Have you noticed all the unsustainable effects on communities—in just two months? The hurricanes, the earthquakes, the fires, the melting of the polar ice caps and the melting of the sub-polar permafrost geography, rising sea levels and flooding, the migration of growing seasons from south to north, and extreme deadly heat conditions in India! (Indian social-scientists are predicting that there will need to be 700 million window air-conditioners installed in India by 2030, and 1.6 billion by 2050 for the population of India to survive the new heatwaves.)

Think about the consequential interactive, unsustainable affects between people, energy, environment, and air emissions. And on the geo-political front, the number and location of terrorist attacks, the serious threat of a nuclear war, trade wars with China and other nations, and mass human migrations of thousands of people to escape religious and tribal persecutions! And, the potential for all of these to happen at the same time.

How can this country, or any other nation, afford the cost of recovery from such human-made disasters? (In the natural world these are not “natural disasters”—nature is behaving as it has for hundreds of thousands of years).

Think about the consequence of unsustainability, the social, environmental, and economical impacts. And on the geo-political front, the number and location of terrorist attacks, the serious threat of a nuclear war, trade wars with China and other nations, and mass human migrations of thousands of people to escape religious and tribal persecutions!

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How can this country, or any other nation, afford the cost of recovery from such human-made disasters? (In the natural world these are not “natural disasters”—nature is behaving as it has for hundreds of thousands of years).

Humans have likely caused acceleration of these natural events. Should all of us (through a federal government) pay for all the mistakes of poor—or no—planning for local development in unsustainable places?

We will only succeed with responsible expertise, new strategies, new tools, and a shared value of conservation over extraction, waste, and consumption.

In the July 2017 issue of Land Lines, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy stated that “strong local leadership, a shared community vision, inclusive growth, creative problem solving, cross-sector collaboration, and placemaking are all important ingredients for success in (revitalizing) America’s smaller legacy cities.”

However, all of these process objectives will only succeed with knowledge, responsible expertise, new strategies, new tools, and a shared value of conservation over extraction, waste, and consumption. “We all who have connections to the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities and our networks of colleagues should have the desire, the commitment, and the courage to be the ministers of this message for future, sustainable, prosperous, integrated, democratic, and safe small and mid-size communities.

Please spread the word!

Recent related links:

- Melting Permafrost could bring new Viruses
- Permafrost Craters in Siberia
- Hardest hit areas in Florida from Hurricane Irma
- 12 Worst Places to Live in the U.S.

Houston (and previously New Orleans) is the city now in question, where planning and zoning regulations have been eschewed for more than 70 years—with local pride in their “no planning” distinction.

In the path of these natural events what has happened to the small and mid-size communities? Almost all of the national media attention has focused primarily on the urban and metropolitan places, but St. Thomas, Virgin islands, could be the poster child for the small and mid-size communities.

We All Must Summon Courage, Commitment to Sustainability