



# EXPANDING PROSPERITY IN VERMONT:

Toward Wellbeing For All

April 13, 2023





# Poem for Prosperity

By Rollin Rachele

A single note. A blossom of imagination.  
An unending complexity within a sheath of simplicity.

Two notes three, four ...unified by natural law.  
Each voice joins as one, strengthening in richness of color. Random dissonance  
dissolves in our willingness to harmonize.

A single voice can be amazing but ...  
Together, a beauty no one voice could ever make alone.

Songlines in the winds of change. Ancestral harmonies converge.

Let our voices dance in collective beauty.  
Our harmonious sound, an analogy for humanity.



# Table Talk

**In Pairs at your table:**

What motivated you to accept our invitation to be here today?



# Introductions

Our Story: What brings us all here today.





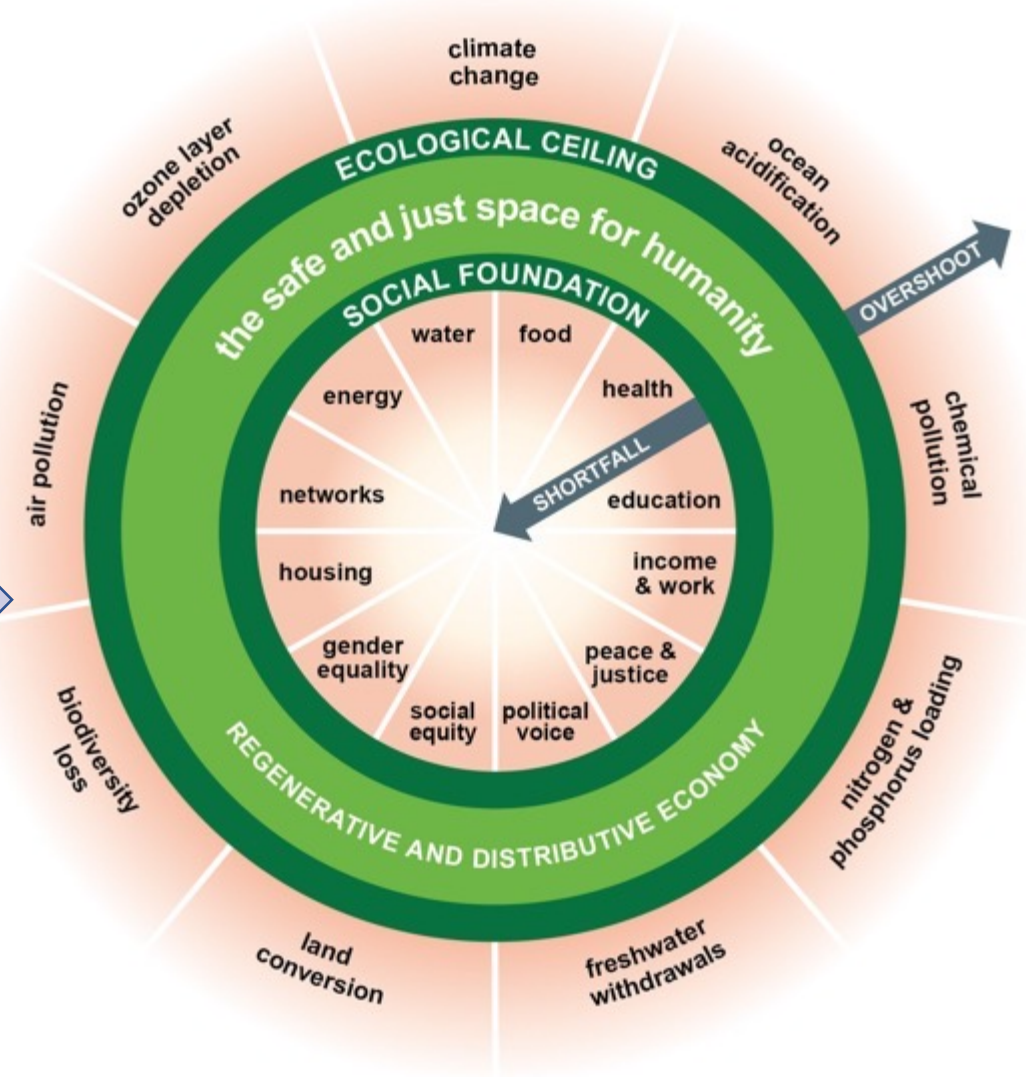
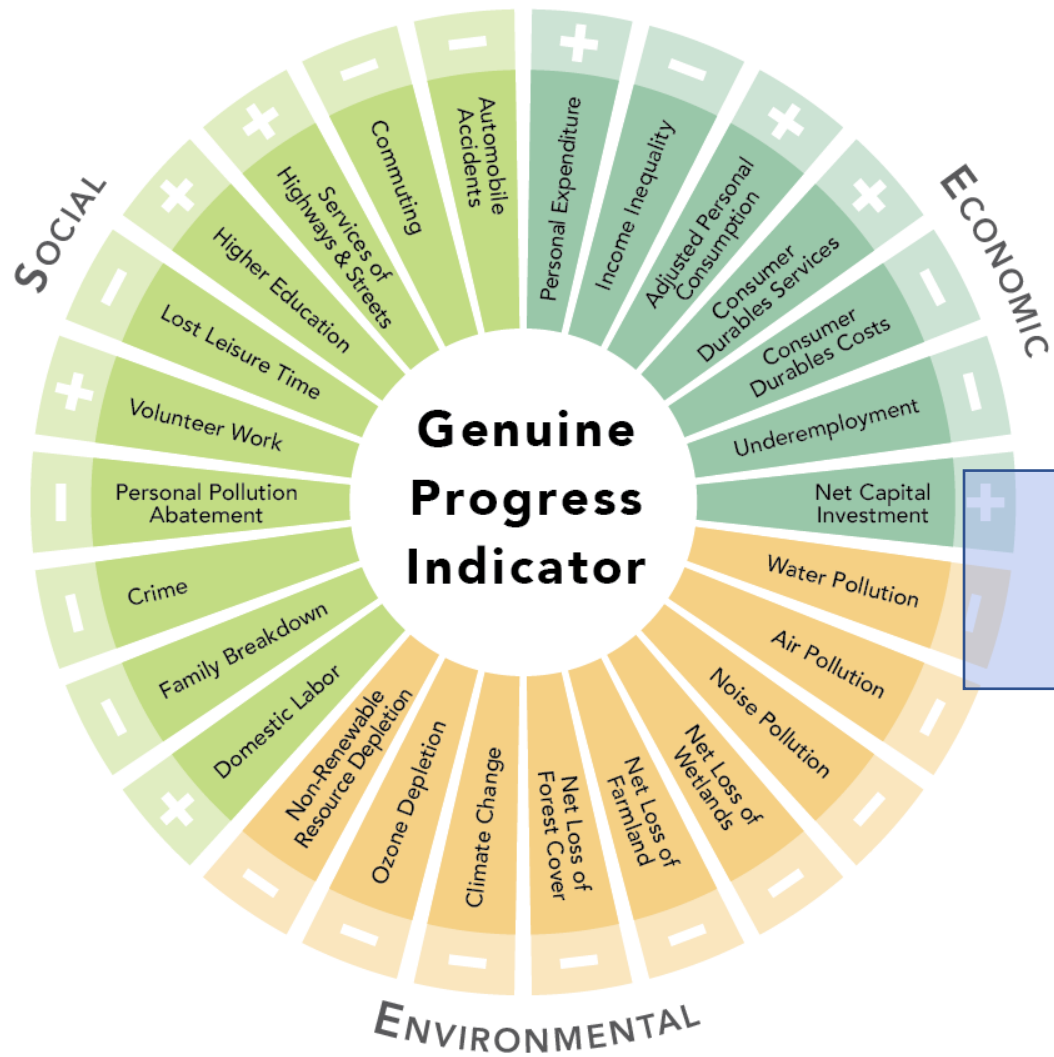
# A Message From Kate Raworth

