Why are we getting together? We are saddled with an economic model that does not meet our short- or long-term interests, is a cause of global social disruption, and is likely to result in substantial environmental degradation. A traditional economic recovery that relies on consumptive growth as a solution to Michigan’s economic future seems misguided and most certainly unsustainable. Maybe it is time to reexamine our situation!

Michigan as a result of its unique Great Lakes heritage and historically strong manufacturing economy is in a position to lead the nation and the world in framing a new social and economic paradigm that is environmentally sustainable in scale, socially just and efficient in its use and distribution of resources, values a high quality of life and reaffirms our commitment to a democratic society. Such a paradigm shift must be led by an informed public that has a vision of the character and scope of a re-imagined economy.

Join the discussions on March 26th with panelists from across the state and nation on how we might re-imagine our economic paradigm and examine strategies that may help us achieve this fundamental transformation to a more balanced and sustainable economy.
Re-Imagining our Economic System:
A Balanced and Sustainable Economy
A Michigan Perspective
Tuesday, March 26th 2013, 9 a.m.

9:00-9:15 a.m. Welcome

9:15-10:30 a.m. Panel 1: What Is the Current Economy For?

- Basic principles, assumptions and characteristics of the current economy.
- Social, political and environmental consequences of the current economic model.
- Sustainability of the current economic paradigm.

Moderator - Rex LaMore, Director of MSU Center for Community and Economic Development
Panelists: Charlie Ballard, MSU Department of Economics; Jim MacInnes, President/Co-owner Crystal Mountain Resort

10:45-noon Panel 2: How has the current economic system succeeded and in what ways has it failed us?

- Gains realized from our current system, such as better technologies, status of global wealth and standards of living.
- Negative consequences of the consumer economy, such as income inequality, consumption trends and environmental degradation.
- The general dominance of one economic system over other models and the environmental, social and political consequences of the dominant system.
- Lessons learned and strategies for action toward change.

Moderator - Richard Norton, University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning
Panelists: Kurt Cobb, Post-Carbon Institute; Lana Pollack, International Joint Commission; Juliet Schor, Boston College Department of Sociology

LUNCH: “On your own” with colleagues from the event. A number of local restaurants are directly north of the MSU Union on Grand River Ave. in E. Lansing.

1:30-2:45 Panel 3: What Could a New Economy Look Like?

- Potential strengths and weakness of the new paradigm.
- Aspects of the new economy, cultural considerations, scalability, social justice and equality.
- Impacts on livelihood, businesses, the environment.

Moderator - Louise Jezierski, MSU James Madison College
Panelists: Ted Howard, Executive Director of The Democracy Collaborative at University of Maryland; Joshua Farley, University of Vermont Community Development & Applied Economics and Public Administration; Tom Princen, U of M School of Natural Resources and Environment

3:00-4:15 Panel 4: Where do we go from here to achieve greater balance between our economic, social, and environmental systems?

- Emerging and promising local and global models.
- Responsibility of wealthy nations to lead a transformation.
- Organizations and individuals who are, or can assist with a transformation toward the new economic model.
- Short and long terms strategies and measures to indicate progress.

Moderator - Robert Richardson, MSU Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies
Panelists: Christina Keller, Cascade Engineering; Wynne Wright, MSU Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies; Ray DeYoung, U of M School of Natural Resources and Environment

4:15- Closing