

phil henshaw

From: Phil Henshaw [otwo@synapse9.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2008 9:57 AM
To: 'Stanley Salthe'
Cc: 'amerikalistan@mg.skola.mark.se'
Subject: RE: "lasting solutions" a message in the collapse

The 25,000 was the roughest of guesstimates... I took earnings of \$50k a year for 40 years and compared the btu's for that at 6000btu/\$ which is the global average system cost of commerce, and divided by the btu's of a couple gallons of gas. Comparing the calorie count of a human body to the btu's of a couple gallons of gas is probably no more inaccurate than the other parts of it I think, so maybe the error total is +/- 25%, for average developed world incomes anyway?

Phil Henshaw

From: Stanley Salthe [mailto:ssalthe@binghamton.edu]
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2008 3:45 PM
To: otwo@synapse9.com
Cc: amerikalistan@mg.skola.mark.se
Subject: RE: "lasting solutions" a message in the collapse

Phil -- I agree with the general thrust of your statement here. How did you get to that 25,000 times figure?

STAN

Sure, different kinds of systems entrain different amounts of energy in maintaining the system. Life is one of the seemingly more expensive ones for an MEP universe to maintain, but I'm not sure how to distinguish between the throughput required to accumulate the level of organization represented, which is quite large, and the throughput produced in relation to the embodied energy of the system, which for humans is especially enormous. I'm guesstimating the average throughput of a human's life is on the order of 25,000 times the energy stored in their bodies I think, but the energy used to evolve our bodies would be more.

Phil Henshaw

From: Stanley Salthe [mailto:ssalthe@binghamton.edu]
Sent: Sunday, November 16, 2008 10:50 PM
To: otwo@synapse9.com
Cc: amerikalistan@mg.skola.mark.se
Subject: RE: "lasting solutions" a message in the collapse

Phil -- Because life itself is one kind of dissipative structure. Since it is more complicated, therefore more delicate it cannot maximize its entropy production to the same degree that a tornado can. Those living systems that did so have perished.

STAN

I don't know why you don't see life as an exception to that rule Stan. That rule applies only to things that stick with the first rule of development which is to multiply. That start-up growth opportunity for living things exist ONLY because their ancestors learned the 2nd rule too. Nature says (to things that like life and survival) - Hey! great job, · Now you've earned the pause that refreshes, and to explore the new world you made·

Phil Henshaw

From: Stanley Salthe [mailto:ssalthe@binghamton.edu]
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2008 10:10 PM
To: otwo@synapse9.com
Cc: amerikalistan@mg.skola.mark.se
Subject: Re: "lasting solutions" a message in the collapse

Phil -- I'm afraid Nature says -- Yes! Go, Go, Go. Run, burn, work -- build, burn, rebuild, ever faster and faster!

STAN

I was at a lecture on climate change at Columbia Univ. today. It covered the current views and projections, and some of the same old strategies for using growth to grow out of the impacts of the last set of growth plans·. I think I may have gotten the point across that that makes ALL the solutions we are relying on temporary fixes, designed to multiply until they run into something unexpected, just what the solutions of the past were that we are desperately trying to replace.

We need lasting solutions. We have just too many environments in accelerating decline to "leave it to the future" yet again. Let's see if I get a call. These guys have real hard heads!!

Then I had a thought on the bus back uptown, about what nature's message in the present partial collapse of our economies seems to be:

"Are you sure you want to go ahead with this??

· with continually increasing the pressures on all your many environments in accelerating decline?

Are you sure you want to restart that?

· with your non-renewable resources of every kind being ever more rapidly depleted?

Are you sure that's what you want?

I'll give you a brief moment to think·."

What do you think?



Phil Henshaw