*Author of Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economist*



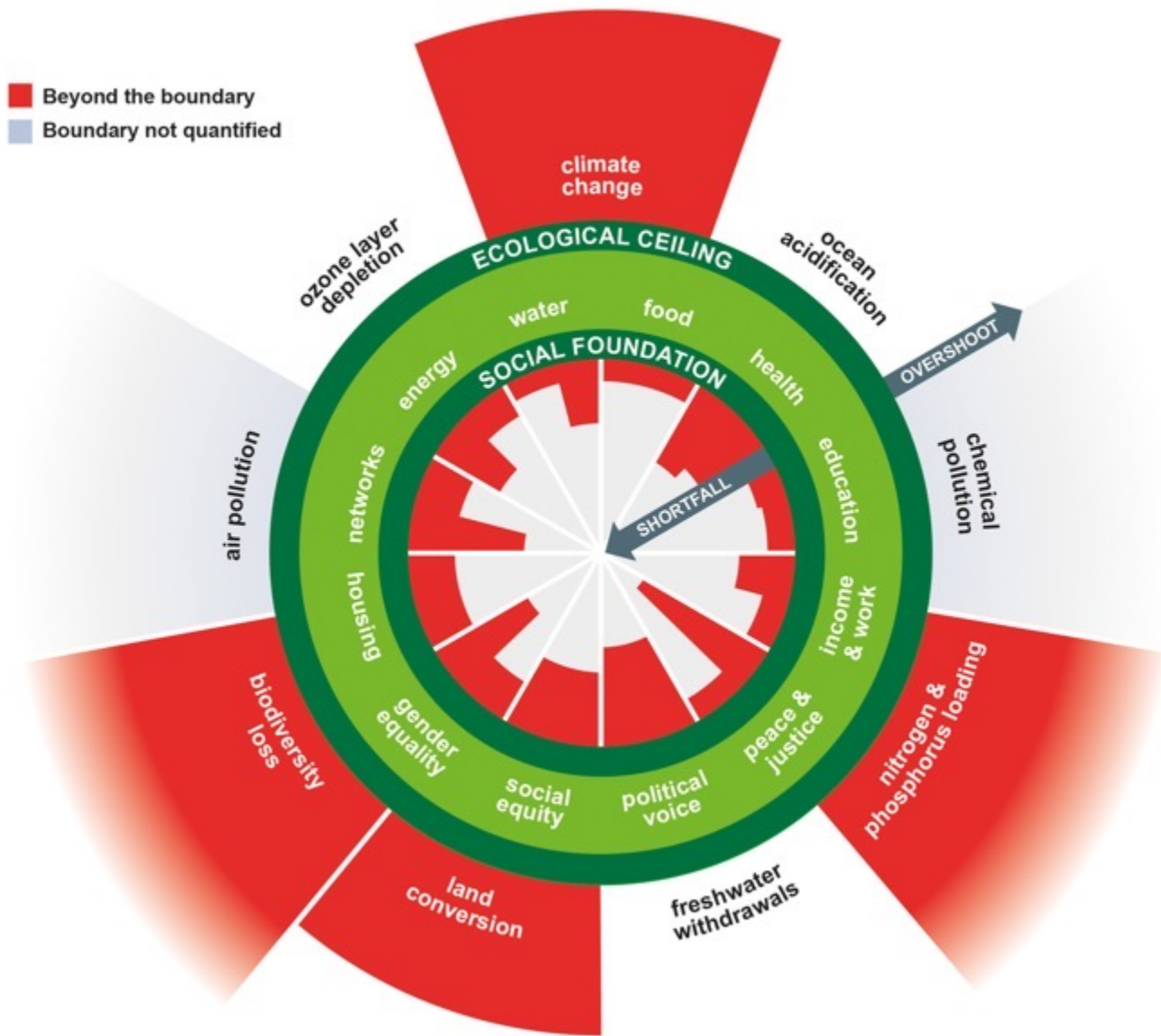
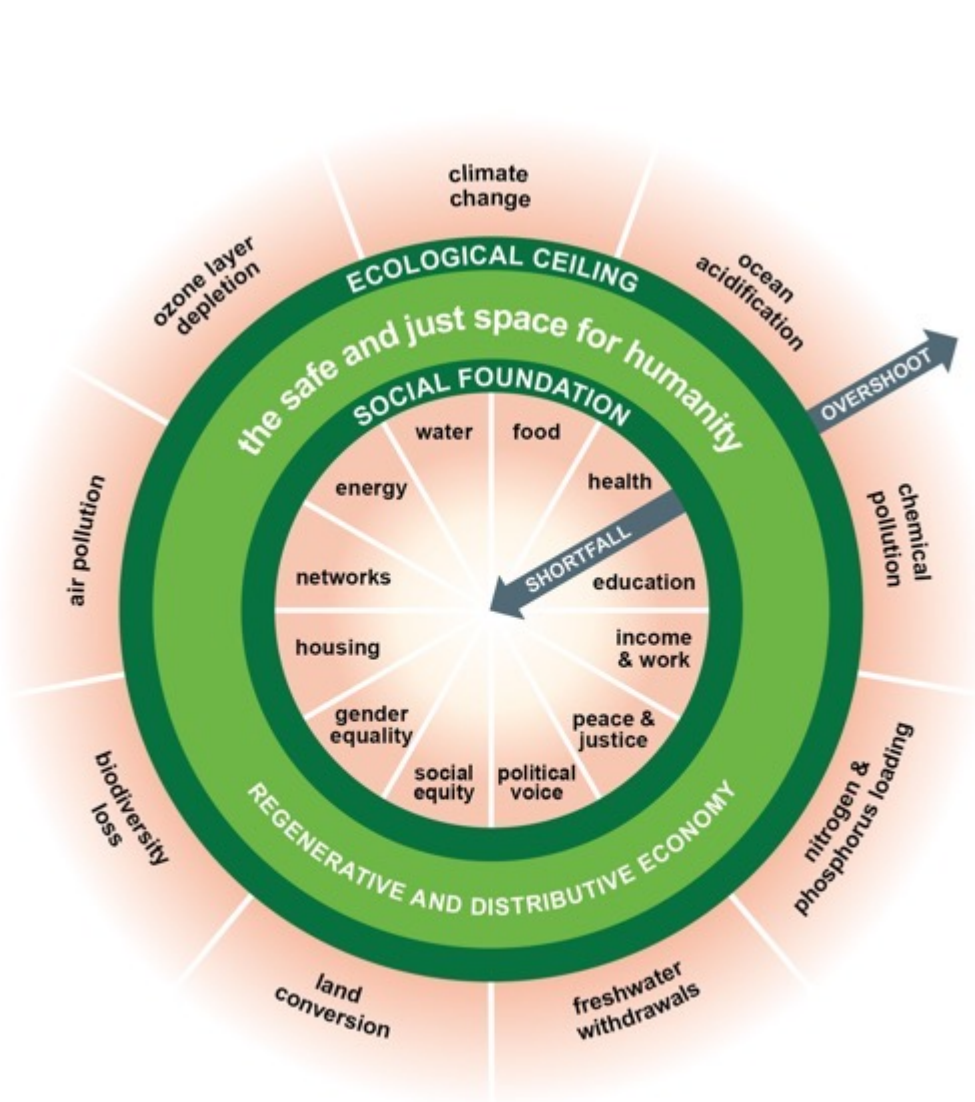
<https://www.vtprosperityproject.com/message-to-vermont>





**From Uneconomic Growth**

**To Safe and Just Space**



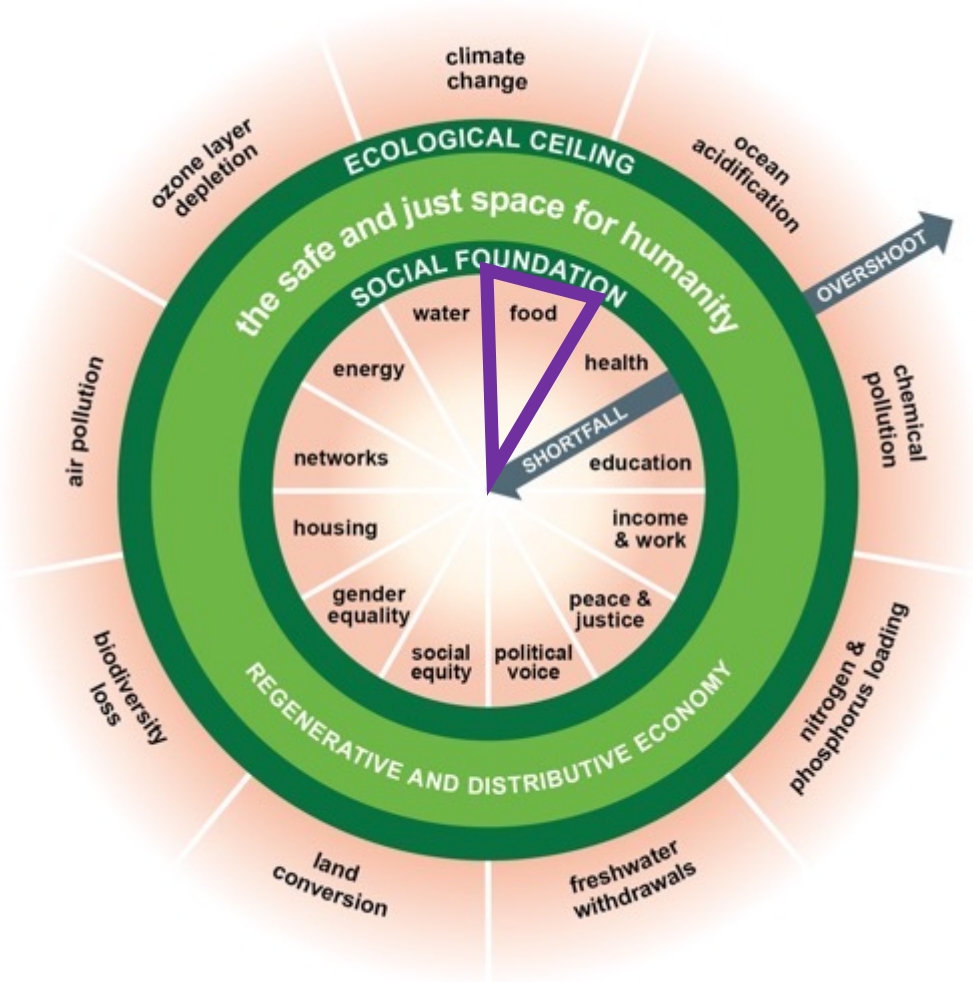
# Sustainable Development Goals + Planetary Bound







