

The Transition Timeline

Timeline

This is the story of how the **Lancaster district** developed a vision for a brighter future and a plan to get there

This document charts the timeline of events in which the community of Lancaster and district are shaping a timeline for their future – a brighter, more resilient and sustainable future.

Please click an event to explore the future...

2010

May	First ever transition timeline workshop with Shaun Chamberlin (Friend's Meeting House, Lancaster)	Report
June	Transition City Lancaster (TCL) networking meeting, exploring backcasting from a vision for a local food economy	Report to follow

1 May 2010: Transition Timelines Workshop with Shaun Chamberlin

On 1st May Shaun Chamberlin, author of [‘The Transition Timeline’](#) led an inspiring full day workshop on visioning and planning a resilient future for Lancaster. The day was a mixture of slide presentations, open space discussions and conversation café’s.

The group worked through ideas about the kind of things we would have in place in 2030 if Lancaster had developed resilient responses to the challenges of climate change and peak oil. Examining issues from transport, food, energy, health, education, population and the local economy, they then used backcasting to explore the processes needed to lead to resilience. We have reams of flip chart and a wall of lining paper full of ideas to develop! Follow the links opposite to explore the ideas that emerged.



Participants shared the following **ideas**:

[Visions of local life becoming more resilient](#)

[Visions of a positive future](#)

[Visions of a negative future](#)

Timelines by theme:

[Work and Economy](#)

[Food](#)

[Energy](#)

[Travel and Transport](#)

[Education](#)

How local life becomes more resilient (1)

[Next>](#)

1990s	2000s	2010	2011-12	2013-14	2015	2016	2017
Gregson centre set up	Sustainability Partnership formed	First fruity Corner started	M6 Link road finally cancelled as a pointless endeavour (2011)	'Off the Ground' has taught 500 people food growing skills (2013)	Food growing now part of the national curriculum	Goat carts	Education includes practical skills around living sustainability and developing resilience
Inner relief road idea abandoned	LCC appoints a sustainability officer	First new allotment for ten years	'Transition Streets' launched (2011)	Small schools with transition curriculum set up (2013)	NHS puts 20% of it's \budget into promoting positive health – cost effective in preventing illness	Fuel poverty less than 1% due to tax system and insulation programme	
Morecambe sea defences started	LESS established	Herbs grown in useful quantities	Local currency launched (2011)	All schools with suitable space have fruit trees and veg gardens (2013)	community farm launched	All roads reduced to single track, with passing places of course, to allow space for bikes, horses and trees in the other lane	20mph throughout Lancaster
'Growing with Nature' organic box scheme (1992)	New waste water treatment works which generates it's own power (poo powered plant)	Morecambe eco housing	All parks now have fruit trees (2012)	Community conversations on all important issues in clubs, schools, neighbourhoods – everyone joining in (2013)	First SCA farm employs 20 young folk		Young people feeling valued within the community
	Cycling demonstration town	In villages – knitting groups formed, also groups to refurbish old tools and teach each other their uses	Lancaster City Council goes green – restructuring of local priorities (2012)	Community Skerton hydro comes on stream (2014)	All new work buildings must be carbon zero	Education helping to remove the sense of ourselves being separate from 'nature'	City free of illegal drugs trade
	Transition City Lancaster formed (2008)	Transition Times newspaper created		A food label/logo which helps people identify where their food has come from (2014)	Top wage level brought in – five times the lowest wage		
	Centros development defeated by public enquiry (2009)	Low carbon housing projects start		People throw away or take apart the things with no future use and refurbish the ones that fit the future. They combine with others to do this. (2014)	Sustainability a central part of school's curriculum – theoretical and practical	Support from within the community for children and young people and parents	
	Fairfield allotment extended (2009)						
	Central Lancaster High School gets wind turbine and ground source heat pump (2009)						
	Halton Co Housing						

How local life becomes more resilient (2)

