initiatives

Developing Regional Sustainability Indicators

Determining how do we know we are making progress towards a sustainable New England Region?

Developing & Reviewing measures - holistic regional sustainability performance indicators - social, cultural, economic, environmental

Analysing trends, impacts, feedback, unintended consequences

Reflecting on what we set out to achieve, what's working, what can be done better; what new opportunities are emerging?

How are govt. agencies & enterprises practices adding to sustainability?

NESSiE
New England Sustainability Strategy
Executive of Regional Stakeholders
Groups

Support - Funding - Partnerships

Moving towards a new whole of community stakeholder governance network structure to champion the New England sustainability strategy

Understanding and nurturing regional sustainability is seen here as a complex problem, involving the need to build our adaptive capability and evolve in response to new opportunities, uncertain times and rapid global changes.

Evolveris see this challenge as needing new ways of thinking through issues, learning and working together. Set out here are some ideas on...

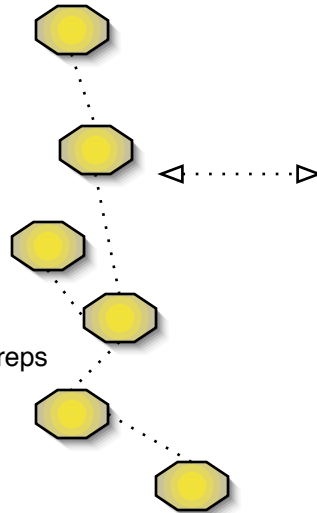
Phase 2 The Next Steps

1. Widen the community and stakeholder dialogue about what we can do to build regional sustainability

New England
Place Community
Consultations
eg Uralla, Walcha etc

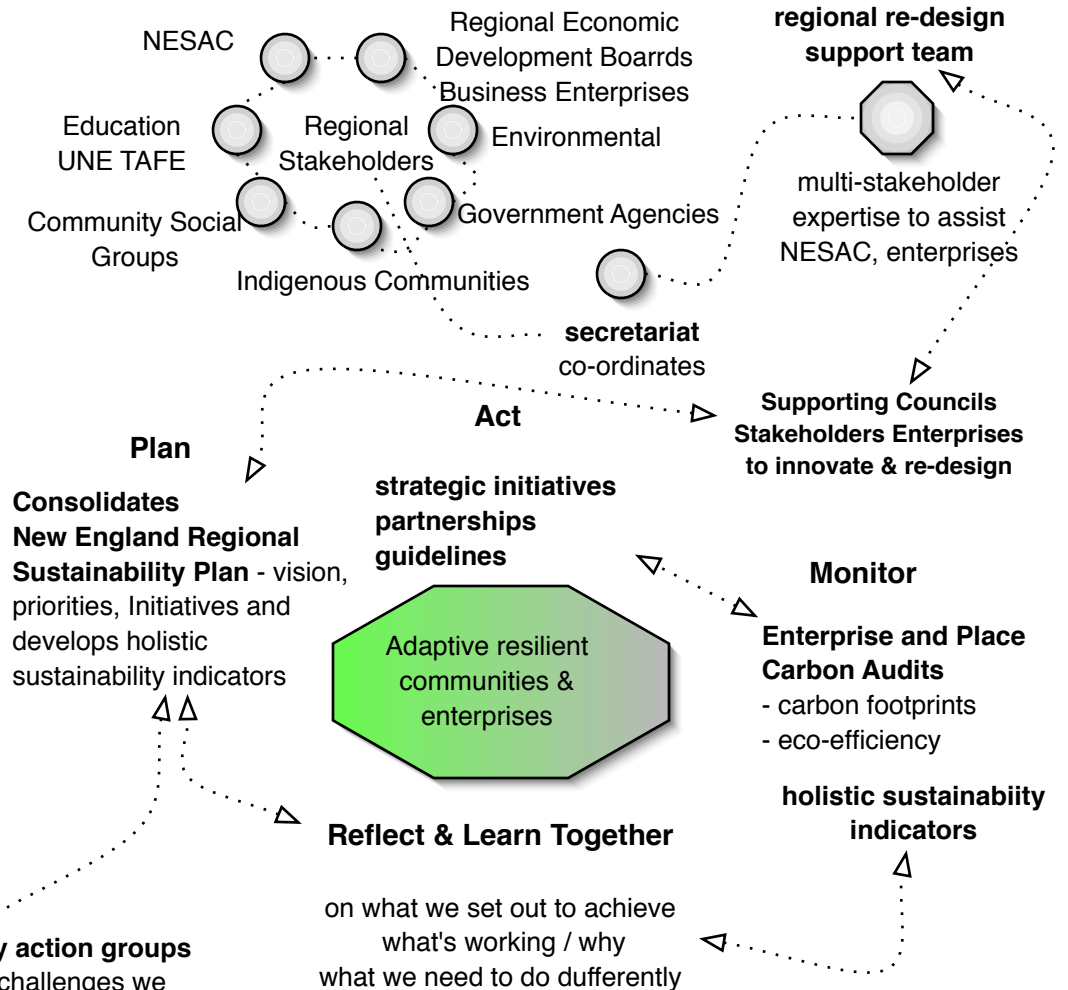
A representative regional citizen's group listens to representations from each New England place community.
- chaired by say Richard Torbay, reps from NESAC and citizens from regional communities

This citizen's group and reps from regional sustainability action groups could utilize scenario planning exercise to consider what challenges we face over the next 5 years and how we can best respond as a region eg renewable energy partnerships, water plans, redesigning our city-towns as more liveable.sustainable places
This **learning tool** builds regional foresight amongst regional stakeholders & identify proactive strategies on how we need to adapt to climate-global changes



2. Build a whole of community regional stakeholder governance structure to support the roll-out and success of a

New England Regional Sustainability Strategy.



This Process seeks to build on the Armidale NE Forum and widens the dialogue around a sustainable strategy for New England