# Food



# Food insecurity

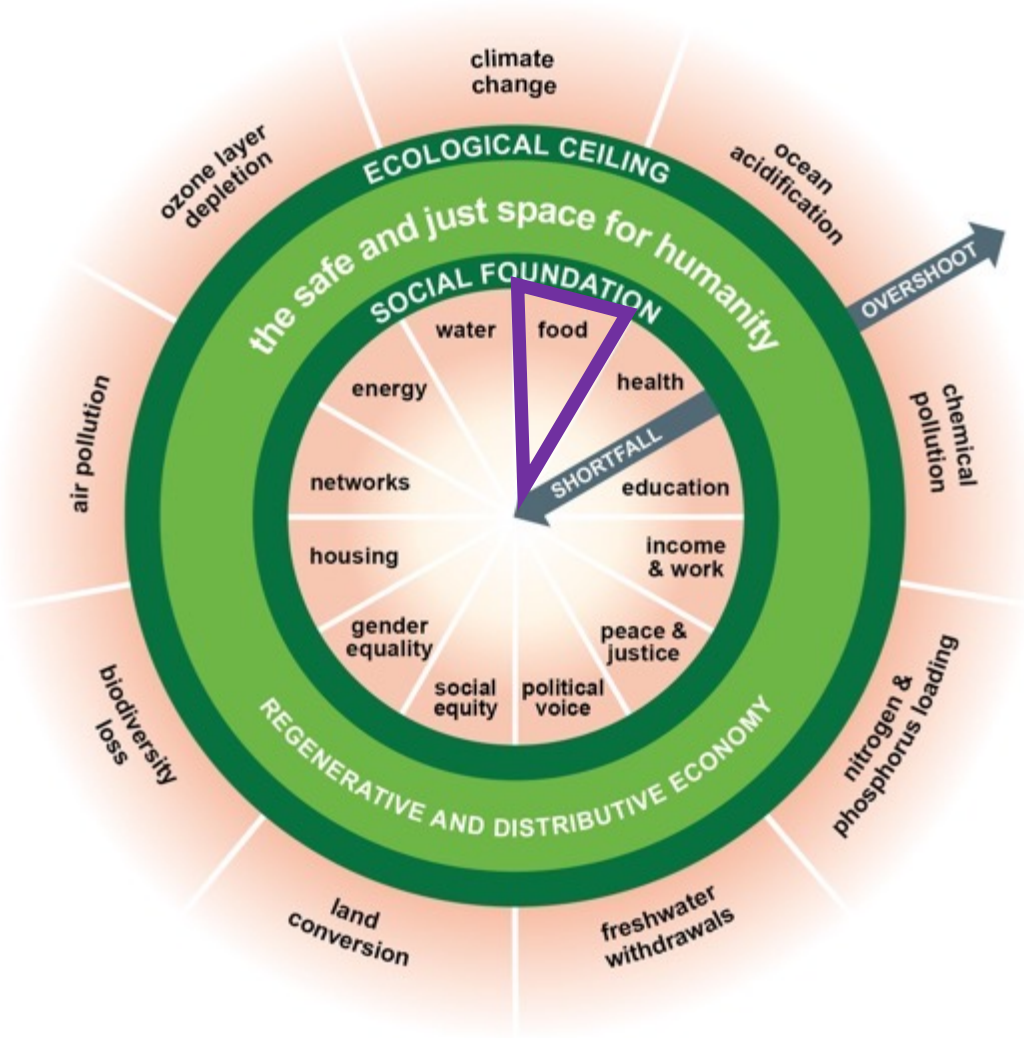


Metric: Lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life (USDA)

Status: 1 in 11 people (Feeding America, 2020)

Vulnerable: 1 in 8 children food insecure

# Food



**Food insecurity**

**Fruit and vegetable consumption**

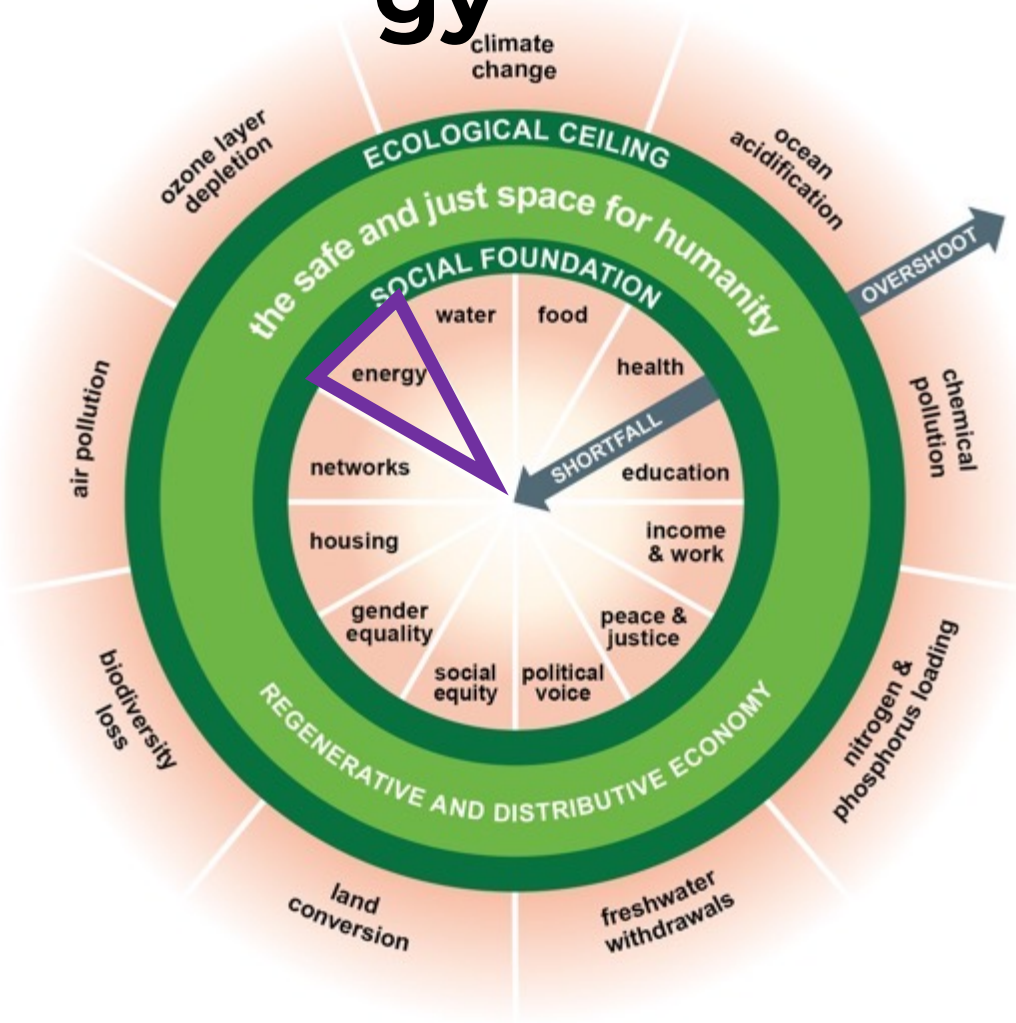
**Pesticide exposure**

**Sugar consumption**

**Participation in SNAP**

**Local food access**

# Ener gy



## Energy burden



Metric: Ratio of energy spending as % of household income (Efficiency Vermont)