2018	2019	2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2040
<p>Home Zones take off where pedestrians take priority over motor traffic</p> <p>Community nurse in every neighbourhood</p> <p>First local power grid – wind turbine and solar</p>	<p>Ecology brought into primary schools</p> <p>Bicycles everywhere – ingenious vehicles powered by bicycles</p> <p>New jobs in renewables/ food production/ food preparation/ recycling/repairing equipment</p> <p>New mining – digging up landfill sites to retrieve the reusable things previously disposed of</p> <p>Houses built to zero carbon principles and existing stock converted to sustainable methods of heating and energy</p>	<p>Farmers’ cooperative takes over M+S</p> <p>Everyone earns little, everyone has enough. People are happy.</p> <p>1 million new trees are planted in the Lune.</p> <p>Water wells opened in Lancaster and new ones built.</p> <p>New mining - Digging up landfill sites to retrieve the reusable things previously disposed of.</p> <p>Our sense of self is no longer based on self gratification but on community</p> <p>Alternatives to tarmac for roads being developed and put in place to accommodate sustainable methods of transport and allow people to use and enjoy and nature to flourish.</p> <p>River and canal used for moving people and goods</p> <p>Communities are rebuilding with renewed pride and care in looking after the local environment.</p> <p>Organically produced food is mainstream – we don’t have to ask for it anymore.</p> <p>Car traffic 50% of 2010 levels.</p> <p>All spare green spaces utilised for the benefit of people and wildlife with trees, veg, flowers growing as well along streets.</p>	<p>Sense of community has been nurtured – strong mutual support and sharing in place.</p> <p>Cycle rickshaw taxis, lots of bicycles, horse drawn carriages for local deliveries.</p> <p>All private landholdings over 1 acre given to the community.</p> <p>For transition model adapt and incorporate planners and civil service and schools such that future thinking becomes the norm for greater synergy between these groups.</p> <p>Market gardens N+S along the canals and boats with horses bringing food to town</p> <p>30 people working as woodsman/women within 30 miles of city centre.</p> <p>Pride in skills.</p>	<p>Lancaster gains low energy city status</p> <p>Yippee! Healthy population: reduced mental illness, reduced rates of cancer, heart disease, diabetes, elimination of obesity</p> <p>50 Homezones in Lancaster</p> <p>90% of people work within 5 miles of their home.</p> <p>Using technology positively – global view, not just local benefits (sharing)</p> <p>New language: renaming, revaluing, enough for all, cross-generational, rootedness and love.</p> <p>Healthy younger people, older people will suffer though as less medical care will be available.</p> <p>People feeling more connected to each other – able to strike up conversations – less “stranger danger”.</p> <p>All the streets as bike/horse space (with some special lanes for emergency vehicles).</p>	<p>Motorway becomes cycle and horse only.</p>

Visions of a Positive Future

More sense of community
 Community based living
 Families rejoin band together
 Children play in the street
 Learn from previous model communities e.g. Owen, Saltaire, garden cities
 Co-operation, not competition runs through everything
 Community spirit: everyone having an input into taking society forward (ownership and a sense of control)
 Fences around gardens are down and we share the space
 The world is not driven by economic competition – cooperative attitudes in neighbourhood
 Equality in resources is normal for people

Masses of allotments
 Nut trees
 Canal used to transport food into the city
 Edible trees down every street
 All gardens growing stuff, no paving or gravel
 Growing spaces, everyone chipping in
 Food growing north and south of Lancaster brought to town by horse and barge
 Abundant production of local food
 More trees esp nuts and fruit
 All food is organically produced

Local power grid
 Wind turbines and solar
 Reforestation of the Lune Valley
 Water and Energy efficiency sorted
 Rainwater saved and purified for drinking

We might see the stars and mountains across the bay
 Life is quieter, no more vehicle hum
 Peace and quiet

Herbs and understanding their use as a viable respected resource
 Changed diet and more involvement in production brings increased health and well-being

Zero carbon housing – straw bale construction
 More co-housing communities
 Older buildings adapted to community use

Small local schools
 Practical and team skills taught in schools
 Basic practical science and technology taught
 Practical education with a global view, learning from other societies

Lots of small, local shops
 People work shorter/fewer hours and are more relaxed
 Daily market in the street
 Old tools refurbished and craftsmen share their skills
 Co-operative attitudes in workplace
 Work revolves around arts, beauty and care
 Local currency
 Market gardens surround city
 Work revolves round arts, community and care

People not cars fill the streets
 Horse drawn public transport
 Goat carts for moving loads
 Rebirth of ports and use of navigable waterways and coastline
 Cycling
 Free public transport
 Reduced resource intensive transport but connections maintained with other communities

community

food

energy & resources
 quality of life

health

travel & transport

wealth & livelihoods

housing

education

Visions of a Negative Future (under business as usual)

