

Strategic questions for the retreat to develop the North American Roundtable on Sustainable Production and Consumption

What:

- 1) What does success look like? What is the overall vision?
- 2) What is the goal of the Roundtable, and what are some specific objectives to reach that goal? How will the Roundtable be used as a vehicle to catalyze sustainable consumption and production?
- 3) What kind of activities will take place under the auspices of the Roundtable? i.e. conferences; roundtables; workshops; policy seminars; online dialogue; podcasts; Facebook page; blogs; discussion papers; websites; partnerships; collaborations with other universities/learning institutions; etc.
- 4) What are the outputs and deliverables? i.e. policy papers; thought pieces; press releases; publications; blueprints and action plans; conceptual frameworks; on-the-ground projects; etc.
- 5) What is the niche/differentiation/value added of this initiative in comparison to other initiatives?
- 6) What will the initiatives focus on? i.e. themes (biodiversity; water; energy; transportation; waste...); tools and how to apply them (fiscal instruments; legal frameworks; voluntary initiatives; etc.); type of target audiences (policy makers; political leaders; practitioners; public opinion leaders; etc.); the identification and effectiveness of leverage points for social change (fiscal policy; systems analysis; social change agents; etc.).
- 7) Will the dialogues be international/national/regional in scope? Will the concrete actions/projects that emerge be international/national/regional?
- 8) What is the governance structure? How formal or informal does it become (ie. statutes; bylaws; etc.)? Is there an advisory committee? Are there elections? How does one join the Roundtable? Who decides, and on what basis? Do terms of reference need to be developed? What are the respective responsibilities of the participants/members?

Who:

- 9) Who is this for? Who is the target audience?
- 10) Who will lead this project? Who is ultimately responsible for the Roundtable?
- 11) Who will be part of the Roundtable? Who can join it? (i.e. individuals, or networks/organizations, or both?) Will government and business be part of it?
- 12) Who are possible 'competitors'? (Great Transition Initiative; New Economy Network; etc.) Can they be allies?

How:

- 13) How will the work be carried out?
- 14) How will the Roundtable act as a vehicle with which to foster breakthroughs in thinking and in action?
- 15) How will success be measured?