

# An Economy with Personal Asset and Income Limits

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## A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

**GROWTH.** The economic ideas and practices which have long been in the ascendancy depend on continual growth. A low carbon economy has to differ from the current economy in fundamental ways.

**RADICAL CHANGES ARE AFOOT AND WILL ACCELERATE**, driven by the planet's new ecological conditions.

**THE MOST DEEPLY INTERNALISED HUMAN VALUES** must become those of cooperation and conservation, not those of individualism and consumption.

**VALUES, NOT MONEY** are fundamental to economics.

**THE FUNDAMENTAL MEANING OF ECONOMICS** relates to our management of our 'household', that is, of the practical matters which permit us to live in a civilised society, part of a sustained global ecology.

**A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY** will be much less highly monetised than the current economy. Energy, emissions, shelter, water, food, health, education and justice will not be expressible in purely monetary terms and will not be commoditised.

**IN SUCH AN ECONOMY**, individuals' sense of well-being will depend less on monetary assets and income, and more on self-esteem, sociality and restfulness.

**GROSS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY** is currently a major obstacle to achieving a sustainable economy.

**THE 'COLLECTIVE NET WORTH' OF THE WORLD'S BILLIONAIRES** is \$2.4 Trillion, according to Forbes Magazine, March 2009.

**UNLIMITED ASSETS OR INCOME FOR INDIVIDUALS** should be socially unacceptable, in much the same way that having an unlimited number of spouses is socially unacceptable.

## PERSONAL ASSET AND INCOME LIMITS

**THE PERSONAL ASSET AND INCOME LIMITS** (PAIL) proposal is that there be limits for each person on the personal assets and income they may have.

**THE LIMITS** vary with time, from cradle to grave, and depend on the person's needs and responsibilities.

**NOT A TAX.** A fundamental feature of the scheme is that it is not a tax. Taking away a person's legitimately acquired assets at the rate 100% would be justifiably unpopular.

**EXCESS ASSETS AND INCOME ARE NOT LEGITIMATE.** The scheme delegitimises assets or income above the person's limit. This is achieved by each person having two AIL accounts ...

**A PERSONAL ACCOUNT AND A HOLDING ACCOUNT.** Income which would *at the time* take a person above their limit would be paid into the holding account.

**THE HOLDING ACCOUNT** would be held *in escrow*, that is, held by a trustworthy institution charged with the duty of deciding later if such income may be paid to the individual or if it goes to a collective account.

**AIL WILL NOT ENFORCE UNIFORMITY.** Talented, determined or lucky people might have much more glamour, or respect, or fame, or honour, or power, or resources to do important work, than other people.

**SUCH ENVIRONMENTALLY NEUTRAL BENEFITS** must not, however, be tradable for other benefits that have environmental or justice costs.

**MORE ABOUT PERSONAL ASSET AND INCOME LIMITS** can be found at [www.uea.ac.uk/~c013/ail/ail.html](http://www.uea.ac.uk/~c013/ail/ail.html)

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