



Reflections: Erik Rogers

I arrived in Carmel Valley with a healthy dose of cynicism towards this subject. Many well-intentioned organizations assume that there is some magical combination of technology, alternative fuels, and wishful thinking that will allow the exponential growth and “comforts” that we take for granted to continue unchecked while somehow subverting their consequences. I was prepared for several days of this kind of talk when I arrived at the Clim-ACT kickoff meeting.



In my mind, the sooner industrialism and the fossil-based energy (I remain skeptical that there is nearly as much that's economically recoverable as many suggest) that propels it runs its course, the sooner the planet can begin to recover. Indeed, the journey won't be pretty. This scenario requires that the dominance of human life is redistributed towards a more diverse matrix of flora and fauna. This is a difficult notion to reconcile, even knowing that we are not limited to our mere physical form, and that a more resilient people ultimately emerge that by necessity live more simply and in sync with the planet's tenets.

I was quickly energized by Clim-ACT's honest approach. Clim-ACT does not deny the bumpy road ahead (nor does it predict where it leads), and aims to find ways to unite people to survive and persevere. The optimism and ideas that flowed in Carmel Valley were in vivid contrast to the despair and hopelessness that typically surrounds this issue, without denying the unprecedented challenges ahead. By taking action now and working towards Cim-ACT's mission, the transition towards and uncertain future promises to be more manageable and even hopeful.



Climate change will affect us all, directly or indirectly. We're all in this together. The time is now. Let's do this!

Biography

Erik holds an MS degree in polymer science, and his resume includes a diverse list of careers: chemist, sales and marketing manager, website programmer, and driver with Green Tortoise Adventure Travel. He's also well traveled — his world map has pins in Mexico, Europe, Peru, Nepal, Thailand, and Cambodia — participating in local homestays and community-development projects whenever possible. Following the tsunami of December 2004, he joined North Andaman Tsunami Relief (Andaman Discoveries) in

Thailand as an English teacher, where he was also responsible for creating the organization's online presence. Erik currently resides in San Francisco, where he works in mobile app development and on freelance web projects. He's also dedicated yogi who recently completed a 200-hour teacher training.