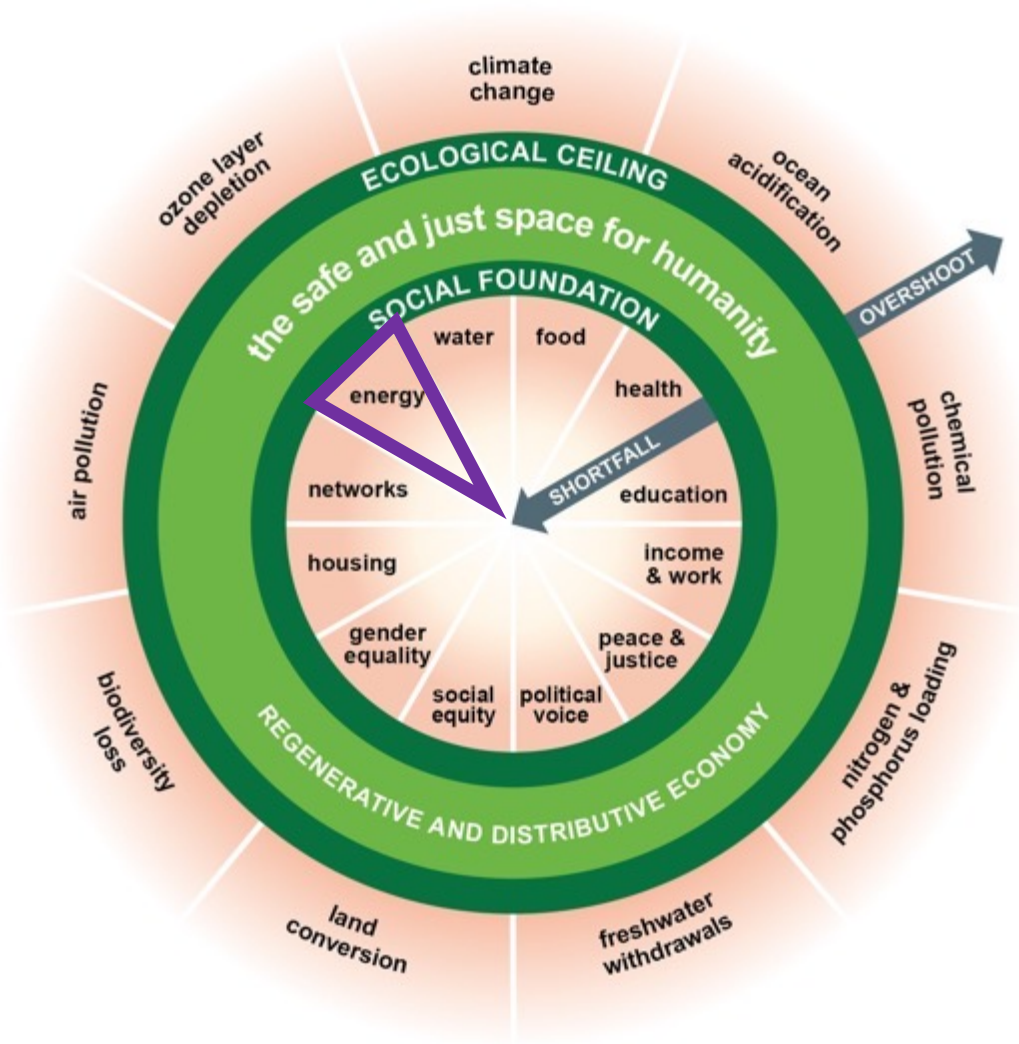
Status: 10% statewide average

Vulnerable: Rural, low-income households up to 20%

Target: All households under



# Energy



# Energy burden



**Renewable energy production**

**Renewable energy access**

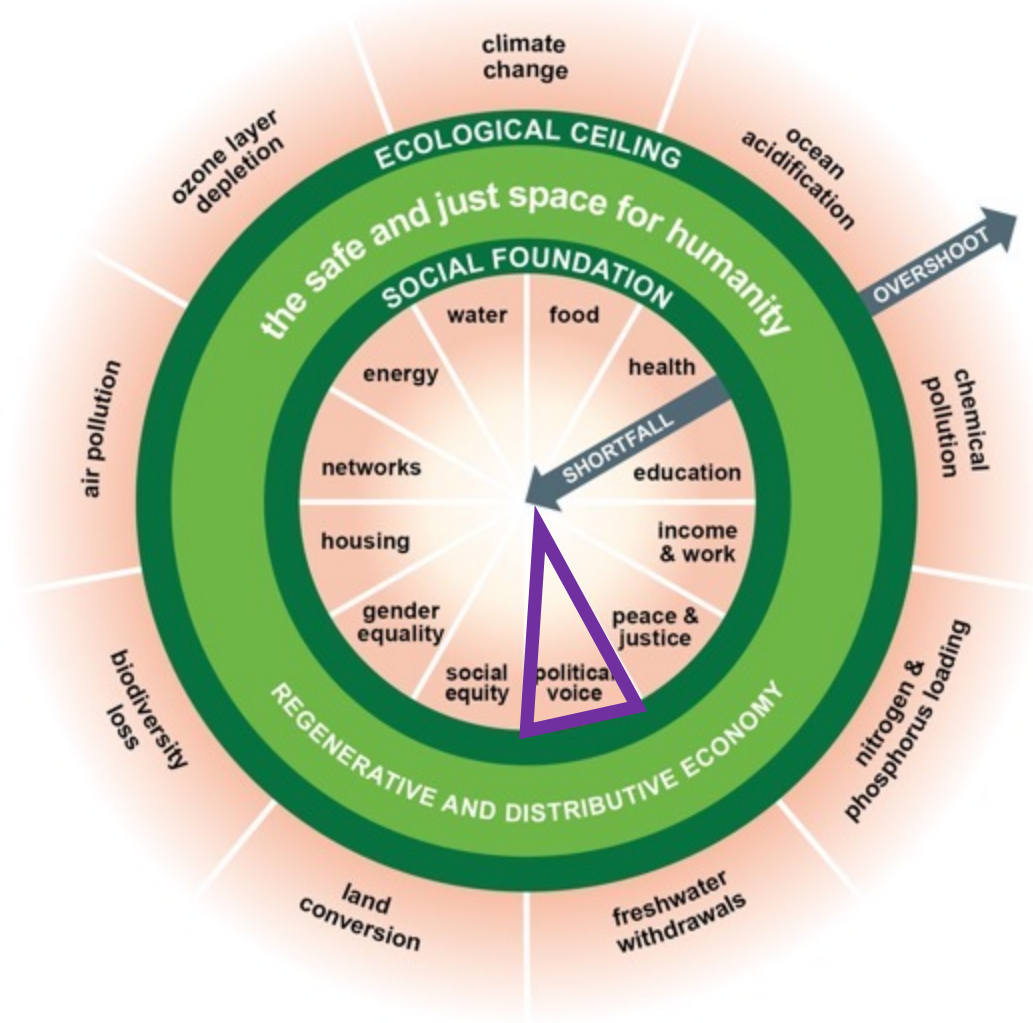
**Home weatherization**

**Participation in LIHEAP**

**Indoor air pollution**



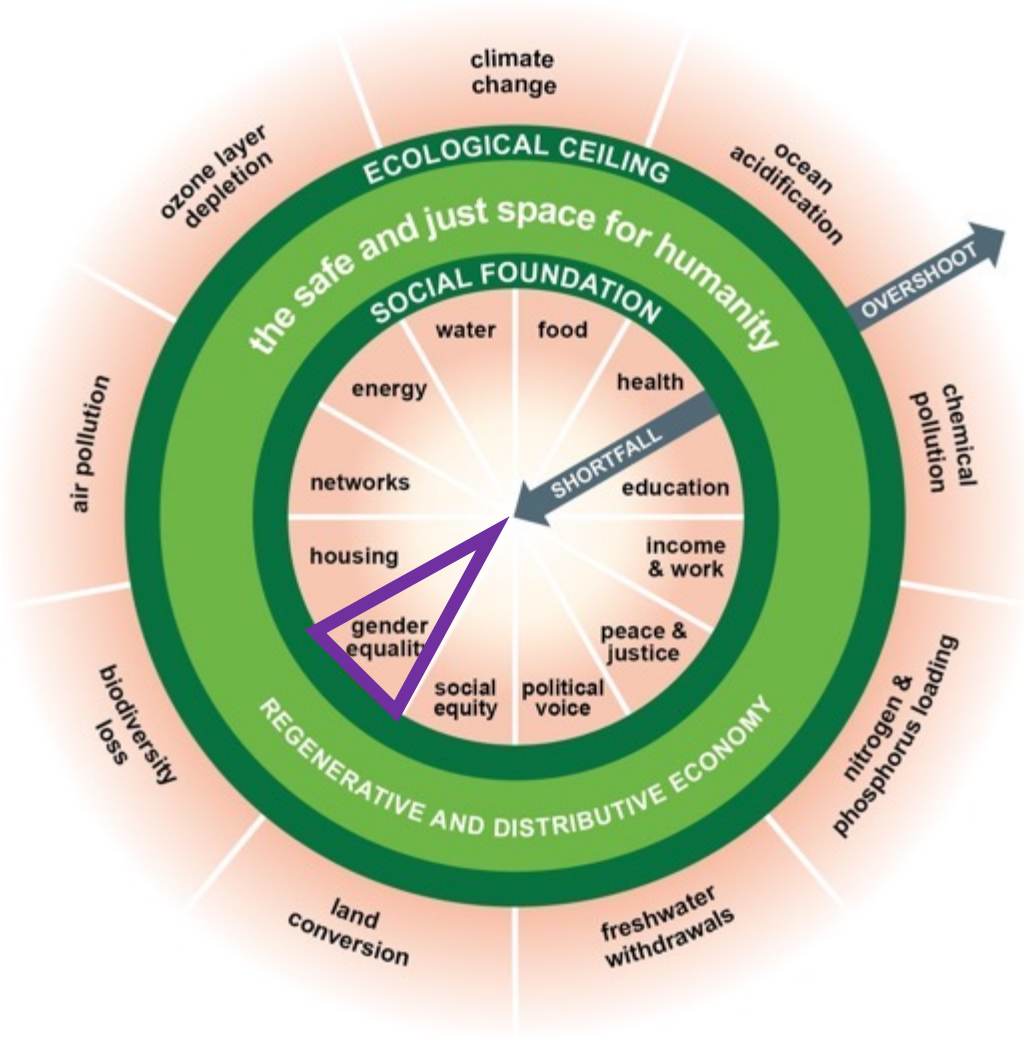
# Political Voice



60%

