

A Talk to Assist Local Community Groups to Formulate and Campaignfor Local Low-energy Plans, 29/1/1980M. CrowOur Own Energy Year!

1980 is "energy year" - Victorian Energy Year anyway - if we are bold enough and sensible enough to make it so. We do not have to wait for the United Nations or governments or this or that Party, or union congress or welfare institution to tell us so, and how it should be run. Through the Community Energy Network (CEN), energy conscious people are organising their own connections irrespective of what organisation they are in. We do not have to wait like sheep until energy crisis descends bankrupting industry and wrecking the lives of individuals and their families.

What follows are proposals for making low-energy local plans, but it should be clear that this will only be part of a citizens attempt for lower-energy futures. Other parts of the over-all effort, for example, must include lower-energy solar technology, must include opposition to extravagant aluminium smelter plants which are only reckless ways of depleting our brown coal reserves quickly, and must include how the efforts of industrial workers can be changed to making commodities with less energy, and commodities that use less energy, or which last longer and so on.

But although local plans are only a part, I hope to convince you that they are a decisive part. The energy implications of the social and physical forward planning that I will be proposing will centre, not entirely, but mainly, around measures that will conserve transport fuels. This is deliberate. The oil crisis will be the first to occur, and transport is an obvious area where quite sizeable cuts in fuel use are possible without affecting the quality of life.

Those of you whose interest began with concern about uranium mining, please do not think that what is being suggested is that this issue is regarded as any the less important - on the contrary: more effective opposition to unsafe nuclear usage involves alternatives, and that is what is being proposed.

And those of you whose interest began with concern for the community in one way or another - either physical environment or social environment - please understand that the proposals are not of the we-must-all-tighten-our-belt variety, and therefore life with less energy must be worse. On the contrary, the idea is that all the best forward plans for improved local community must be pursued even more vigorously as part of a policy of adjusting to future energy realities.

Let me expand those ideas at the outset, so we can, hopefully, get consensus on our aims, our goals - or our "value judgements", as we used to call them in the North Melbourne Association.

Twin Value Judgements.

I suggest the value judgements we adopt stand on two twin pedestals: conserving energy and creating community.

Conserving fossil fuel energy - and finding ways to adjust our living to solar and lower-energy patterns of use in good time is a value judgement based on concern for ourselves; and there is an even stronger moral claim for the next generation and the 3rd. world countries.

Since, by-and-large the alternative to an exaggerated dependence on machinery - especially the car - is an enhanced dependence on each other, then the "creating of community" on a local basis especially is the other twin value judgement.

If anyone has serious reservations about either of these twin goals - conserving energy and creating community as I have just defined them, (and will elaborate as I go), please speak up! We must get consensus on our general direction, or we will have no principled guidelines for local planning, or any other sort of activity.

Alternative to Oil-from-Coal and Nuclear Future

The connection between the availability of oil and nuclear plants in Victoria should be clearly grasped. The rate of depletion of our brown coal reserves will be enormously increased if oil-from-coal plants are allowed to operate. So much so that, as the Government Green and White papers on energy, and Energy reports recognise, by the mid-1990's - only 15 years ~~from~~ now - a nuclear plant or plants may be chosen to produce

electricity instead of using brown coal in order to spin out the coal reserves as long as possible producing oil. In fact, that hardly puts it strongly enough. Community Energy Network is expecting to bring out an excellent paper by Philip Sutton - one of the convenors of tonight's meeting - (that the government is actively planning both oil from coal and nuclear plants, whatever its protestations of innocence on the nuclear plans may be. And since lead-times of 10 to 15 years are required for research and development for oil-from-coal or nuclear plants ~~are required~~, if we are to avoid the fatal path of nuclear power right here in Victoria, two things must happen:

- (1) we must immediately start a widespread campaign against oil-from-coal, as an integral part of opposition to nuclear plants in Victoria.
- (2) we must immediately start planning for an alternative way of living in Melbourne that relies less on oil and more on creating community.

Dealing them with this second point, we have a stark choice before us:

Public Transport & Creating Community, or "Go-for-broke" City based on a Coal Liquefaction/Nuclear Future.

Anyone examining official documents, such as the Government Energy Papers, Transport Policy or the Board of Works "Alternative Strategies for Metropolitan Melbourne" might be forgiven for forming the impression that the Government was throwing its weight behind the public transport option. Not so. A careful examination of these documents discloses that there is no expectation that the proposed improvements of the worn-out public transport system will do more than marginally induce people to switch from cars to public transport for most of their regular day-to-day trips. Even the Board of Works favoured option, which includes a few quite big suburban growth centres around selected rail stations, is obviously based on a system of car-based centres, even though these new centres are on the rail. And, alarmingly, the Governments' announcement last Tuesday ("The Age" 22/1/'80) that it had begun a full review of rail, bus and tram studies, from which so much was hoped, sounds as if it could turn out to be even worse than the reports just mentioned. Transport Minister McLellan seems to regard metropolitan public transport as necessary only for people with what he called "real needs" such as pensioners, unemployed and people on fixed income - he doesn't even mention those without cars. This has been exactly the attitude of the road lobby for several decades. There is no hint in this that the Government is concerned with a fall-back energy position of a city able to exist largely on public transport.

