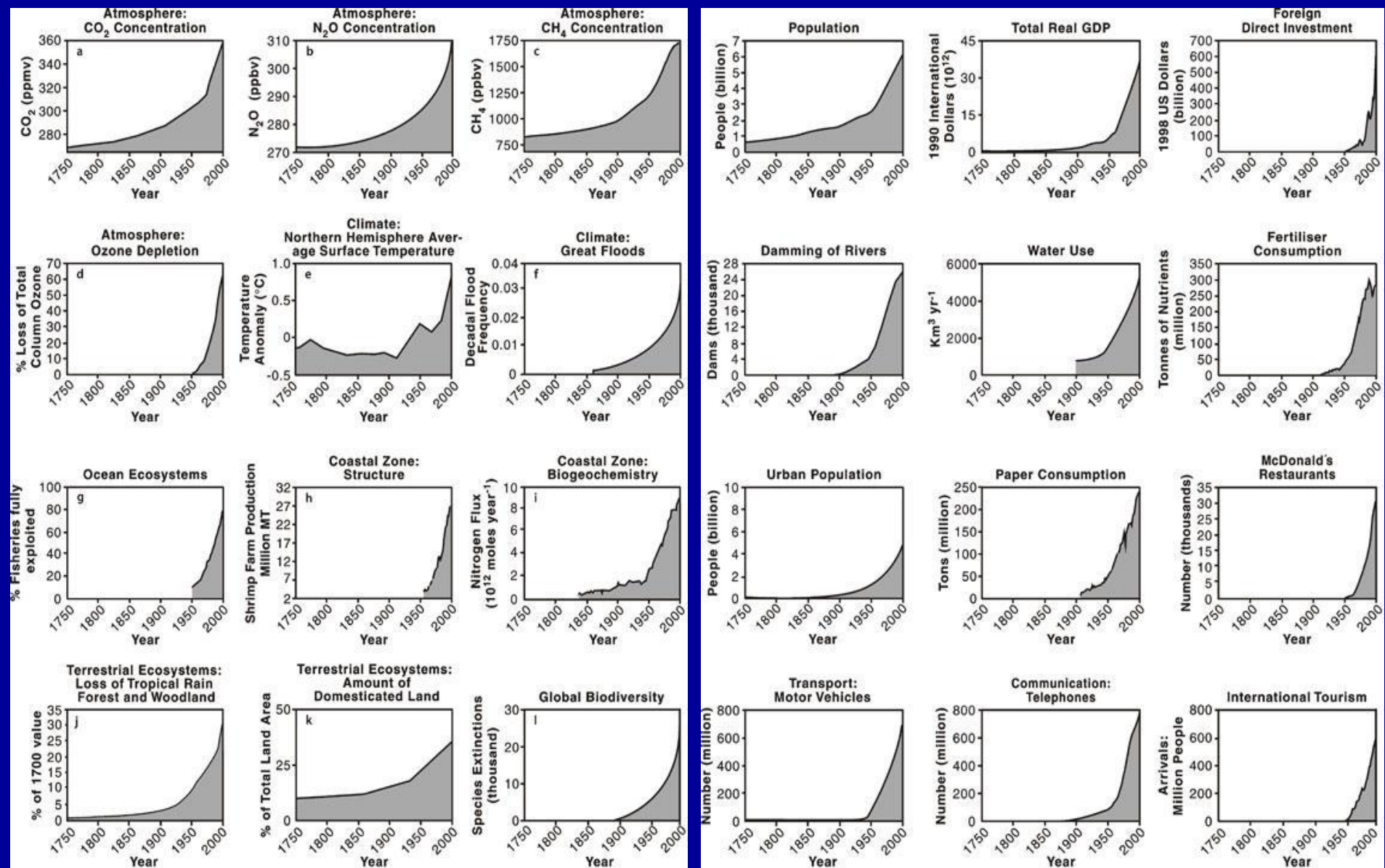


FROM THE HEAD TO THE HEART



A Humanist Response
to the Converging Crisis
of Civilization

The Story So Far



The First Storm Front



Ecology

The Second Storm Front



Energy

The Third Storm Front



Economics

The Fourth Storm Front



Social Complexity

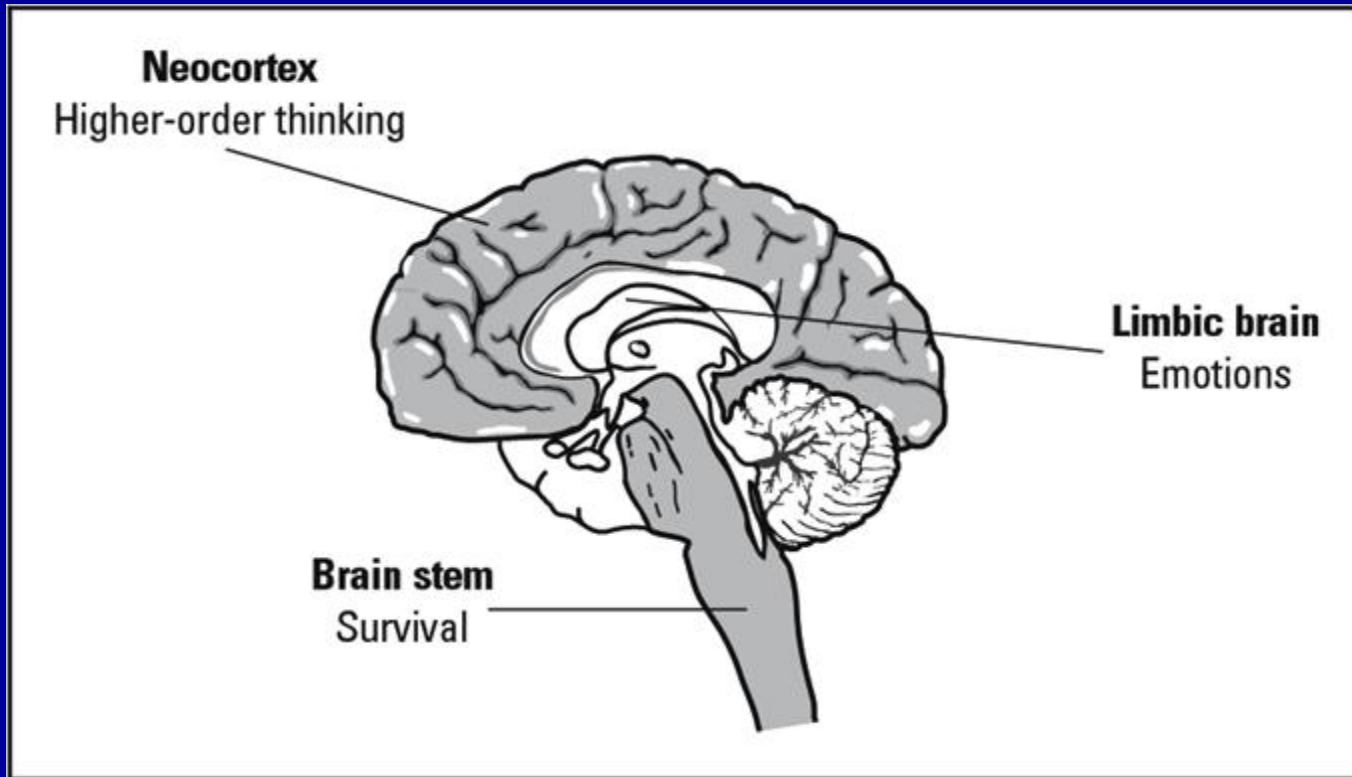
Can We Solve the Problems?