**Voter Turnout  
Mid-Term Elections (2022)**

# Gender Equality

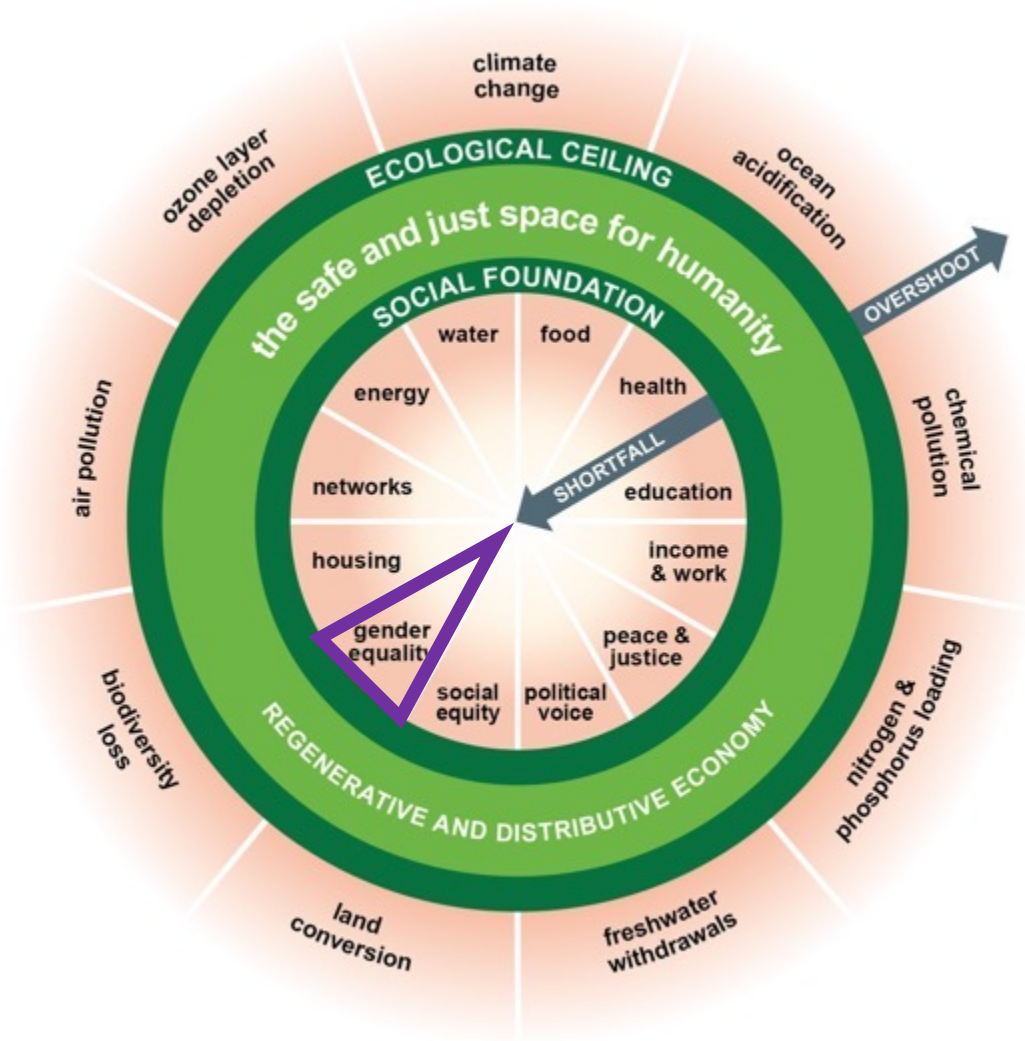


**\$0.91 to \$1**

**Average women to men  
earnings  
(National Women's Center,  
2021)**



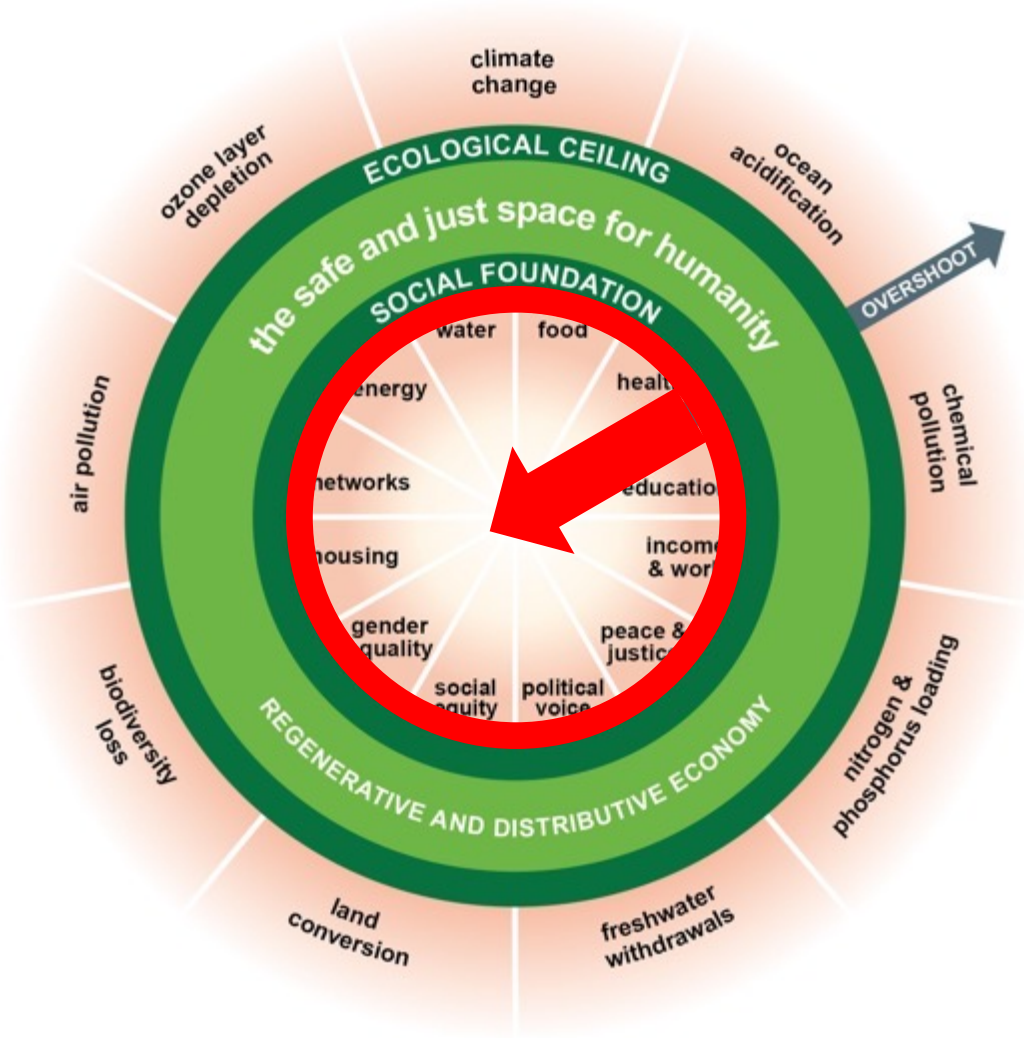
# Housing



68%

Share of residents spending  
<30%  
income on housing

# Just Space



**Quantity v. Quality**

**Average v. Distribution**

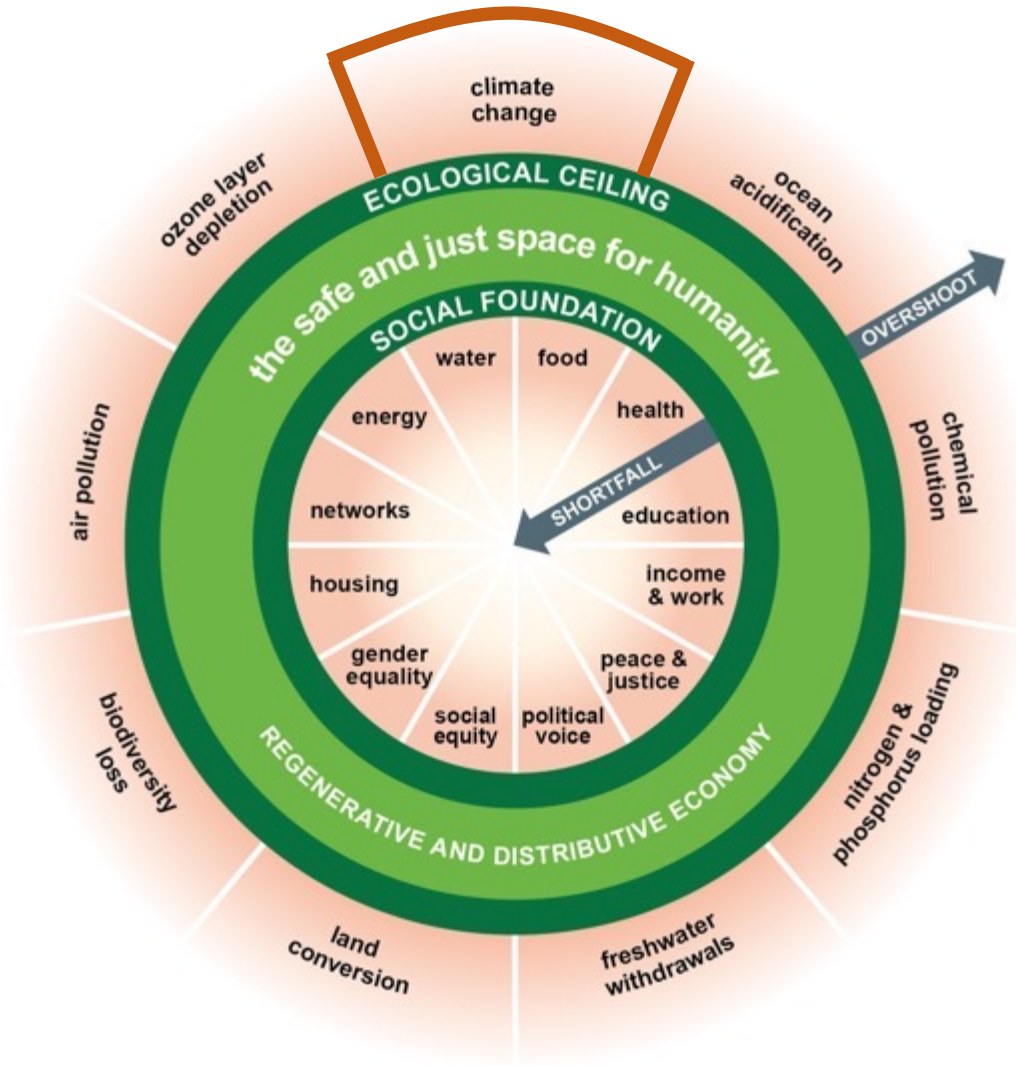
**All People v. Vulnerable Populations**