Incidentally, it is tactically dangerous to advocate electric cars as a complete system substituting for petrol cars, because this also favours a long-term nuclear future; and in the short term, when using brown coal is nowhere near as energy efficient as using electric public transport. As a system, electric cars would only serve to prolong certain social patterns of behaviour based on undesirable current trends that would make adjustment all the more severe when the public transport city option becomes eventually inevitable.

#### Why Local Plans are a Key to Energy Crisis.

If people can work or find enjoyment and satisfaction in their leisure time, locally, then that is at once a transport energy saving, and a potential enrichment of social life.

As soon as one mentions saving energy by planning measures, I have found from experience that many people immediately get a mental picture of Melbourne being squashed-up - houses being pulled down and rebuilt at twice the density: or something like that. And they object - and rightly so, if that was being proposed - that people wouldn't stand for it, and it would take too long to be of any use in averting the energy crisis.

But that is not being proposed. What is being proposed is for the creation or strengthening of all-purpose centres around selected public transport stops close to where people live. Also the creation of very small neighbourhood centres (consisting of a supportive "neighbourhood house" plus a convenience "corner shop", both accommodated mostly - and preferably in existing houses - closer still to where people live. Within short walking distance in fact. The neighbourhood centres would be connected by bus to local centres. The rail, tram or express cross-suburban bus, connecting local centres, would be more frequent, more comfortable, and would make a far greater range of access to desired facilities available by public transport. A full description of such a system can be found in the book "Seeds for Change" Chaps 6 & 7, and a

very brief synopsis of some of the ideas is attached.

Please note that this model does not propose that the great bulk of the housing stock anywhere in Melbourne should be redeveloped - only quite small but critical areas around selected railway stations or tram stops.

If tackled with a will, in 10 to 15 years such a transformation - which would provide an infinitely better life than now for most people - could be a reality as a complete Melbourne-wide system. And a lot of it could be done in a few years; and the essential creating community part of it can start right now - has in fact got under way in some suburbs.

In other words, the lead times for changes to our City necessary to make a decisive reduction in the quantity of oil required is no longer than the time required for any major technological change that would otherwise be needed - such as oil-from-coal or a nuclear plant. Don't let anyone talk you out of the whole idea on the grounds that it would take too long.

So we have our choice: public transport and creating community, or a "go for broke" city, with more and still more cars based on coal liquefaction and nuclear plants.

For those who choose the former - and I hope most of you here will do that - I will now proceed to propose some of the main essential components of any local inner area plan to put the elected choice into effect, emphasising the new and unfamiliar aspects rather than the old and known ones.

The Sort of Alternative Local Plans Needed.

The essentially new and decisive element, in my opinion, is how to integrate social planning with physical planning to obtain the results we seek. I want to deal with two aspects of this general problem, and will only make bare mention of the physical aspects later.

1. "Creating Community" in a "Mixed Participatory City".

The very word "community" is attacked by some as objectionable because it implies a universal identity of interest or behaviour that simply flies in the face of the facts of our obvious differences - some are business people, others employed; some industrial workers, some whitecollar, others professional workers; some are employed, some unemployed; some born in Australia, others not; some young, others old; some tenants, others rate-payers, and so on.

Now the concept is not that all these differences can be obliterated and everyone suddenly feels they want to fall around the neck of everyone they pass in the street, and become their bosom friends for life, and live in communes.

But the concept is that we do expand and strengthen our local human connections. The fact is that the high private mobility of the last few decades has meant that the opportunity of even a nodding acquaintance with our immediate neighbours seldom arises. The reality is that, living all around us, working all around us, there are plenty of people who could enrich our lives, if only we knew each other. We don't really have to travel half way across Melbourne to find our bosom pals - or hundreds of kilometres into the bush because we haven't found any.

Enrichment can be either of a "supportive" character, or around some less elemental, more specialised type of activity.

As a basic facility for supportive community, we have the proposition of "drop-in" places - I will call them "neighbourhood centres" (preferably in an adapted dwelling house that retains its "homely" atmosphere) where enrichment can be established in the form of shared networks of mutual support. These would include, for example, casual childcare arrangements, after school activities, food co-op, or simply a place where neighbours can go - and have a right to go - to overcome their loneliness, or get to know a few people living or working around.

Then there are relationships with our fellow humans, draw from a wider catchment than our block neighbourhood, of a more specialised character - around whatever interests they have, of education, culture, games, social and so on. These aspects of local community should preferably be located in local centres convenient by local public transport access to all the suburb (such as right here in Errol St., for example)

In "The Age" on 21st. January, appeared an opinion poll that points up what I have been saying. The conclusion was that most of us are prepared to nod to our neighbours, talking casually with them, but not to mix socially with them. Those in their 20's were worse than the old in this respect, Australian born were worse than those coming from Italy or Greece, and those with higher education were worse than those with less education

So says the opinion poll. But, of course, this 1980 profile arises from time and circumstance, and we have to set out to change our circumstances,

both for our own social sanity, and to focus our lives nearer to home for energy reasons. Incidentally, what's entirely missing from many of our lives is that we don't have the easy opportunity of mixing in a neutral place with people whose values we don't share: and yet coping with these should be part of our human experience.