- If you have dug yourself into a hole, switching to a more efficient shovel won't get you out.
- “We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”
Albert Einstein
- Humans can create problems humans can't solve.
- We don't have a set of problems, we have a predicament.

How Did This Happen?

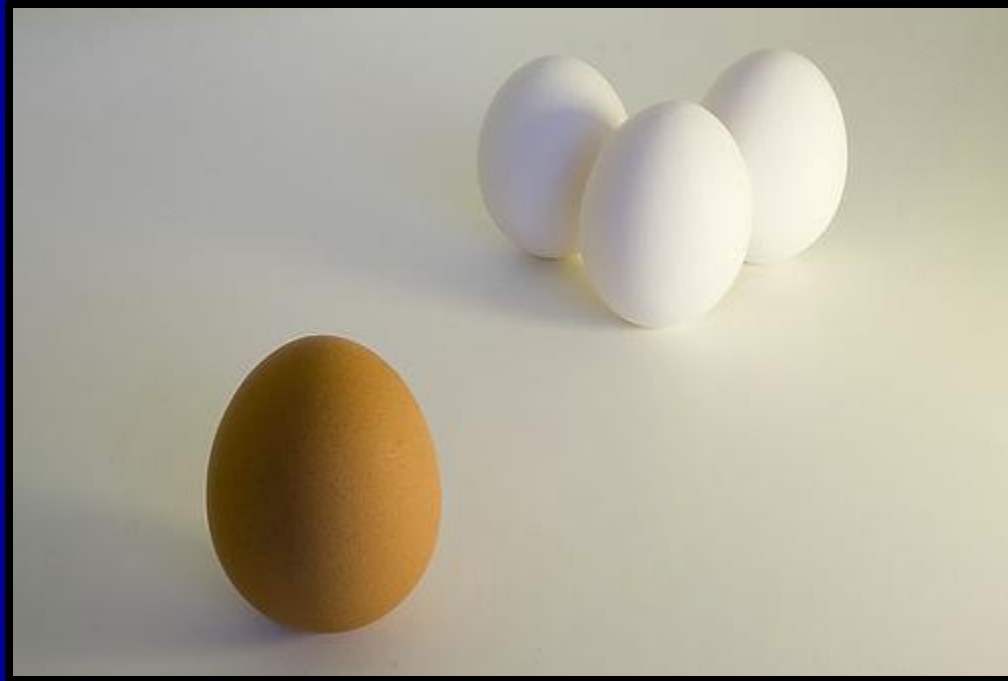
How Much was Inevitable,
How Much was Avoidable?

