



THRIVABLE INSIGHTS FROM THE THRIVABILITY MATTERS WEBINAR

Hi, passionate thrivability enthusiast. We live in unprecedented times. The numbers prove that climate change is here to stay, social injustices corrupt the very fabric of our society, misinformation and false narratives clog our devices through mainstream and social media. It's important to have reliable information from people who stand to gain nothing from sharing with you. A person's agenda defines their motivation. THRIVE's agenda is to assist others to build a thrivable future for themselves while our passionate volunteers walk our own talk to deliver an authenticity that is difficult to find elsewhere.

Every month, THRIVE delivers a power packed [webinar](#), straight to your screens, that gives you statistics, facts, tips, tricks, and hints on how to lead a more environmentally friendly life. These webinars focus on the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) otherwise known as the [SDGs](#).

Each month, a particular goal is highlighted for unpacking, disseminating, and investigating, to see how it applies to us and how we can play as a global team, on the playing field of Earth, to reach these goals. It isn't enough for us to sit passively by and let governments and businesses make our decisions for us. After all, their motivation is run by their agenda. Who can tell what that means for us?

Our aim is to arm you with what is necessary to move your life from being simply sustainable to terrifically thrivable. Therefore, I'd like to introduce you to Erin Remblance. She was an esteemed guest for the January 2024 Thrivability Matters Webinar who spoke to us on SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. Erin's focus was on the importance of [degrowth](#). The thrivable insights that follow are her precious pearls of wisdom that she was generous enough to share with us for the Q&A session that follows our every webinar.

ERIN REMBLANCE



Erin Remblance established her early career in blue-chip FMCG companies in Sydney and London, but always sensed there was more important work to be done. Having children gave her the space to explore the environmental and cultural crises on the planet that need to be urgently addressed. Erin shifted her focus to dedicate her life towards educating people on climate change, de-growth, planetary boundaries, modern monetary theory, and more. Erin is a freelance journalist for Illuminem and lives north of Sydney, Australia with her family, on the occupied ancestral country of the Gayemagal people.

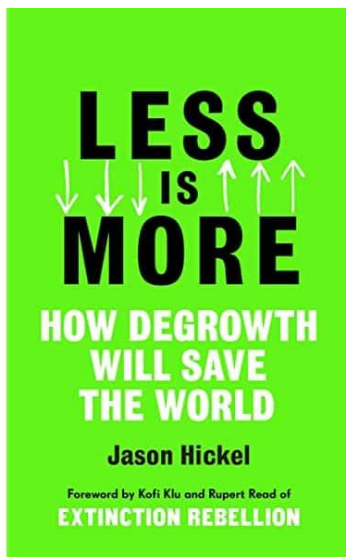
Q & A

What do you think are the biggest challenges and drawbacks to the areas you discussed today for Degrowth, and the B Corp movement? Are these mainly the traditional economic approaches? Or are there cultural and political challenges too? If so, can you name a few?

I feel like for the environmental movement there's a few issues:

1. Those in the "climate" space tend to think that all we need to do is switch technologies and fuel sources and the job is done, not recognising that most biodiversity loss that has occurred to date has happened not because of climate but because of how we are treating the Earth: the felling of rainforests, over-fishing, pesticide use, mining, urbanisation, roads, etc. There's a big sense that nothing really needs to change, capitalism can solve this. It's just not the case. We really must confront the hegemony of growth and with that comes the colonisation and imperialism that comes with it.

2. Outside of the climate movement there is still a general lack of awareness about just how bad things are. People are still buying too much stuff, taking too many flights, building houses that are too big, spending too much time working to earn money to allow the previous things I mentioned. The dominant culture and worldview are ingrained and needs to change fast. People still think that if it really was that bad that surely someone would be doing something about it or we'd hear more about it in the media. There's a lot of people we still need to reach.



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In the context of GDP being a poor metric of human well-being, as

highlighted by Robert F. Kennedy in 1968, how can we effectively transition to alternative measures that more accurately reflect societal and environmental health?

I really think we need to confront the hegemony of growth head on. There are many people (albeit a small % of the population overall) that do very well out of a growing economy and don't want things to change. Providing people with universal public services will also mean [decommodifying](#) survival (Jason Hickel).

These means returning private assets back to public ownership. People have been getting very wealthy by profiting from healthcare, education, "public" transport etc. and this change will not come easily. It really is a big challenge. I'm increasingly interested in [autonomous communities](#), the more well-known ones are the Zapatistas in Mexico and the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (Rojava).

