

JUST STOP TEAM HANDBOOK

version 1.0

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This Just Stop Team Handbook provides suggestions for how to bring together a Just Stop Team, and how to feed it so it keeps going. Building your Just Stop Team is the first step towards building a sustainability ark.

Even if you have it in your head, body, heart, and soul to build a sustainability ark, I suggest that you first call your meeting a JUST STOP TEAM MEETING. This is for a very simple and practical reason. If a person cannot Just Stop and enthusiastically commit to opting out of the system, they are not going to make it in a sustainability ark. They will be carrying too much baggage. Whether the baggage is beliefs, fears, attitudes, habits or possessions from the old culture, too many is too many. We may as well get this straight at the beginning. It will be difficult enough later when the hidden urges return.

BEING THE SPACE FOR BRIGHT PRINCIPLES

I once read a survey reporting that the fear of giving a public talk was more intense than the fear of death. I believe it. Every time before I am about to give a public talk I feel terrified. I think of the expert intelligence of the audience and I ask myself, who am I to give a talk to these people? I can't do this.

And it is actually true. I cannot do it. I do not have the knowledge and energy resources to give the talk. If I ever think that I do I am seriously fooling myself.

The point is, you can't do the talk either. But fortunately, you don't have to. When you are holding space and serving something greater than yourself, the something else is what gives the talk. The something else is Bright Principles. When you are clear that your purpose for giving the talk is to serve the Bright Principles, then the energy and intelligence of the Bright Principles will source the talking. The most difficult thing you have to do is step out in front of the audience and say hello and then keep moving your lips. The Bright Principles will do the rest. You are being the space through which the Bright Principles can do their work in the world.

GIVING PUBLIC TALKS

Announcing that you are starting a Just Stop Team Meeting can also begin with a few public talks. The purpose of public talks is to pay back your debt to society through providing opportunities for cultural evolution. If even one person in a culture can implement even one new responsible distinction, the culture itself evolves. What giving public talks is *not* about is you being recognized as an authority, you becoming famous, you becoming rich, you being egotistical, arrogant or full of hubris. Giving public talks is not about you at all. A public talk is you going out of your way to serve by being the space through which your Bright Principles can do their work in other sectors of the culture than you usually expose yourself to. You never know who will show up at a public talk – you never know what they will need. Plan your schedule so that once a month you give a public talk somewhere about something.

LOGISTICS

The logistics of public talks are simple and include the following. First you need an inexpensive public meeting room. This could be in a bookstore, community center, town hall, healing center, old people's home, restaurant, church, school, and so on. If you organize the talk yourself then you will be paying the room rental costs yourself. If you have a sponsor then often the expenses are subtracted from the income and the rest is split between you and the sponsor fifty-fifty. There is an income because you will be charging an entrance fee for your talks. The fee is necessary so that the participant opens a space for them to receive something of value from you. The fee should range between five to thirty-five Euros for a one to two-and-a-half hour talk. It seems to work best if the flyers for the talk look elegant but not too glossy or over-designed. Do not write the talk contents on the flyer. That is too much information. Provide the talk title, start and end time, address and directions, price, some kind of graphic or photo, and a contact person's name, email address and phone number. The flyers can be both emailable and printed. Send email flyers into as many networks and to as many free announcements in the press as possible. Post the printed flyers in legal places around the neighborhood of the talk space. Give people at least one month's advance notice so they can make plans to be there with you.

For topics choose something that seems relevant and timely. Ask your Just Stop Team to list 25 topics for you to give public talks on, then give public talks on *every one* of them. The topic does not much matter. What matters is if people have fun, learn something, and get soul food from the Bright Principles through you and the space you are holding. *You should prepare almost nothing for the talk!* The more you prepare ahead of time the deader the talk will be. The worst talk I ever gave was the one I was best prepared for. Plan to do Possibility Speaking for the first hour, and then take questions from the audience. You do not need to know the answers to the questions. Use the questions as guidelines for where to go next in your Discovery Speaking. During the talk you will probably learn more than the audience. Fine. Be humble. Be there to serve them as the spaceholder. Take huge risks in your authenticity. Commit first to provide what is wanted and needed. Do not give your center away. Do not allow discussions. Do not argue with people or try to be right about anything. If someone contradicts you, just immediately agree with them and go on. I have done this dozens of times and nobody notices or cares. If someone insists on explaining something complicated to you, tell them you are very interested in what they have to say if they could please meet with you after the talk to explain it to you. Do not let anyone else take over the space. This is *your* laboratory.