**Human v. Other-Than-Human**



# Climate Change

## Greenhouse gas emissions



Metric: Million metric tons  
CO<sub>2</sub>e  
relative to 2005  
baseline

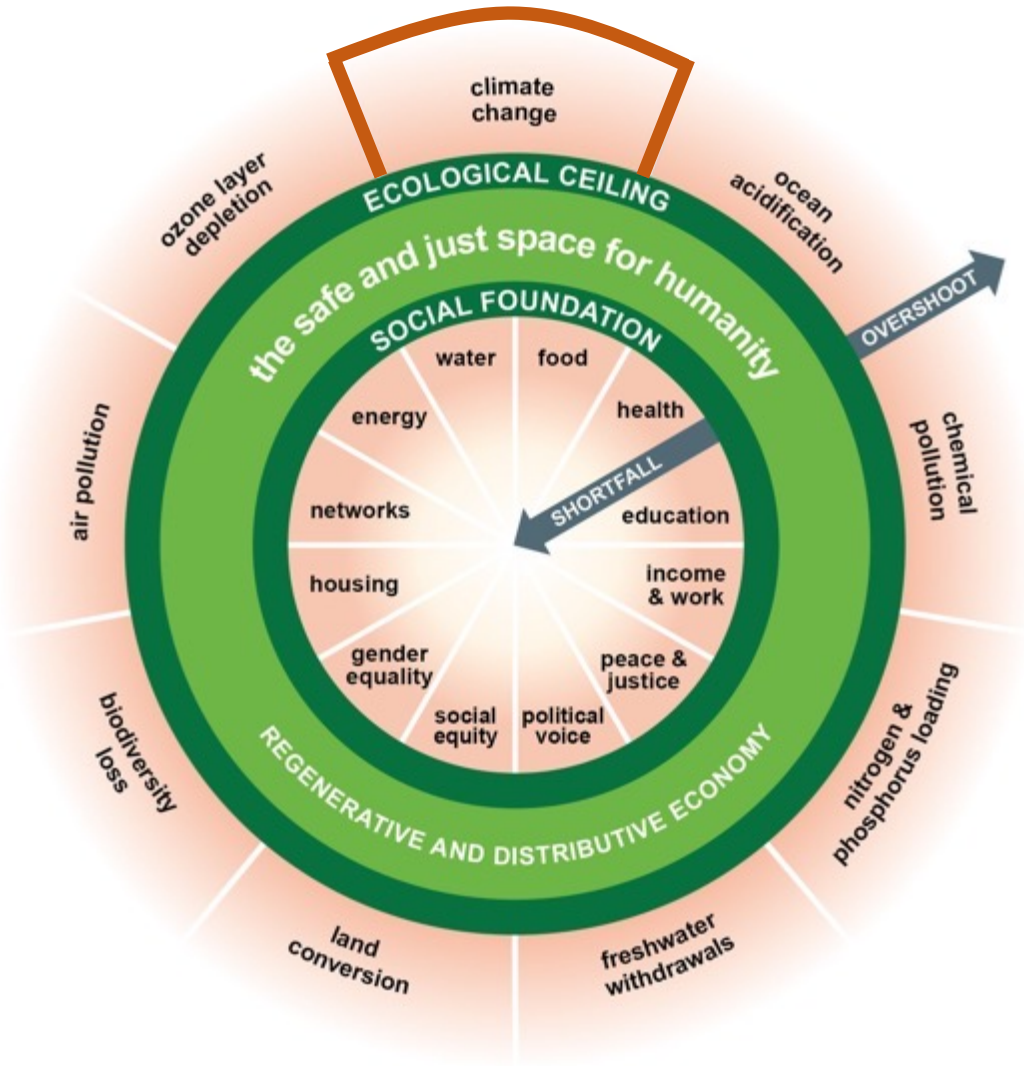
Status: 13.1% below '05 base  
(2017)

But, 0.3% above 1990  
base

Vulnerable: By population? By  
sector?



# Climate Change



**Greenhouse gas emissions**

**... by source**

**... by sector**

**... by income**

**... by production**

**... by consumption**

# Land Conversion



## Conserved land

Metric: Land protected as an ecological reserve, biodiversity conservation, or natural resource management area

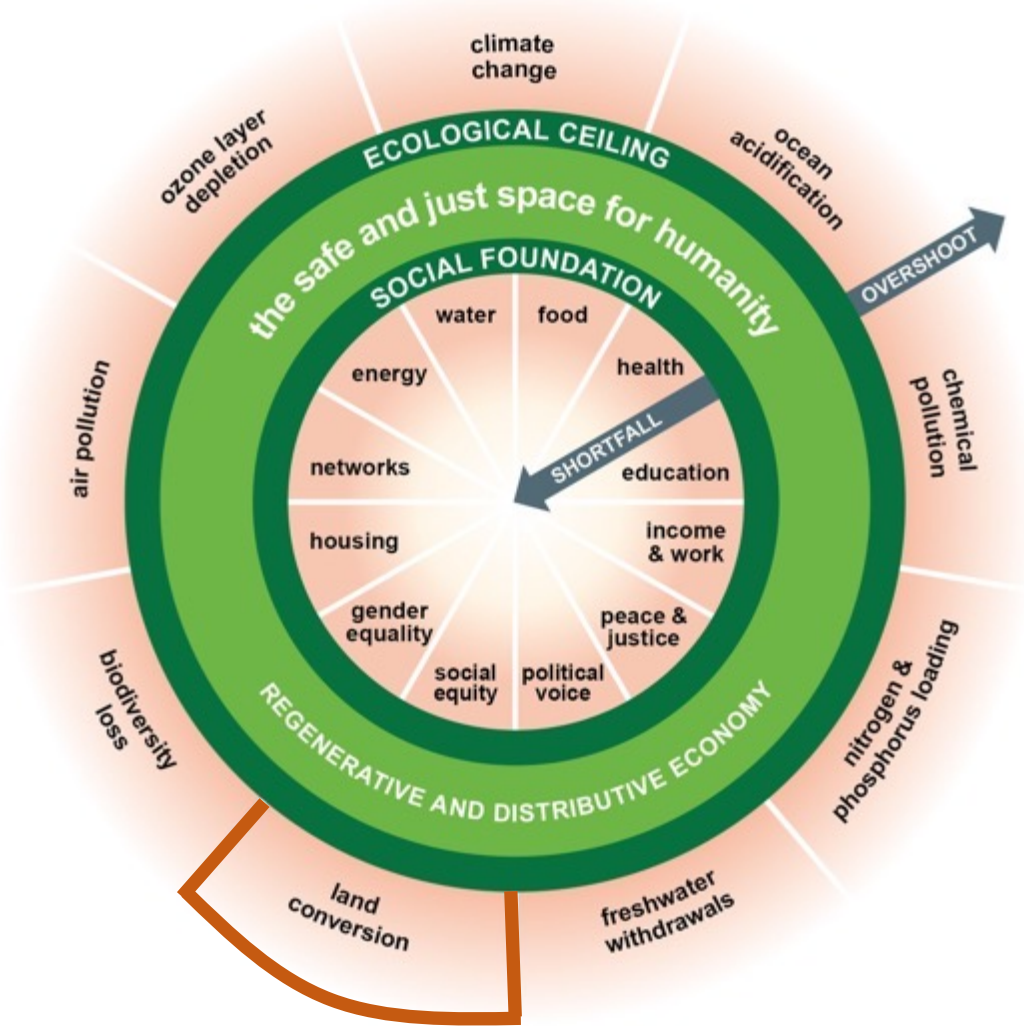
Status: ~24% of Vermont land area

Vulnerable: Endangered and





# Land Conversion



Conserved land

Endangered species habitat

Forest fragmentation

Development intensity

Land ownership distribution

Recreational access



# The 2023 Vermonter Poll



On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not enough money and 10 is more than enough money, how would you rate your economics well-being on each of the following?

	Mean Score
Childcare	2.5
Housing	4.3
Healthcare	5.0
Transportation	5.5
Education	5.8
Food	5.9
Internet Access	5.9

# The 2023 Vermonter Poll



On a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 being least satisfied and 10 being most satisfied, how satisfied are you with your current work life?