An earlier CSIRO survey in November last, came to the conclusion that Australians prize privacy, and found that they use their homes to obtain that privacy. Of course! Everyone needs privacy - but equally everyone needs community! To prove I crave drink is not also to prove that I don't need food. Such is the nature of our life as social creatures, that, as the Community Child Care policy puts it, there must be a "recognition that people's independence is related to the degree of their inter-dependence with others, and that personal self growth and confidence and competence is enhanced through being part of "self help" groups which enable them to care, share, give and take, reciprocate, enter into mutual support arrangements etc." Well said!

Now the value judgements adopted by the North Melbourne Association CAN Report (which is short for Citizens Action Plan for North and West Melbourne in 1973) prepared as part of participation in planning for the City of Melbourne Strategy Plan reads as follows:

"Value judgements can be based on high regard for material wealth, or for status, or for freedom, or for privacy, or for preservation, or for cultural experience or personal expression and so on, or for some combination of these values."

"What really matters, CAN believes, are the human values, not material wealth, nor status, nor freedom at the expense of others; but a life that sees social values as distinct from economic ones as the prime objective"

"...CAN believes that the people living and working in North and West Melbourne constitute a much broader spectrum than that pertaining to other parts of the Melbourne metropolitan area: there are more varied nationalities of origin, occupations, income groups, age groups and lifestyles."

"This is good. This helps to impart to North and West Melbourne its unique character..."

"CAN believes it is good because the potential interpenetration of lifestyles can heighten cultural appreciation, personal expression and community involvement, which we hold to pertain to the basic human value."

"Hence our basic value-judgement is one which involves the concept of a 'mixed participatory city' - a city orientated towards people and the increased satisfaction they can gain from their inter-relationships. We should emphasise that this concept applies not only to residents but to people who work in the area, and the hundreds of enterprises, commercial or otherwise, that now exist there."

We should..."not adopt policies that can lead to unwarranted displacement of people and disturbance of existing enterprises and activities. We believe there needs to be protection for all groups from being forced out of the area by economic forces, planning policies or other pressures."

"Furthermore we believe that amenities should be provided for each main culture group, interest group, work group or lifestyle. Ideally, activities to facilitate mutual respect between different groups should be encouraged, leading to an emerging interpenetration between individuals of different groups and between groups. To help achieve such aims, amenities should not be evenly dispersed throughout the area but clustered together in a centre, and related to each other on a human pedestrian scale."...and the report goes on that it is "basic to the success of such a centre that it makes people feel that they 'belong'"... (CAN Report p.1).

I want to make a point here that I feel needs emphasis. In 1973, when the CAN report (from which I have just quoted) was written, the pressures of higher rates and rents were not quite as high as they have become since, nor was unemployment a permanent serious feature of life - although there were homeless men and plenty of low-income people living in housing Commission estates and in unrenovated houses elsewhere. The CAN attitude did indeed always uphold that lower paid and disadvantaged people should be included in "the mixture", and not forced from the area, and that more housing should be available for them.

Now it should be observed that the question of "social justice", or "equity for the disadvantaged", or "a fair go for the lower paid workers" - in whatever way this concern is expressed - can be partly met in the direction of more accessible local activities, and not in the direction of 2 or 3 cars and a motorboat. Similarly, as between the sexes, equity can be built nearer to reality on the basis of neighbourhood and local centres. In other words, the question of equity in both these senses, must be built in to our better-living low-energy planning; and needs to include a new element now: job creation, wherever possible.

Returning to the CAN primary value of a "mixed and participatory" city, brings us back to our starting point of "creating community", because, as can be seen, the two sets of ideas are very similar. These ideas of concentrating on local community activities can have profound energy-conserving effects. Instead of tearing all around Melbourne in search of diversion, we need to find what we seek closer at hand, and, with a bit of perseverance and good fortune we will find it in greater measure than we expected.

There is currently proceeding in the Melbourne City Council area what is called a "Community Consultation". This had its origin in dissatisfaction by various citizens groups and professional workers in the area of childcare, healthcare, and kindred fields. The proliferation of single-purpose institutions, each with their own bureaucracy, and each bestowing their benefits on passive recipients is part of the complaint. This has been graphically illustrated on the front cover of "Ripple", the journal of Community Child Care for December 1977. It shows pre-school services. Parents in any residential area are likely to have to go out of their area to, say, eight different school and preschool facilities, namely day care, kindergarten, emergency care, infant health, toy library, occasional care, out-of-school programme and toddler group.

How much better if all of these functions were to be organised right inside the neighbourhood all clustered together in a "neighbourhood children's centre"! Instead of fragmentation there would be cohesion. Parents, children and others would stand a chance of getting to know each other, and have a real opportunity to have some control over their own lives.

What is now being explored in the Melbourne City Council area is an exercise involving the Health Department of the Council and community groups, is more realistic comprehensive care, where the individual's needs and the families' needs are seen as a whole. Also citizens need to have some say over how the services intended for them do, in fact, not only apply in order that they best serve their needs, but in a manner such that mutual community self-help is intertwined with specialist professional help in a balanced way.

Understandably "creating community" of a supportive kind is the current concern of many people, and expanded employment is needed in this area, and not the threats of contracted employment at present being faced. Further, not only is the community involvement in this field of childcare, healthcare and various types of welfare low energy-using, but the employees in this field - "catalysts" as many of them are called (because their function is not to "run" community affairs, but to assist those involved to run it themselves) - these catalysts use very little energy.