The Inevitable: Our Evolved Neuropsychology



The Triune Brain

Self-Awareness and Separation



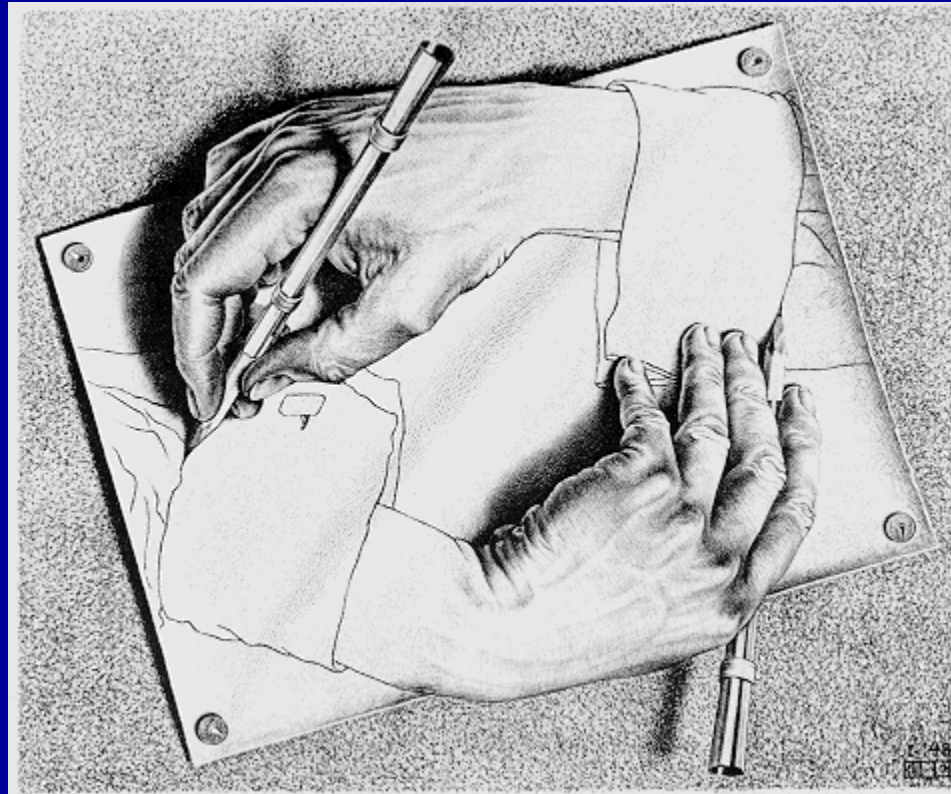
The Universe: Humans and Resources



Our Brain Shapes Our Behaviour

- Behavioural Drivers:
 - We seek power, status and safety (Reptilian)
 - We want to fit in, be like everyone else (Limbic)
- We live in a world of me and not-me (Neocortex)
- We can create complex power structures and social artifacts (Neocortex)
- We do not respond urgently to abstract threats (Neocortex)

The Avoidable: Our Cultural Narrative



The Story of Who We Are

The Assumptions of Our Story

- The physical world is all there is.
- The planet is there for humans to use.
- Stuff will make us happy.
- More is better.
- We can solve any problem.
- This the best way to live, any other way is inferior.
- We are superior to all other creatures, and our lives are independent of theirs.
- Only humans have rights.
- There are no limits.

The Guardians of Our Story

- Corporations and businesses
- Economic and financial institutions
- Political institutions
- Legal institutions
- Religious institutions
- Educational institutions
- Communications media

How do we create a new story?



We must tell it to ourselves

- A change in the cultural story can change the culture very fast:
 - Middle Ages to the Renaissance
 - Emancipation
 - Womens' Rights
 - American Civil Rights Movement
 - Berlin Wall, the fall of the Soviet Union
- The speed of the change depends on the communication technology of the time

The New Story Book



“The largest social movement in the history of the world.”