POSSIBLE TALK TOPICS

Here are more than a year's worth of possible topics:

- Cultural Evolution and Modern Society
- Building an Ark of Sustainable Culture
- Sustainability How? Just Stop!
- Peak Oil and the Carbon Economy
- The Methane Clathrates Tipping Point
- An Experiment in Synergetic Education
- Titanic Lifeboat Society
- Our Culture and Our Planet
- Post Carbon Possibilities
- Human Emergence in Crisis
- Planet Extinction Coming Up
- I Choose to Live, and You?
- Eco Villages and Transition Towns
- Options to Planetary Nuclear Suicide
- Without Government Would there be WMDs? (Weapons of Mass Destruction)
- Starting Your Own Country

FIVE CONDITIONS FOR CREATING A POSSIBILITY SPACE

There are no ineffective teams, only ineffective leaders. Therefore, train your leaders.

Inherent in every team is a vast wealth of intellectual capital and creative genius. Ordinary meetings are called to order under the premises that the leader knows best. Such knowing is arguable and invariably commits the group to contests of dominance, control, manipulation, and the unspoken struggle for power and position amongst adversaries.

Liberating and directing team genius requires meetings of a different nature. A possibility meeting is called to order under the auspices of discovery. The leader serves as a space holder for the meeting process rather than representing the all knowing authority. Such a meeting can easefully enter the unknown and produce effective results. Five conditions establish a possibility meeting that is sourced directly by the Principle of Possibility. Possibility meetings permit people of diverse character and background to work together at unusually high levels of effectiveness and productivity. It is the spaceholder's job to establish and maintain these five conditions.

THE FIVE CONDITIONS OF POSSIBILITY

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Possibility Management meeting technologies are facilitated by a spaceholder who is trained to create and maintain the following 5 conditions:

1. **PURE FORM THINKING:** Designate specific times for *Pure Form* generative thinking and *Pure Form* analytical thinking. Do not mix them at all! Spend 90% of your time and energy generating both linear *and* nonlinear possibilities. At a different designated time switch to analyzing and selecting what is useful or not.
2. **PARALLEL PLAY:** Typical meetings are linear: one person creates at a time – a very ineffective use of available intelligence. Instead find nonlinear ways for everyone to create all at the same time! No more waiting until it is your turn to speak. With *Parallel Play*, ideas are shared while they are fresh and alive, and new ideas come in an abundant flood.
3. **CREATIVE SANCTUARY:** Creating is a delicate and very personal experience. Creative Sanctuary eliminates the risk of retribution. No matter what you create it will have no negative consequences! This is a guaranteed safe environment. Even the wildest ideas and most controversial issues can be presented completely without risk. No criticisms are allowed. No “killer phrases.” Whatever gets created stays created. This is Sanctuary.
4. **GREMLIN-FREE ZONE:** Responsibly applied Gremlin is an inexhaustible source of nonlinear creativity. But if not attended by a sword-wielding spaceholder, environments of few rules often degenerate into Gremlin feeding frenzies. The spaceholder frames the meeting within the *Map of Possibility*, and uses his own Gremlin to spot Gremlin! Irresponsible use of Gremlin is immediately interrupted, named and disallowed.
5. **PRINCIPLE OF POSSIBILITY:** Through intention and attention the spaceholder connects the meeting space directly into the resources of the *Principle of Possibility*. The meeting is called to order in the name of Possibility, and then serves as the space through which Possibility can do its work. This way the meeting serves something greater than the ego of the spaceholder, and the entire organization receives the benefits.

At first you may feel quite alone on the new path because your original friends may neither understand nor support you making a different choice from them. But as soon as you reach out and try a few actions in your new culture you will discover how many other people have made this same choice before you and are already blazing the trails. Perhaps through links on this and related websites you will come to meet and work with a new set of friends for yourself.

FAITH

To stop means non-participation in the carbon economy. What would non-participation involve? First of all it involves faith:

- Faith that, although I might be uncomfortable adjusting to a new lifestyle, I will not die from it.
- Faith that, if I stop buying from Phillip Morris, Exxon, Mc Donald's, Shell, Nestle, and so on, and the corporations die in a month, I will not die with them.
- Faith that if I immediately stop going to a job where my actions contribute to producing greenhouse gases (automotive industry, mining industry, logging and deforestation, air travel industry, etc.), my family will not starve to death.
- Faith that if I take unconventional actions, then unconventional new options will arise for me.