If we are to change the system, rather than start from the ground up, it will be through a movement of people recognising that this growth-based system is putting us

on an ecological cliff. I'm working on [Project Tipping Point](#) now, all about how we reach social tipping points where the politically impossible becomes the politically inevitable.

Given the correlation between GDP growth and material footprint and the uneven distribution of GDP growth, what strategies can be employed to ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth and resources while simultaneously reducing our global ecological footprint?

The research into the most sustainable societies on Earth is conclusive that when people are provided with universal public services they tend not to get too caught up in needing to earn more to be able to cover their healthcare, education, and transportation expenses. And, if we ensure people's needs are met, there is less fear that they will go without as we reduce working weeks, wind down industries, and generally reduce our energy and material footprint. [Local Futures](#) talk about making private global conglomerates publicly owned, and I think this would be an

excellent step in reducing inequality.

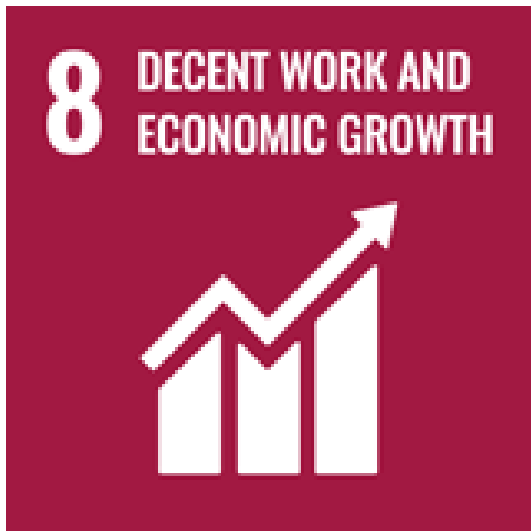


How would you explain the difference between degrowth and green growth?

Green Growth is the idea that we can keep growing our economies while simultaneously reducing our environmental footprint, that is reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and material footprint. There is [no evidence](#) this happening.

Degrowth acknowledges that green growth isn't possible and if we want to avoid the worst ecological outcomes we will need to change our economic system because we cannot continue to grow our economies any longer. Degrowth isn't focused on GDP (being a junk metric and all), but material footprint and energy. It isn't focused on people's ability to

find work, housing etc to be dependent on a growing economy, like it currently is.



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How do we decide which countries need degrowth and which ones need help with SDG8?

By looking at the planetary boundaries by country, or the ecological footprint by [country](#) (Earth Overshoot Day). The ones that are exceeding the planetary boundaries or using more than their fair share of resources each year will require degrowth.

With the understanding that no country is currently meeting human needs within planetary boundaries, what systemic

changes are necessary to balance economic growth and environmental sustainability, and how can the degrowth principles contribute to this?

It's not possible to balance economic growth and sustainability, and I think we need to ask ourselves why would we want to grow the economy anyway? GDP as a metric is only 70 years old, less than a single human lifetime and yet we seem not to be able to imagine any other way. The human needs in the doughnut economic model are:



- ✚ Life satisfaction
- ✚ Life Expectancy
- ✚ Nutrition
- ✚ Sanitation
- ✚ Income
- ✚ Access to Energy
- ✚ Education
- ✚ Social support
- ✚ Democratic quality
- ✚ Equality
- ✚ Employment

None of these are inherently resource intensive, we really need to focus our policies on meeting these as directly as possible, without considerations of profit and growth.

The talk suggests that degrowth involves a planned and democratic reduction in material and energy throughput in over-consuming nations while improving well-being and global justice. How can such a transition be effectively implemented at a policy level, and what are the potential challenges and opportunities in shifting towards this model?

At policy level it starts with meeting citizens needs though universal public services, reducing the working week, providing a job guarantee, and a minimum basic income. From there we can start to wind-down ecologically harmful industries and enact policies to reduce advertising, stop planned obsolescence, reduce inequality, return key industry into public ownership, and debt cancellation, amongst other things.

In the session, I mentioned a couple of articles etc that show how popular degrowth policies are with the public and climate scientists.

-  [Citizen's assemblies and degrowth policy recommendations.](#)
-  [Popularity of post-growth and post-capitalism policies.](#)



If you found value in this webinar, loving it as much as we did, please register for our next exciting webinar using this [link](#). We can't wait to see you there. Keep on thriving!

THANK YOU

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