Now what is needed is less investment in the staggeringly expensive high-technology low-labour-intensive industries, such as the energy industry or the aluminium industry, and a lot more investment in that section of tertiary industry which caters for personal and community services.

Let us have a look at Figure 1. This sets out diagrammatically the area of current concentration. The central square shows the Council committees affected (Health and Social Services - Parks & Recreation - Planning Committees) involved in a joint community group/ Council effort. I should add that this is a Council decision.

Project (1) in the circle on the left shows some of the existing operating organisations (neighbourhood associations, schools, community health centres, childrens services, recreation centres, libraries, etc, etc.) Note that the core of this idea is "participation and decentralisation"

Decentralisation to local areas, and participation of the various community groups are objectives that run parallel to and can form part of the low-energy local plans we are proposing. This is long overdue, because the tendency to fragmentation of services is so ineffective and frustrating, and so many people are denied any form of control over their own lives.

Project (2) is the first area of policy and administrative reform on these lines. It is on childcare - and it is intended that there will be other areas dealt with later. I will not comment on this except to say: please observe - once again - it is to be on a local basis

But does this Community Consultation exhaust the present possibilities for expansion of low-energy activities on a local basis? I suggest not. Although not all the facilities listed are wholly supportive (e.g. libraries and recreation centres) the focus in this Community Consultation tends to be on the supportive services.

Now consider Figure 2. The functions circled in (A) and (B) are included in the Community Consultation. However, the uncircled functions under (B) -- baths, bowling, billiards, bingo, crafts, concerts, pubs, clubs etc

**PROJECT (2)  
DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN'S POLICY**

**PROJECT (1)  
PARTICIPATION AND DECENTRALISATION**

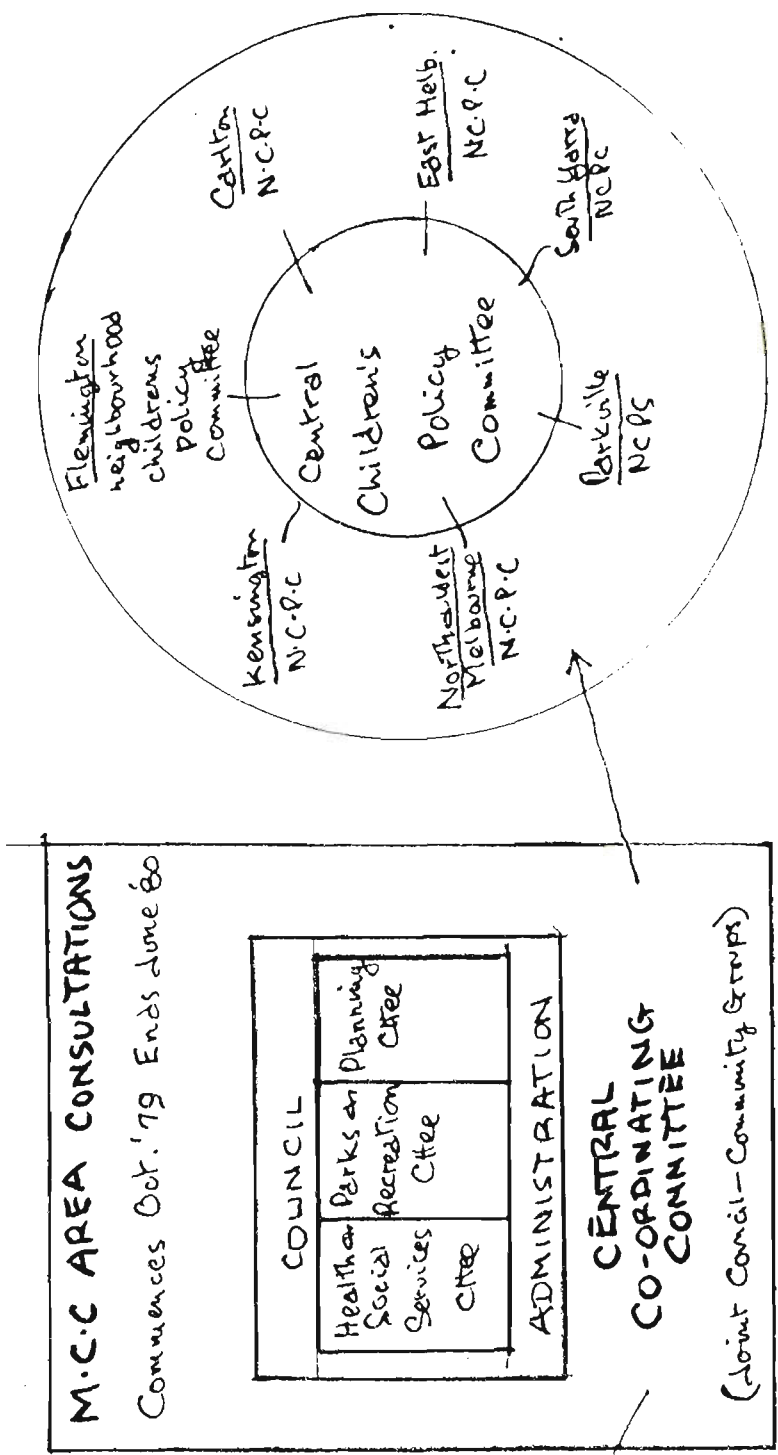


FIGURE 1

# LOW ENERGY-USING ACTIVITIES

TERTIARY INDUSTRY (PART) + COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

