Outline

1. The economy: a sub-system of the biosphere
2. Transgressing planetary boundaries
3. Technology: helpful but not sufficient
4. Scale matters
5. Extreme global inequalities: rich countries should go first
6. Managing without growth in Canada
1. The economy: a sub-system of the biosphere
2. Excessive Burden on the Environment: Transgressing Planetary Boundaries
3. Technology: helpful but not sufficient
‘I would say this is most environmentally friendly cruise ship to date. It is much more efficient than other similar ships.’ (Project engineer)
4. Must address scale as well as intensity
Energy consumption - same story

Key message: Environmental impact depends on intensity and scale.
5. Extreme global inequalities: rich countries should go first
5. Managing without growth

Can we have full employment, no poverty, fiscal balance, reduced GHG emissions without relying on economic growth?
You bet!

LowGrow
Canada
What makes an economy grow?

• Macro demand (what we spend money on):
  – Consumption
  – Investment
  – Government
  – Trade

• Macro supply (what we can produce):
  – Labour
  – Capital
  – Productivity
‘Business as usual’
What happens if we eliminate increases in all sources of economic growth? (starting in 2010 over 10 years)

- Consumption
- Investment
- Government
  - Trade
- Population/labour
  - Productivity
A no growth disaster
Larry Elliot (economics editor)
The Guardian Weekly 29th August 2008

‘The real issue is whether it is possible to challenge the “growth-at-any-cost model” and come up with an alternative that is environmentally benign, economically robust and politically feasible.’
A better low/no growth scenario

How?
- New meanings and measures of success
- Limits on materials, energy, wastes and land use
- Stable population and labour force
- More efficient capital stock
- Carbon price
- Shorter work year
- Fewer status goods
- More generous anti-poverty programs
- Education for life not just work
Can we adapt?