Loneliness

Selfish individual society, loss of community

Unfriendly

Threatening dispossessed v vulnerable dispossessed

Resentment of those who failed to plan

Fear for the elderly, infirm and vulnerable

Stressful mental health issues

Death rate

Greyer dirtier

Global insecurity, wars

Mobile phone and email don't always work

Gated communities/ defensive fortresses

Starvation

Little food

No bees so efforts to grow food prove vain

Collapse of ecosystems and climate change impacts food production

Limited water

food

Cold

Energy limited, especially fuel

Limited and fragmented services

Tents, cold in undeveloped spaces

A lot of rain

Rising sea levels

Greyer dirtier

No joy

Grey flat dreariness

Despair

Alienation

Guilt

Emotional poverty no joy

Grey flat dreariness

Rise of escapist activities eg religion, drugs

energy & resources
quality of life

health

travel & transport

wealth & livelihoods

housing

education

Getting harder every year

Gangs of the dispossessed, young workless

Closed shops, empty buildings

More expensive

Less choice more survival

Great inequality

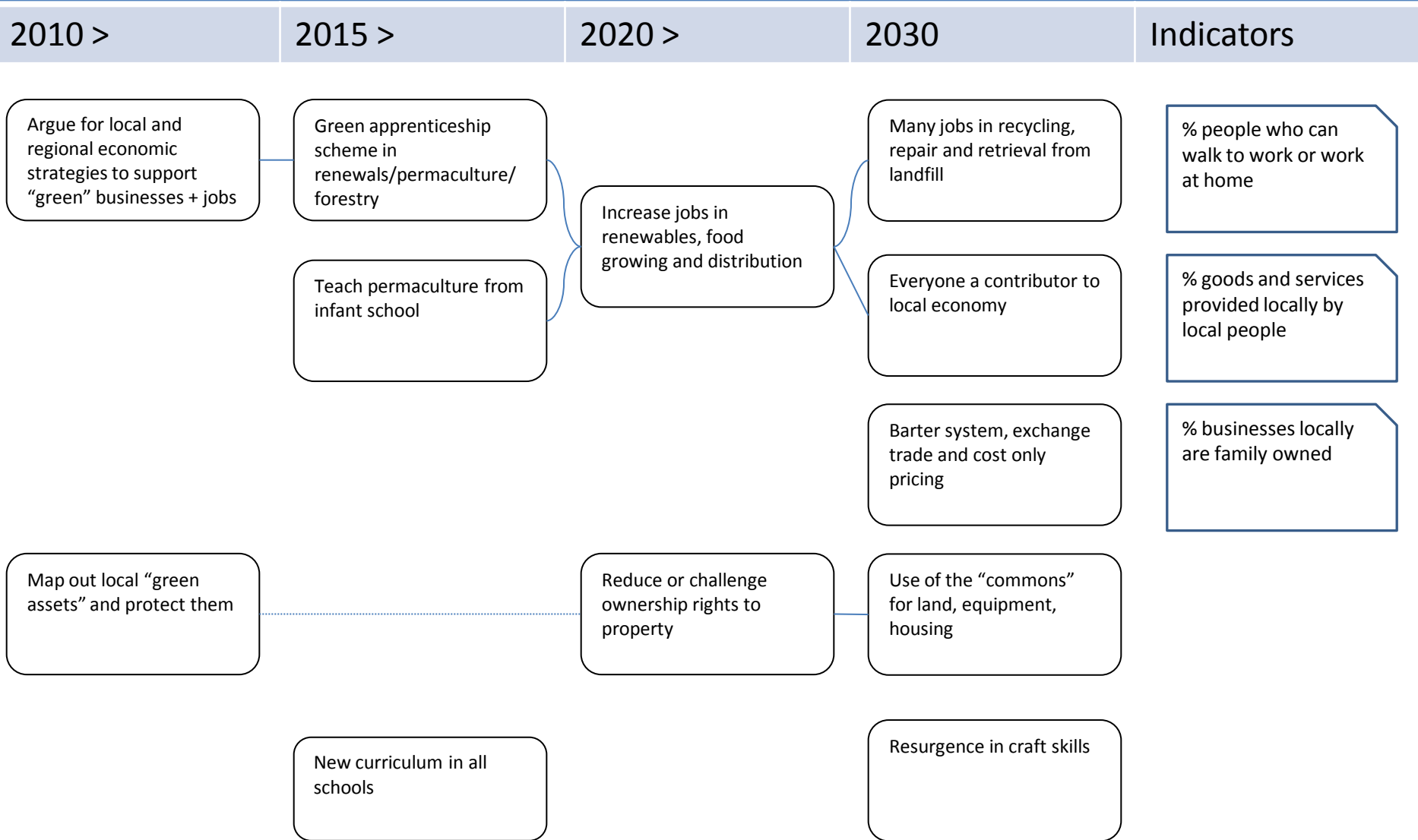
No health care unless you have money

Mobile phone and email don't always work

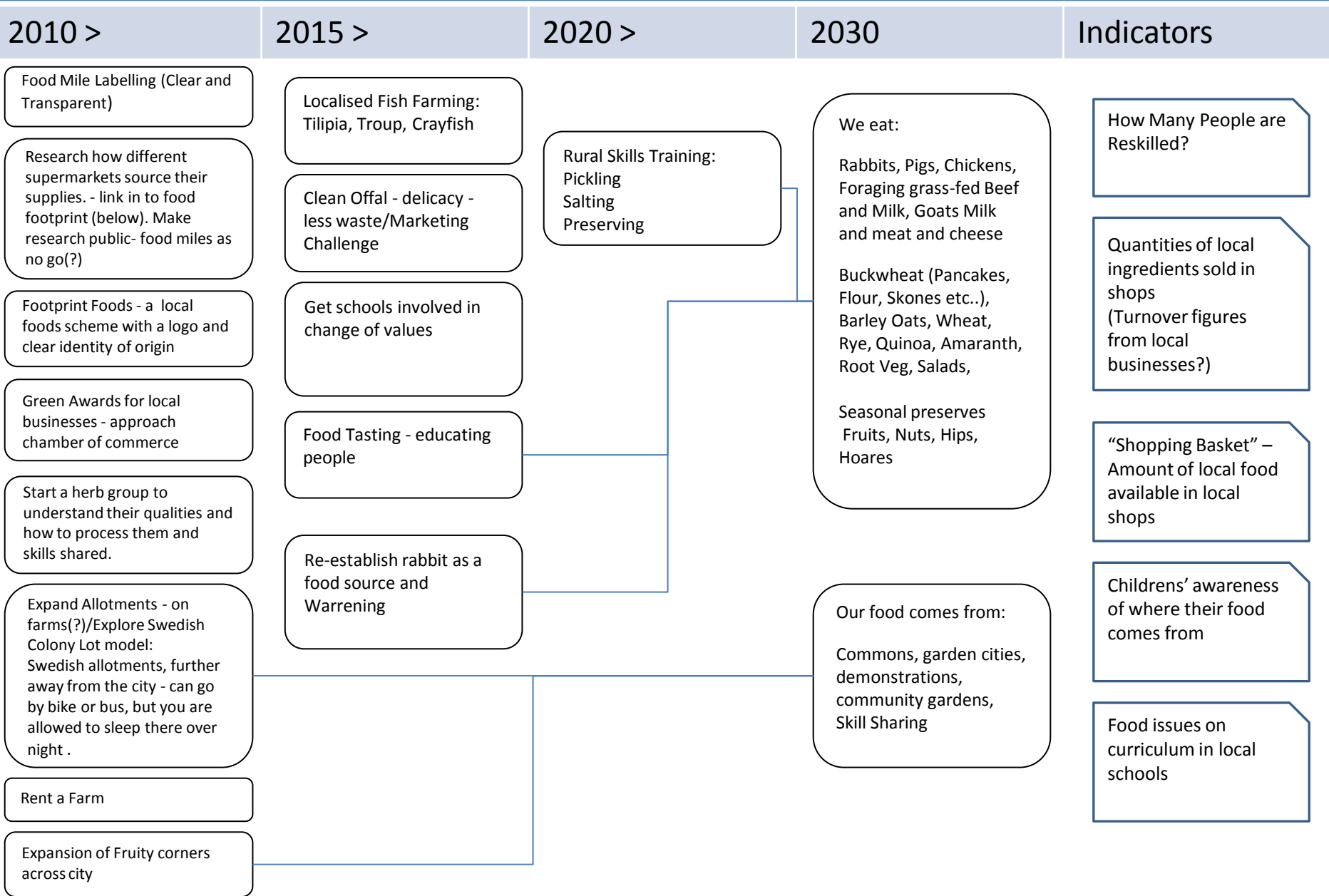
Harder to travel

Theme Timeline: Work and Economy

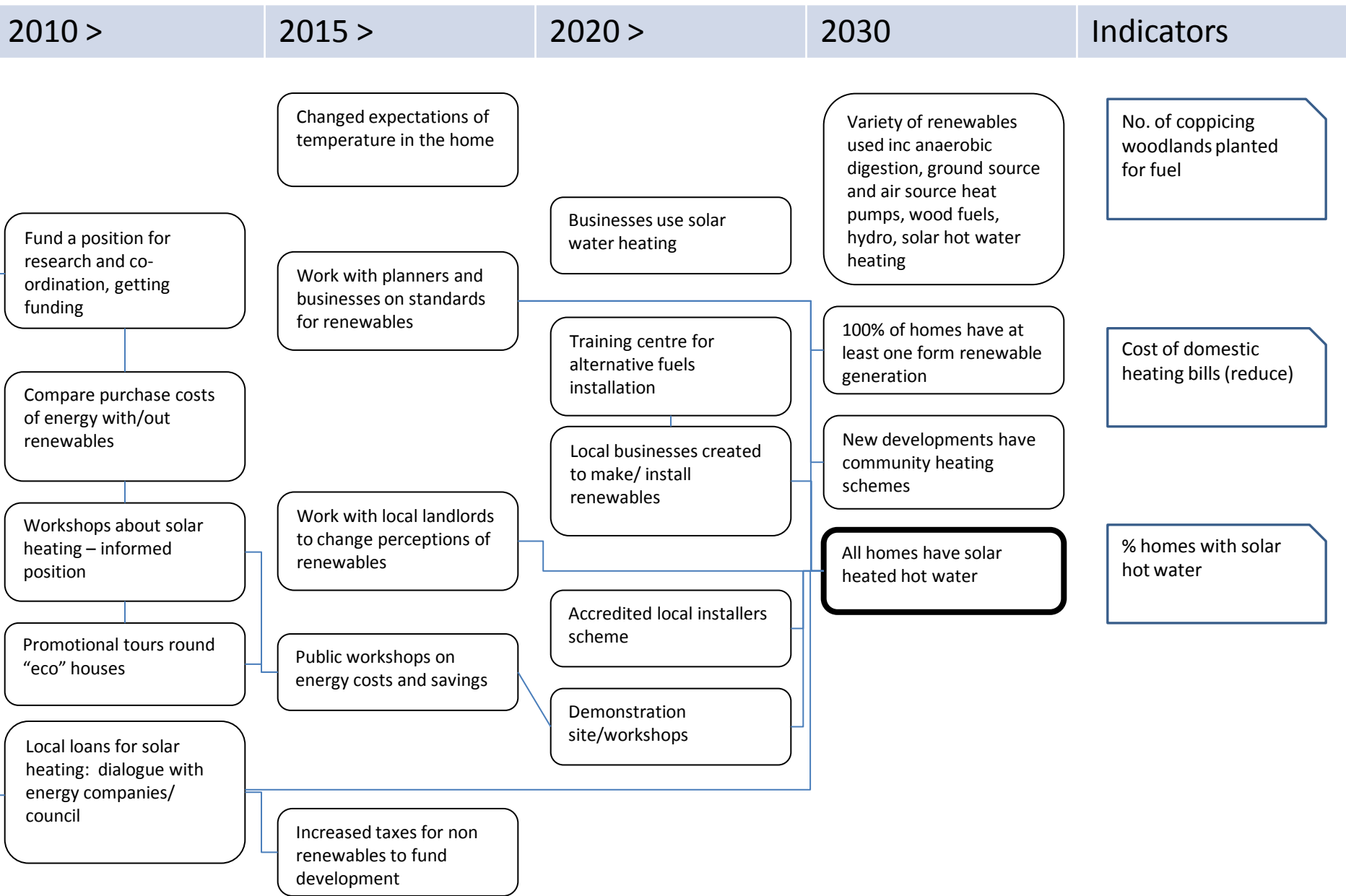
What does Lancaster's work and economy look like?



Theme Timeline: Food What do we eat? Where does our food come from?