Mean Score = 7.2



# Your Questions ?

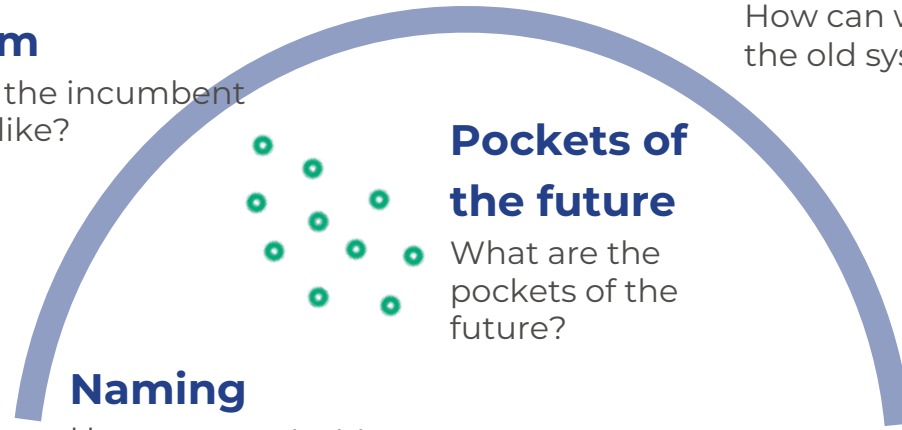




# The Two Loops Model

## Incumbent System

What is the incumbent system like?



### Pockets of the future

What are the pockets of the future?

### Naming

How can we start to name the new innovations?

## Hospicing

How can we hospice the old system?

### Bridging

How can we build bridges from the old to the new system?



### Illuminating

How can we illuminate the new system?

### Decomposing

How can we enable the decomposing of the old system?

### Emerging System

What is the emerging new system?

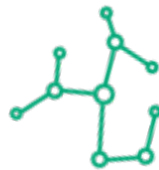


### System Of Influence

What does the new System of influence look like?

### Connecting

How can we connect the new innovations?



### Nourishing

How can we nourish the emerging system?

VIDEO on the model:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQWKmtx8L2s>





## Key Roles

There are three separate, connected, important domains of work



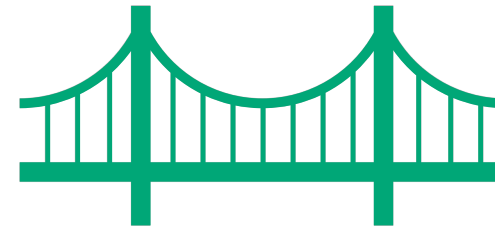
### Stabilizing

Stabilizing the old while letting go of what needs to go



### Innovators

People creating the new possibilities



### Bridging

People building bridges which illuminate the new.

Who are the people building the bridges between the two loops and demonstrating that the new alternatives already exist and it is time to move forward and make the transition?



# Table Exercise:

## **Living Well Within Our Means**

- Introduce yourself to each other (name, organization, what part of the doughnut you are most connected to) – *(10 min)*
- What does ‘living well’ mean? (inner doughnut) *(20 min)*
- How do we live well within our means? (outer doughnut) *(20 min)*
- How do we move from our current economic system to the new economic system? (2 Loops Model) *(20 min)*
- Share a highlight from some of the table conversations *(10 min)*



# Table Exercise: **Living Well Within Our Means**

- *Choose someone to facilitate so that everyone can participate fully*
- *Choose someone to take light notes -- on the doughnut itself*
- *Take a bio break when/if you need*
- Introduce yourself to each other (name, organization, what part of the doughnut you are most connected to) – *(10 min)*



# Table Exercise: **Living Well Within Our Means**

- What does ‘living well’ mean? *(20 min)*
  - Have a conversation about what are the social foundations for a good life for all in Vermont (i.e., inside the doughnut)?
    - Use markers to draw in / label the social foundations YOU think should be included





# Table Exercise: **Living Well Within Our Means**

- How do we live well within our means? *(20 min)*
  - Have a conversation about how do we achieve the good life for all within the means for our state, regional and global environment (i.e., outside the doughnut)?
    - Use markers to draw in / label the ecological ceilings YOU think should be included



# Table Exercise: **Living Well Within Our Means**

- **How do we move from our current economic system to the new economic system? Use the 2 Loop Model as a guide. (20 min)**
  - Have a conversation about the kind of systems level transformation that will be required to bring us all into 'right relationship' with each other and with the environment?
    - Use markers to add ideas that arise during your conversation
- **Let's hear a highlight from some of the table conversations (10 min)**



# The Wellbeing Economy Movement Rapidly Spreading Worldwide





# People are calling for change

- **Majority in US believe our economic system needs to be completely reformed**  
(Pew Research Center 2021)
- **74% of people in G20 countries, believe the economy should prioritize health and wellbeing of people and nature rather than focusing solely on increasing profits & wealth**  
(Global Commons Alliance 2021)







# The Wellbeing Economy Movement

People and Planet are not here to serve the economy

The economy is here to serve us!





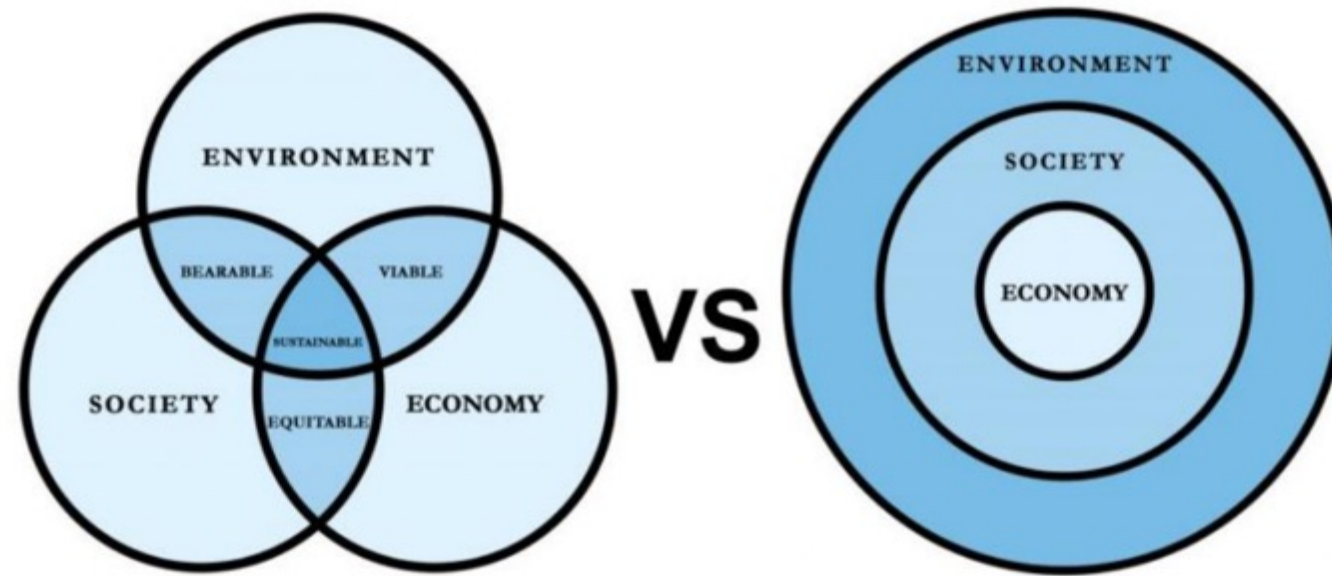
The economy is the way we produce and provide for one another



**WELLBEING  
ECONOMY**  
ALLIANCE



# Designing and evaluating our economy by its contribution our social and ecological wellbeing







**What matters  
for a good life  
anyway?**







Economic growth accompanied by  
worsening social outcomes is not  
success, it is failure.

Turning things around requires changing  
the way we think, the way we act and the  
way we measure success.

