

Boulder Valley Relocalization Crisis Preparedness Group
Full Results from Step 2 Considering the Options

This document is an extract from the material presented at
<http://www.ilankelman.org/relocalisation.html>
Please read this document within that context.

2.1. Scenario Planning 1
2.2. Brainstorming Solutions 2

2.1. Scenario Planning

This section summarizes scenarios which could emerge from the previously-listed inventory of disaster events and conditions related to peak oil. This list is not comprehensive, but is illustrative of the most likely crisis scenarios which could emerge from peak oil.

For any event or condition:

- Scenario A1: Oil rationing.
Gas and oil are severely rationed. How should the government prioritize who gets it?
- Scenario A2: Oil absence.
No gas or oil is available, including for snow plows, ambulances, fire trucks, and diesel generators.
- Scenario A3: Migration to Boulder.
Boulder Valley is prepared, but after a disaster event or condition, extensive migration occurs to Boulder, taxing the preparedness resources.

For disaster events:

- Scenario E1: Electricity rationing.
Continued, lengthy blackouts or brownouts, including during summer and winter and most likely to hit during heat waves and winter storms.
- Scenario E2: Electricity absence.
Boulder Valley's electricity grid is knocked out which, due to connectivity, affects local renewable supply solutions too. The result is no electricity until the local renewable supplies can be disconnected from the now-dysfunctional grid.
- Scenario E3: Disease.
An infectious disease outbreak incapacitates or quarantines more than 20% of Boulder Valley's population for more than three days.
- Scenario E4: Financial system rapidly collapses.
Banks, credit unions, and other financial institutes close down so that credit cards and direct debit do not work and cash is limited in supply. Stock market collapse and retirement plans go down.

For disaster conditions:

- Scenario C1: Chronic drought.
Due to reduced precipitation, water resources in Boulder Valley are half their current amount in 2050.
- Scenario C2: Civil liberties erosion.

Peak oil is used as a basis for eroding civil liberties, especially trying to undermine Boulder Valley's traditional support for civil liberties and its referendum-mandated "home rule" status. The freedom of local media could also be hindered.

- Scenario C3: Scapegoating.

Peak oil is used as a basis for eroding the civil liberties of less powerful groups. For Boulder Valley, Latinos and Muslims would be particularly vulnerable, but homosexuals, less affluent immigrants, Jews, African-Americans, and non-religious citizens could be targeted too. Boulder Valley's traditional tolerance would make this scenario less likely in other places, but Boulder Valley (a) might need to deal with people fleeing scapegoating elsewhere and (b) could seek to lead national anti-scapegoating efforts.

- Scenario C4: Poverty.

Economic consequences lead to a prolonged recession which impacts Boulder Valley's diverse economy, including reduced tourism and layoffs at the government research centers. Nonetheless, Boulder is likely to remain relatively affluent and could become a destination for the impoverished from other locations, stressing the community's social services, impacting perceptions of safety, and possibly undermining Boulder Valley's tradition of welcoming newcomers.

2.2. Brainstorming Solutions

The solutions suggested here provide a list of options from which possibilities could be selected. They do not imply every solution should be used for everyone all the time. Understanding particular circumstances would be essential before implementing, or even suggesting, any of the ideas in a specific instance. The framework is:

1. People

1A. Households.

1B. Neighborhoods

1C. Local NGOs (organizations not affiliated with government, e.g. Red Cross, religious groups, Boulder Interfaith Alliance, Salvation Army)

(1D. Non-local NGOs will not be covered here. Local branches of such NGOs, or information and actions from them which can be localized to Boulder Valley, should be addressed in 1C.)

Note: 1B and 1C are formally separate, but (i) neighborhoods would have limited options for acting without a form of Neighborhood Association and (ii) Neighborhood Associations act as local NGOs. Therefore, these categories are separate, but will be combined regarding solutions.

2. Private sector

2A. Local industries and businesses.

(2B. Non-local industries and businesses will not be covered by this group. Local branches and franchises, or information and actions from them which can be localized to Boulder Valley, should be addressed under 2A.)

3. Public sector

3A. City

3B. County

(3C. State, 3D. National, and 3E. International will not be covered by this group. Information and actions from those levels which can be localized to Boulder Valley should be dealt with under 3A or 3B.)

Note: 3A and 3B are officially separate, but they act together for emergency management including the disaster risk reduction activities undertaken by the City/County Office of Emergency Management. As well, since BVR's scope is Boulder Valley, encompassing the city and county, tasks should be completed by the public sector at both levels in a coordinated manner. Therefore, these categories are separate, but will be combined regarding solutions.

#	Category	Solutions
1A	Households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Each family could be prepared to be on their own following an emergency for one week, plus considering contingencies such as their cache being put out of use or families being separated at the time of the emergency. As well, a range of preparedness timeframes should be considered. For example, what should be done for 2-4 weeks, 2-6 months, and 6-12 months? That is, this recommendation is not just caching or stockpiling because that is inadequate. Instead, it is about being prepared to live locally for an extended period of time and considering beyond the survival essentials towards items we take for granted such as toilet paper and household cleaners. A range of scenarios should be considered along with different levels of preparedness for different timeframes. -Each family could be involved in prevention activities, such as making homes safer and relocalising their own food, water, and energy supplies. -Community volunteerism which contributes to relocalisation could be increased, both by individuals making that choice to spend their time and by society including workplaces supporting that choice of increased volunteerism. -Local businesses and industries could be supported.
1B	Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All neighbourhoods should have an effective Neighbourhood Association which is actively involved in relocalization.
1C	Local NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Community teams could be created and maintained which are modelled on Community Emergency Response Teams and Neighbourhood Watch, but which address relocalization. -Neighbourhood communication networks could be developed and tested, for example a knock-on-door tree; designated amateur radio operators in each neighbourhood; and designated satphone operators with satphones and batteries plus satphones and batteries at emergency shelters. -Emergency shelters could be established and appropriately stocked and maintained and promoted in case housing is ruined. Examples are government buildings, businesses, schools, libraries, religious buildings, host programs to take in families, and temporary structures, such as tents and mobile homes. -Neighbourhood caches of emergency kits could be established and kept operational in locations such as government buildings, schools, libraries, and religious buildings. Contingencies would be needed in case those caches are put out of use. -Coordinate relocalization efforts.

2A	Local industries and businesses.	-Local industries and businesses could be better integrated into the community. Examples are providing volunteer resources in terms of staff time, goods, and services and/or donating a percentage of profits to relocalization initiatives.
3A 3B	City County	-Building, land use, and planning regulations relevant to relocalisation could be promulgated, monitored, and enforced. -Crisis-related systems, such as emergency services, which anticipate and can deal with peak oil related crises could be maintained. Issues to tackle include avoiding turf disputes and duplications, ensuring that skilled personnel can live locally, providing adequate training with limited oil and gas, and considering alternatives such as bicycle- and foot-based emergency services in neighbourhoods. -School programs could introduce students to relocalization. -“Home rule” could be reinforced and strengthened, including it at the County as well as the City level.
All	All	-Public awareness messages, both in the media and in public areas such as parks and recreation centres. -An annual Relocalisation Day in offices, schools, and public places would reinforce messages and provide a focus for newcomers to become involved. -Reduce product and service dependency on the non-local energy and transport sectors. -Supporting locally-based independent media would provide opportunities for engaging the community in relocalization. -Emphasising tolerance within basic human rights would improve diversity thereby providing more relocalization approaches. -Implement off-grid energy supply for buildings, in particular active and passive solar and small-scale wind turbines. -Encourage other communities around Boulder Valley and beyond to implement these solutions too.