Meet the Movement

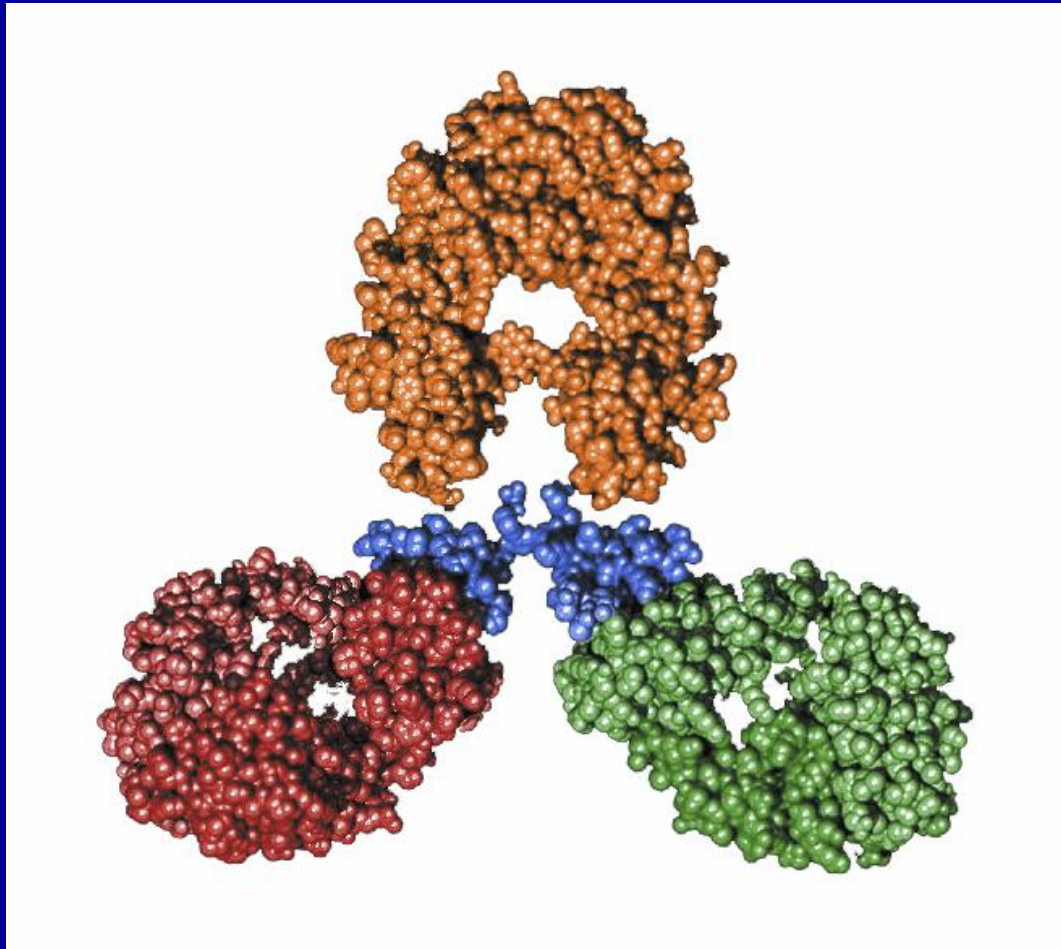
- Over **two million** independent, local citizens' groups devoted to environmental, social justice and aboriginal rights issues.
- It is present in every city on the planet.
- It is growing by 40% a year.
- It's **not** an organized movement.
- Every group is a spontaneous, local event.
- The movement is tremendously resilient.
- Despite the diversity, the values of all the groups are very similar.

The New Values

- **Cooperation**, not competition
- **Nurturing**, not exploitation
- **Consensus**, not hierarchy
- **Interdependence**, not separation
- **Respect for all life**, not just human life
- **Acceptance of limits**, not infinite growth
- **Universal justice**, not justice based on power

The values are those of sustainability

The Movement as Metaphor



The movement is humanity's immune system:
the groups are antibodies.

The Movement as Metaphor



The groups are humanity's "seed bank" of values.

The Movement as Metaphor



The groups are humanity's imaginal cells.

Conclusions

- The crisis is already here: we know there will be change.
- We don't know what the future holds.
- Our species is not broken, just our story.
- We need it all: political action, appropriate technologies, wisdom, flexibility, engagement, commitment, compassion and deep caring.
- Individual transformation and community connections are the keys.
- There will be great suffering. There will also be great joy.
- We should expect the Guardians to object strongly.
- **They will not win.**

“It is too late to change the trajectory of climate change and a hundred other ecological horrors.

*It is **never** too late to change the trajectory of the human heart.”*

Contact

This presentation has been prepared by
Paul Chefurka
Ottawa, Canada

Email: paul_chefurka@rogers.com
Web: <http://www.paulchefurka.ca>

© October, 2009