-Jacinda Ardern  
Former Prime Minister New Zealand



# WEGo

Wellbeing Economy Governments



Iceland



Scotland



Finland



New Zealand



Wales



Canada



# Canada: Wellbeing Framework and Budget



## Quality of Life Framework



### EXPECTED IMPACTS

#### Expected Quality of Life Impacts

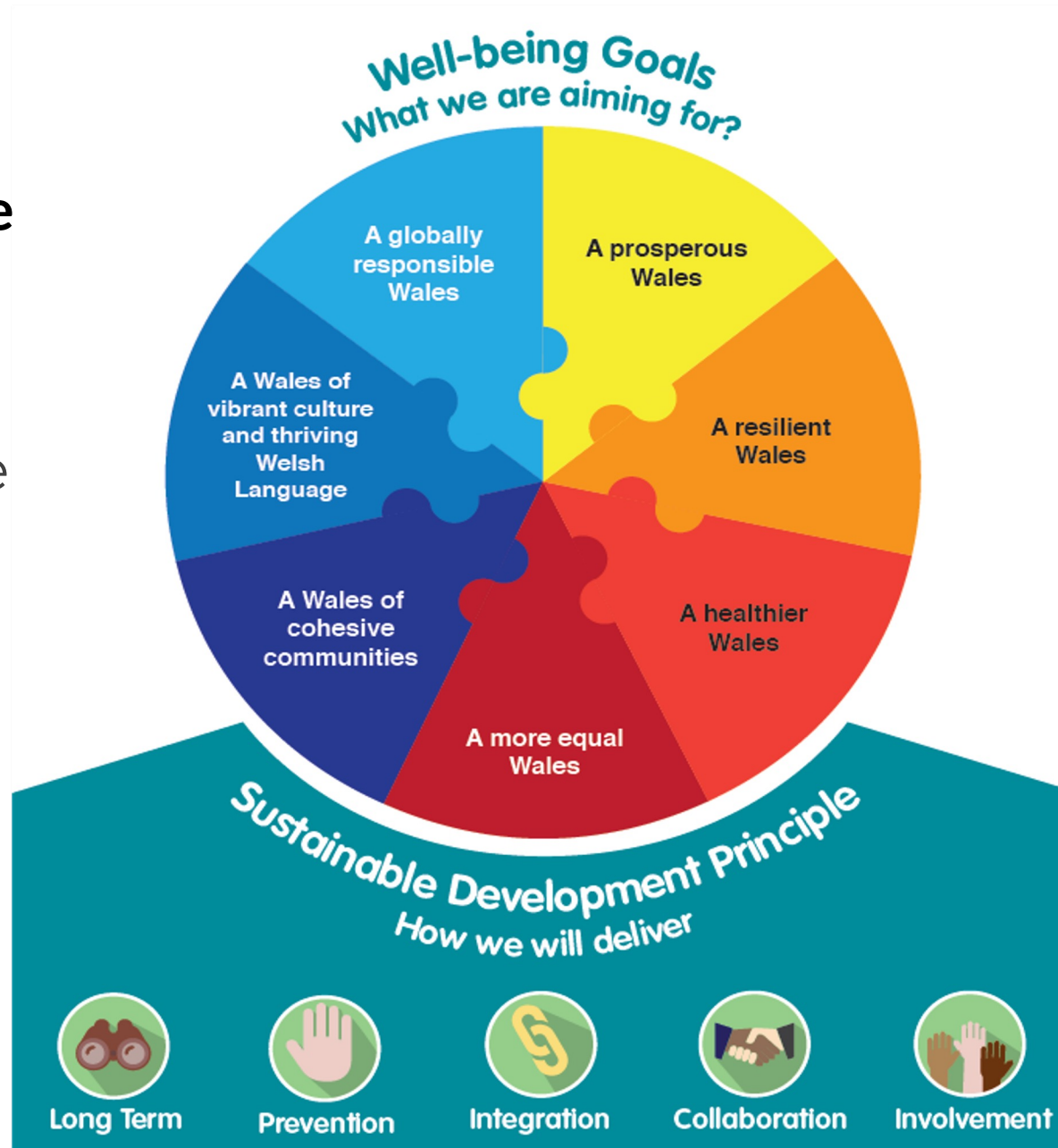
Domain	Indicator	Impact Scale (-1 to +5)		Who is impacted
		Near Term	Long Term	
Prosperity	Choose an item.			
	Choose an item.			
	Choose an item.			
	Choose an item.			
Health	Choose an item.			
	Choose an item.			
	Choose an item.			
Environment	Choose an item.			
	Choose an item.			
	Choose an item.			
Good Governance <sup>2</sup>	Choose an item.			
	Choose an item.			
	Choose an item.			
Society	Choose an item.			
	Choose an item.			
	Choose an item.			

In 250 words or less, please explain the incremental impacts expected to result from the proposed initiative, including [key performance indicators](#) and how they will be monitored. Where possible, include baseline data and explain the expected change in trajectory as a result of the initiative, including contribution to Government targets if relevant.



# Wales Wellbeing of Future Generations Act:

Redefining national progress & governance approaches







# SOME WELLBEING ECONOMY STRATEGIES

supported by the movement



## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Transform production and consumption processes to reuse resources, design waste and pollution out of the cycle, and regenerate the natural world. The primary ways to do this are recycling waste for new production or using waste for conversion to energy.



## ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY

Ensures equitable distributions of economic power through democratic management of economy via policy, social enterprises, and community wealth management.



## DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS

Supports the design of economic systems that ensure necessary social foundations, while respecting planetary limits.



## COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Identifies 'anchor' economic institutions with strong linkages to the local economy, to foster 'bottom-up' and inclusive development.



## COMMON GOOD ECONOMY

Evaluates business success not by profits, but rather by their contribution to the 'common good' and alignment with values of Dignity, Social Justice, Environmental Sustainability, and Transparency.



## CORE ECONOMY

Recognises central importance of economic activities that occur amongst families, friends, and communities, which are non-monetised and driven by values of love, empathy, responsibility, and care.



## REGENERATIVE ECONOMY

Focuses on building an economy that mimics nature by regenerating the social and ecological assets needed for wellbeing.



## SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

Promotes the expansion of economic activities and behaviours that are based on principles of reciprocity, cooperation, and solidarity.



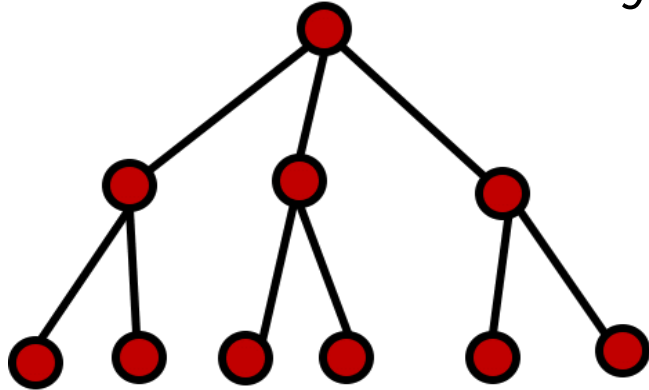
## FOUNDATIONAL ECONOMY

Advocates for the use of public policy to secure the supply of basic goods and services to all people in a sustainable manner (e.g. socially and environmentally responsible).

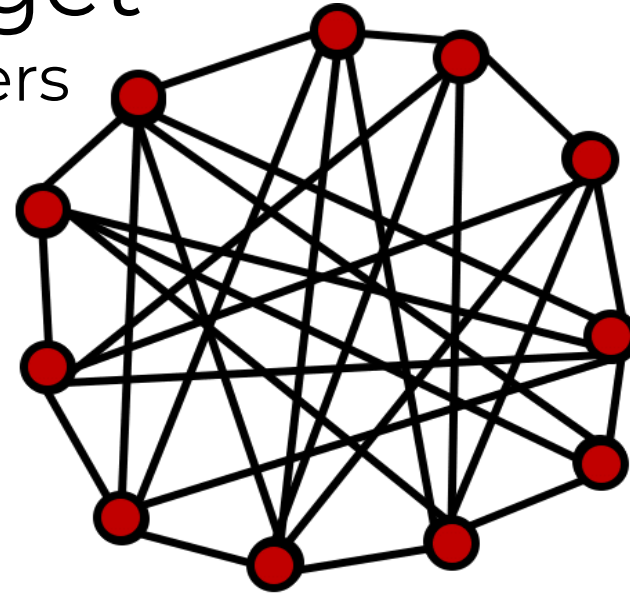


”The process we use to get to the future is the future we get”

- Myron Rogers



“Top-down”



“Bottom-up”



# Connecting







# WEAI Hubs

Established Hubs

In Development





**ULTIMATELY,  
THE ECONOMY  
IS US.**

**UNPREDICTABLE,  
EMOTIONAL,  
HUMAN US.**

*STORIES.LIFE*







# Designing Policies for a Wellbeing Economy

How can we develop and internalize new definitions of progress for the state?

How can we continuously learn and adapt on our journey towards a wellbeing economy?

How do we expand our understanding of what the economy is and can be?



How do we foster participatory, context-appropriate, “bottom-up” transformation?

How we develop policies and initiatives for economic systems change?

## Next Steps

- Developing the structure of a Network of Networks to support and amplify existing policies / initiatives AND inspire new action / policies / movement which nourish the transition towards a safe and just Vermont for all
- Complete the Landscape Assessment of the Vermont Doughnut
  - Creating a dashboard of existing metrics in Vermont that map to the doughnut

## Could Vermont adopt these 7 Wellbeing Goals?

- A prosperous Vermont
- A resilient Vermont
- A healthier Vermont
- A more equal (equitable) Vermont
- A Vermont of more cohesive communities
- A Vermont with a vibrant culture where everyone feels they belong
- A globally responsible Vermont

## Next Steps

- Develop a roadmap for creating a “State of the State” report for Vermont
- Develop a roadmap for structuring the state budget around wellbeing goals

## Next Steps

- What can YOUR organization contribute to strengthening Vermont's Social Foundation within the Ecological Ceiling of our living planet?



# Let's Hear From You ...

- What are you excited to be part of as a result of being here today?
- What question(s) are you leaving with?
- What can you offer?




# In Closing ...

- **The Doughnut is about balance → Ecological Ceilings + Social Foundation.**
  - The opportunity: develop a new vision of defining prosperity for Vermont
- **All voices need to be at the table**
  - The opportunity: Be part of a network of networks
- **Be bold, think outside the box, imagine a different future**
  - The opportunity: designing the economy so it models what really matters for a safe and just Vermont



# Enjoy Being Together



Thank you to Good Taste Catering and !