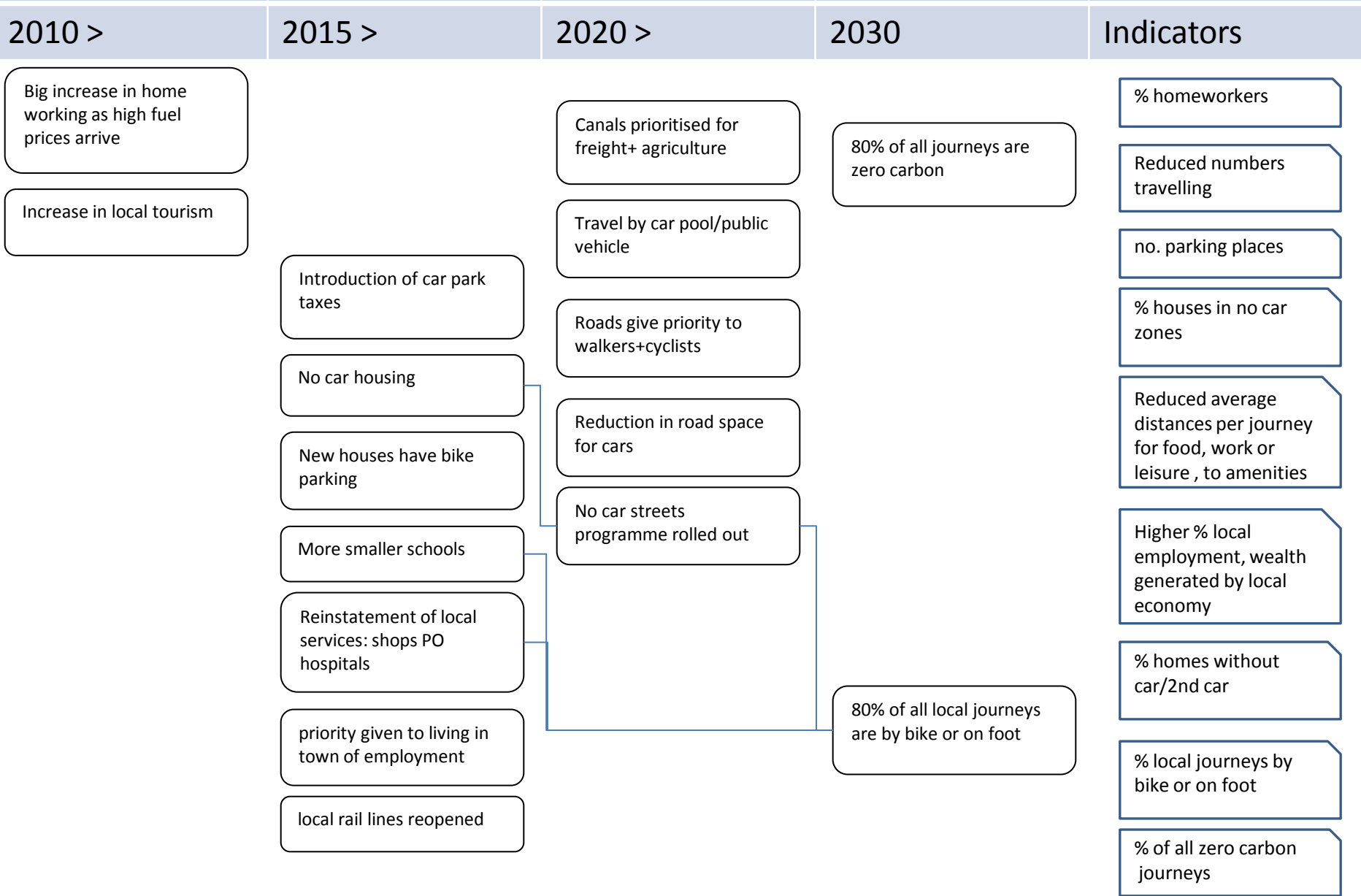


Theme Timeline: Energy Where does our heat power come from?



Theme Timeline: Travel & Transport

How do we travel? To work – to play – holidays?



Theme Timeline: Education What does Lancaster's education look like?

2010 >	2015 >	2020 >	2030	Indicators
<p>Flagship school adopts transition</p>	<p>Transition faith groups in schools + communities</p>	<p>Community supported all age education around local hubs closer to home but using distance learning</p>	<p>Education focused on whole person in a resilient community</p>	<p>Young people happy on Gross National Happiness indicators</p>
<p>Many transition members serve as governors</p>	<p>Elders offer skills in schools</p>	<p>Schools local and inclusive of all ages needs and abilities</p>	<p>Key skills communication confidence, team working</p>	<p>100% attendance and completion of school</p>
<p>Encourage and support schools going for eco and green flag accreditation</p>	<p>Summer schools in permaculture</p>	<p>Curriculum changed to include basic skills in growing, food prep and storage, permaculture</p>	<p>Practical skills: growing, food prep, building, maintenance, design and make, animal care, permaculture</p>	
<p>Opportunities for arts and to tell transition stories</p>	<p>more work experience offered in farming, food prep, clothing, community arts</p>		<p>Spiritual links with natural world</p>	
			<p>Preparation for local economy, independence and thinking skills</p>	