**A**

EDUCATION, HEALTH,  
"WELFARE" etc

- School
- Health Centres
- Children's Services

**B**

SAMPLES OF OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Libraries
- Recreation Centres

- Entertainment in parks
- Baths
- Football social club
- Bowling club
- Gymnasium
- Billiards
- Bowling Alleys
- Indoor games (bingo, chess, cards)
- Crafts
- Adult education
- Dancing
- Music
- Concerts
- Films
- Social life in pubs, clubs, cafes
- Theatre
- Possible park activities  
(volley ball, amphitheatres, pony trails)

The circled functions  = Centre of attention by M.C.C  
Consultation Cttee (see Figure.1)

FIGURE 2

these too (and undoubtedly many more unlisted) must be included in desirable low-energy aspects to be encouraged in local plans.

A word of warning here. This proposition cannot be formulated to say that all tertiary industry activity should be encouraged, provided it is low-energy. Consider Figure 3. It takes some economic industry categories and re-defines them to help energy analysis. Primary, secondary and part of tertiary industry include energy-intensive aspects, and the idea is to reduce the use of fossil fuel in these sectors. When we come to low-energy tertiary services, we can make a basic division into (1) those that serve energy-intensive industries and (2) those that serve people's social needs.

Obviously the services that serve high-intensity industry (e.g. financing them or advertising them, or marketing them), however low-energy intensive they may be in themselves, are undesirable. Advertisements foisting onto the public changing fashions in cars or whitegoods, or needless waste of resources in packaging such as throw-away aluminium cans, are advertisements that not only create a demand for energy needed to manufacture such items, but, more seriously, continuously use energy in their day-to-day use or replenishment.

If we take the other branch of services, however, those serving people's social needs, these can be divided into the traditional type, bestowed by professionals on passive clients (and there is obviously a place for this, provided, of course, it does not go beyond cases that require expert attention and saddle people with unwanted attention and expense when they could well cope themselves with their own problems) and "creating community" services, meaning personal involvement by active people.

The main point of this is that the most desirable new growth sector, for energy conserving purposes (in addition to devices that utilise solar energy or otherwise conserve energy) and the most desirable job creation area is in the area of assisting personal involvement of people in "community creating" activities which they themselves control.

I have expanded more than somewhat on the connection between "creating community" and "conserving energy" because it is the least understood aspect, whether by those whose main concern is social matters, or by those whose main concern is on the technological aspects of energy. But clearly these ideas must be the corner-stone for local low-energy plans - so let's have a good time, near-at-hand, demanding employment of the catalytic type personnel required to enable it to happen!

I come now to the second social point which I wish to emphasise:

### Community Stability Requires Retention and Extension of Housing

Creating community and a mixed participatory city cannot flourish if there is a constant flux and disruption caused by demolishing housing or demolishing the places where people work. This is a particular aspect, too, of the equity problem, because it tends to be the older houses in bad repair and not internally renovated that are the first candidates for redevelopment. Also, the smaller factories and enterprises in the area mainly want to stay on: it is not them that want to build 15 storey office towers on the fringe of the city.

The CAN report upheld what it called "preservation of the community" as even more important than "preservation of the historic character of the area" - an idea, however, which it also strongly supported: but the two preservation objectives have much the same result.

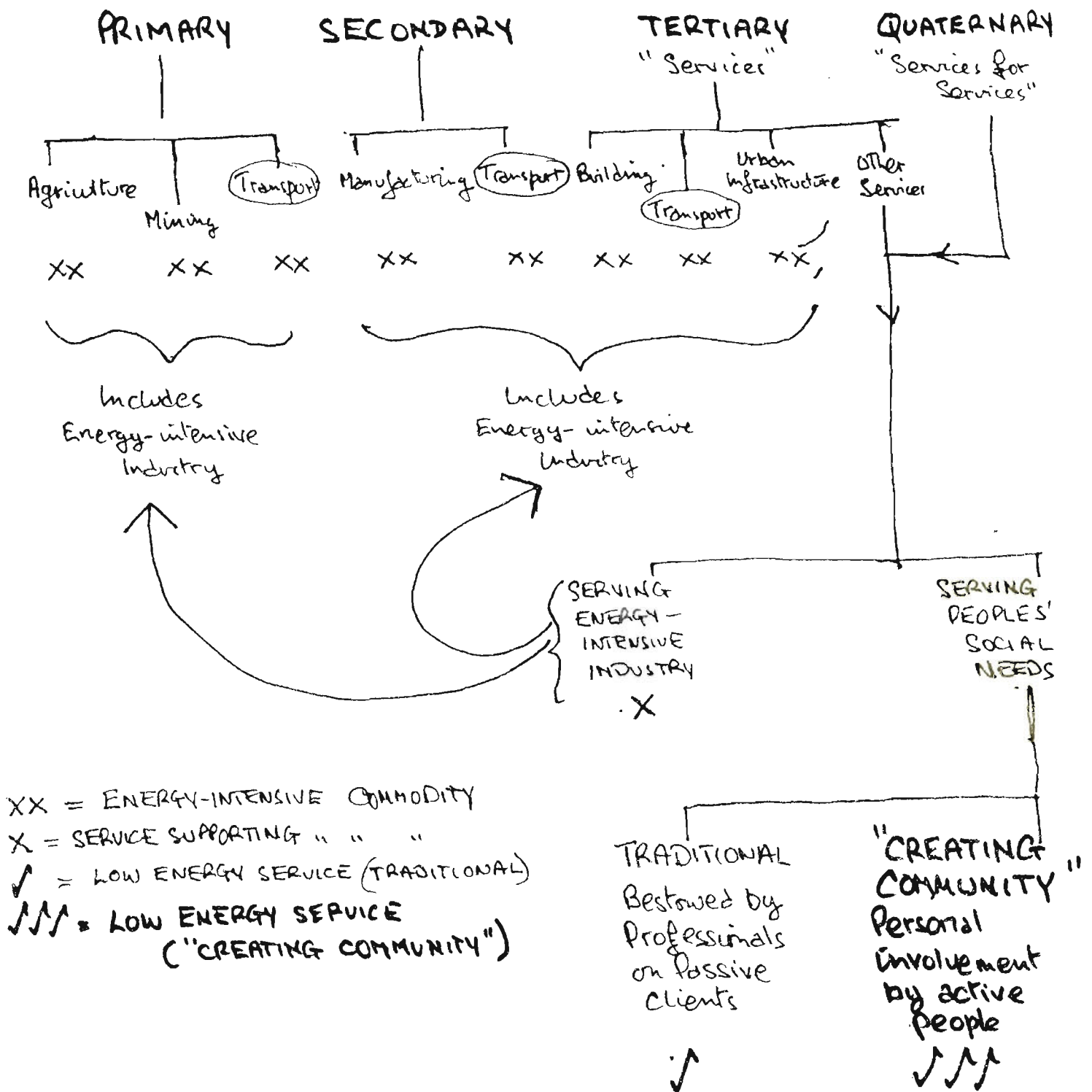
A new element we need to build into this component is retention of terrace-type housing form, because it is a form that has, from an energy point of view, a reasonable thermal performance. As the document of the Conservation of Urban Energy Group (the CUE group) on "Energy and the City of Melbourne" says (at p.19): "...with very little expenditure on insulation and shading etc. a terrace house can provide winter comfort conditions with the expenditure of 20% or less of the energy consumed by a standard Melbourne detached house to provide the same winter comfort conditions. And the saving in summer air-conditioning energy with possible rising expectations will be even higher."

### Other important Aspects for Conserving Energy

There are a number of other most important integrated energy and social consequences of the value judgement hopefully adopted. These include transport policy, higher intensity use of land around local centres, bikeways, mixed use area policy, solar collectors and so on. Some of these are listed as "thought-starters" on the two sheets attached to your invitation. The fact that I do not propose to detail them does not mean that they are unimportant. There is also a host of environmental ideas



# SOME ECONOMIC INDUSTRY CATEGORIES (RE-DEFINED TO HELP ENERGY ANALYSIS)



THIS CHART ILLUSTRATES THAT SHIFT IN EMPLOYMENT FROM SECONDARY TO TERTIARY INDUSTRY DOES NOT NECESSARILY REDUCE ENERGY USE  
→ IT COULD INCREASE IT!

ENERGY-INTENSIVE INDUSTRY IS JUSTIFIED IF ITS PRODUCTS CONSERVE ENERGY IN THE LONG-TERM

MAIN POINT: MOST DESIRABLE NEW GROWTH SECTOR FOR EMPLOYMENT IS ASSISTING PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF PEOPLE IN "COMMUNITY CREATING" LOW-ENERGY ACTIVITIES WHICH THEY THEMSELVES CONTROL (MARKED ✓✓✓ ABOVE)

FIGURE 3

that should be "worked in" with the local plans: treeplanting, vegetable growing, reduction of lead in petrol and so on. These ideas are pretty familiar though not yet widely implemented: so they need to be included in the plan.

Before turning to organisational proposals, I don't want to leave the impression that all we citizens have to do is to formulate our policies, and it will be plain sailing from there on in. On the contrary there are strongly entrenched conservative forces e.g. on the social welfare side, the old fashioned charity welfare ideas and empire-building institutionalised structures. On the city planning side, the City Planning Department, and the Board of Works favour expansion of private transport and redevelopment. They favour big offices in the mixed use fringes; in the Population & Housing Study they favour new housing by way of 50% redevelopment of the present residential areas by the year 2000.

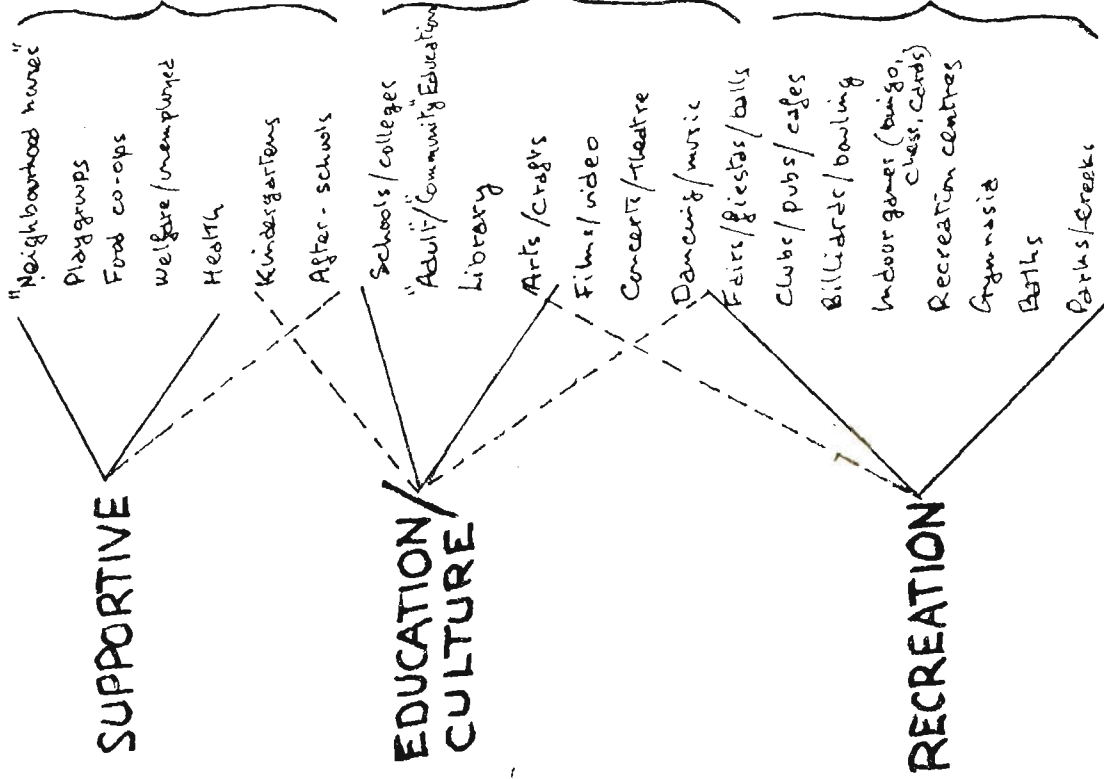
So it is proposed that we need all manner of popularisation of community ideas throughout the whole of "Energy Year" - because unless we rally our forces, not only will the good ideas not come across, but they will not prove popular enough to overcome the sheer conservatism that will still stand for welfare-as-usual and business-as-usual even on the very brink of energy crisis and social crisis.

I want to turn finally to some organisational proposals.

# WHAT PEOPLE CAN DO TOGETHER

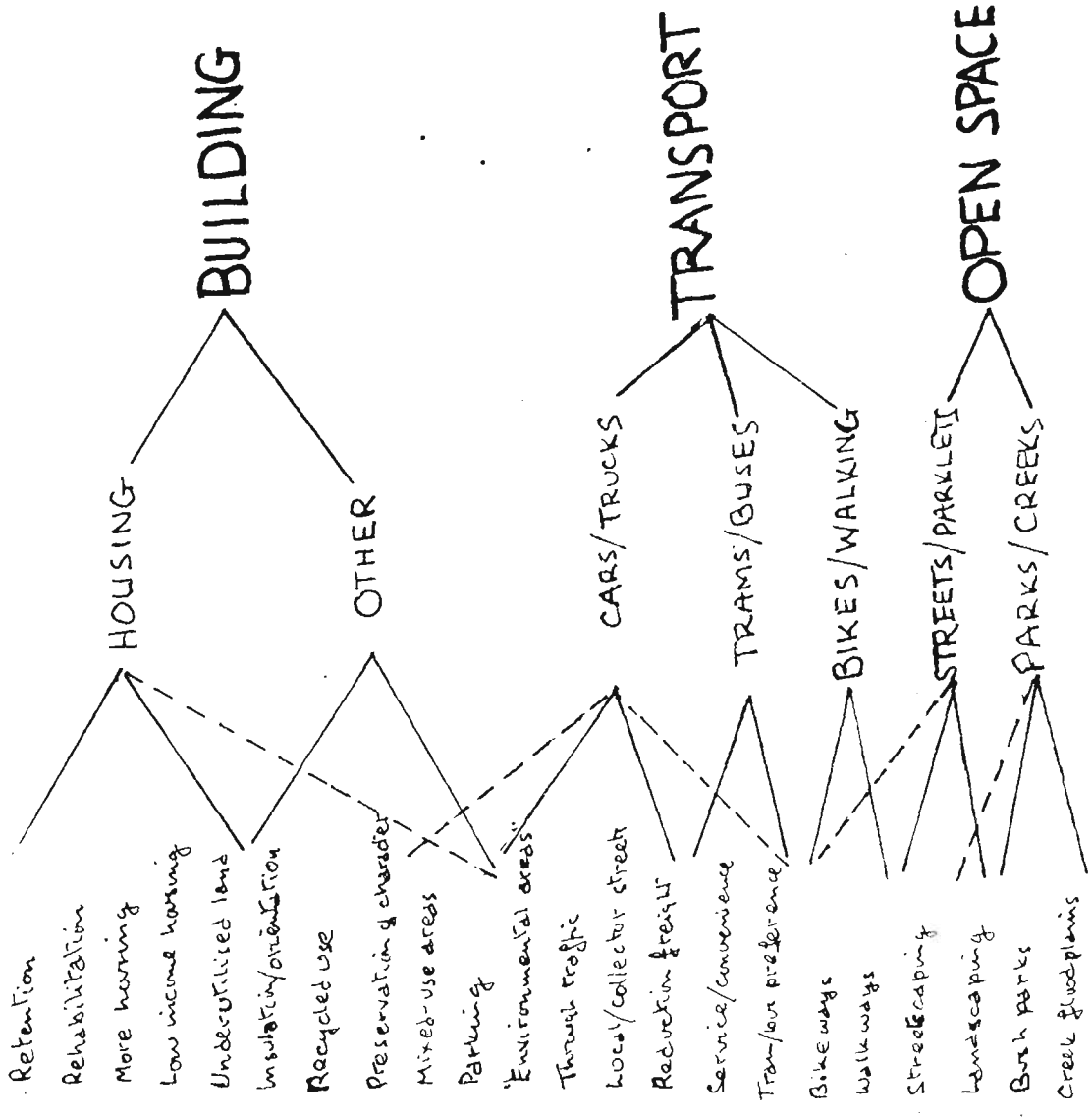
FOCUS ON/ACCESS TO  
= CO-ORDINATED FROM, OR  
LOCATED AT (WHERE PRACTICAL)

## LOCAL CENTRE



NOTES: (1) ----- = areas of overlapping functions  
(2) Neighbourhood centres not shown because as yet undefined and/or held to fit to the above schematic arrangement.

# PHYSICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL MATRIX FOR ACTIVITIES



TWO PROPOSED WORKING GROUPS: (1) SUPPORTIVE/EDUCATION/RECREATION (2) BUILDING/TRANSPORT/OPEN SPACE AND (3) POPULARISATION GROUP

FIGURE 4



are energy-intensive where they could use instead labour or less energy-intensive resources or equipment

To further encourage using labour rather than the energy guzzling variety of technology, and to ensure that the energy resource levy would not simply be absorbed by employers and added to inflationary pressures, the concept is that the cost of labour to the employers be reduced by a significant proportion to equal the amount of the energy resource levy. Wages or salaries could (if this option is desired) be made up to present levels from the levy, so that present award levels for various categories could remain unchanged

The above described reform, in its broad outline will be called "the Sutton mechanism", but this phrase will not include the analysis of the economic system, which, it is claimed, gives validity to the mechanism.

If Phillip's exercise is turned on its head, and the above list of 13 items are regarded not as "flow-on effects", but as objectives which one sets out to attain, then, in my view all of the 13 items listed are worthy ones.

However, I do not believe that some of these objectives would follow automatically from the implementation of the Sutton mechanism. In this category of "no-flow-on" I would place, for example, encouragement of local industry (item 9); spending of cash by individuals and their immediate communities in a better way (item 13); and especially the ending of unemployment and recession (item 7).

But I believe that most of the other objectives could be achieved or indirectly assisted by the Sutton mechanism.

However, I do not believe that this mechanism, or any other economic mechanism should be relied upon as the sole, or even the main leverage to effect conservation or social equity objectives, but should be regarded as <sup>gth</sup>incentive to supplement more direct policies aimed at these objectives. For example, direct measures to conserve

### (3) Timetabling

Here again, these suggestions are a quite tentative, although there are already certain fixed dates: March 22nd. for inner area forum on low-energy plans - and the Citizens Energy Inquiry is to finish by the end of the year, so submissions need to be forwarded just as soon as we can.

Looking at figure 5 then (if I can call it that)

#### For North and West Melbourne

4 weeks in February for each group to complete first draft.  
2 weeks in March to integrate these two drafts,  
and then: precirculation for the forum

If there are any other inner area groups who could get up a draft for their own area by March 14th - that would be great: instead of one, that would mean there could be several case studies for the forum; or even some amalgamation of some of them.

Then in stages over April - May - June we'd try to get the whole thing together

### (4) Involvement of As Many Community Groups as Possible

Community Energy Network (CEN) does not desire to be set up as just another organisation - further fragmenting the field of environmental and social endeavour. As its name implies, it rather wants to operate as a network to draw together those conscious of the energy problem and the inter-related social problems in all organisations. Just as there are individual catalysts whose job it is to get together individuals into a group to do their own thing; so CEN wants to be a catalyst amongst organisations.

So....it would be nice to see the local Movement Against Uranium Mining, the North Melbourne Association, the North Melbourne Social Service, the Hotham Recreation Committee, the North Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre (next door here) and any other organisations prepared to co-sponsor the formulation of the report and the popularisation of it.

In other areas, for example, Fitzroy and Collingwood, it might be possible to consider assistance from these Municipal Councils which are far more advanced along the paths I have been outlining than is the Melbourne City Council.

I understand the Executive of the North Melbourne Association are suggesting - for their next meeting - a panel; and the local NAUM group have already thrown their weight behind this meeting, but we want a lot of willing hands - and willing minds - quickly.

We're all in this energy-crisis/social-crisis boat together - lets all grab an oar !