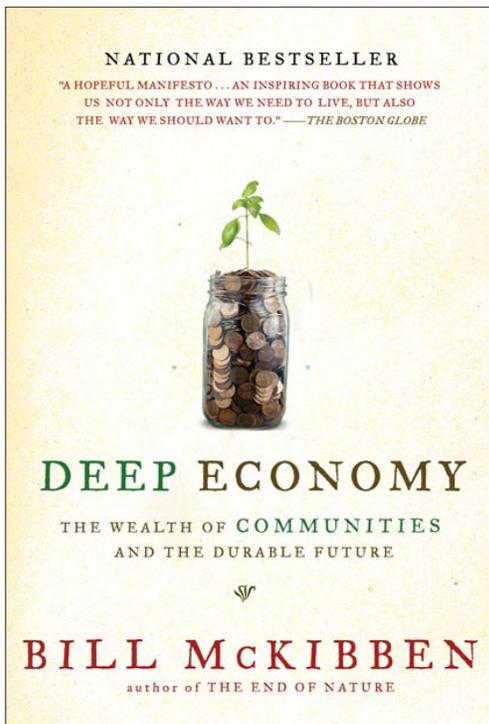




## What is OneBook?

Each year our program selects a book and a theme for incoming first-year students like you to explore in your English 1301 classes. Having this one book in common means that you will be able to share ideas with other students and learn together, regardless of your intended major, residential situation or personal interests. Throughout the year, the OneBook program sponsors events and activities designed to help you understand and discuss the book and its related theme. Now that you are a part of our University community, seize the opportunity and become an independent, creative thinker who connects with others on campus!

# DEEP ECONOMY



The OneBook for 2009-2010 is *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and Our Durable Future* (2007) by one of the greatest environmental writers and activists in the U.S., Bill McKibben. In *Deep Economy*, you will read about how our globalized economy has become addicted to the ideas of limitless economic growth and endless consumption of goods. As McKibben defines it, a deep economy “cares less about quantity than quality [and] takes as its goal the production of human satisfaction as much as surplus material.”

*Deep Economy* asserts that what we eat, what we drive, where we live and what we feel are all related to how we use or misuse the earth’s resources. This provocative book will make you think about how you live your life every day and will challenge you to dream of a better future.

## Sustainability

The OneBook theme for 2009-2010 is the central theme of *Deep Economy*: Sustainability. Sustainability is the concept of using resources (such as fossil fuels or water) without depleting or wasting them. Sustainability is about maintaining life and society through technologies, policies and personal choices that help us use our planet’s limited resources more effectively.

The concept of Sustainability encompasses several overlapping domains that we will explore in this study guide, our multi-media resources and many presentations and activities on campus. We have prepared several icons to designate these domains, and to publicize on-campus events that you will find helpful as you study the topic of Sustainability.

## Commerce



Our economic system drives the production, transport and sale of goods, whether they be laptops, shoes or packaged candy. These goods, as delivered to us as consumers by our globalized economy, are directly related to energy and the environment. To lead a more sustainable life, economies will have to adapt to new paradigms and we will have to change how we purchase and consume goods.

## Community



It may not be obvious at first sight, but unsustainable living affects how we interact with one another. For example, our dependence on oil has resulted in vast metropolitan areas with few places for individuals to gather and meet each other, and in solitary car commutes. A more sustainable lifestyle holds the promise of building and maintaining closer-knit communities.

## Energy



How will we acquire and maintain the energy needed to fuel the production and movement of goods, and to power our homes and communities? Wise, efficient energy usage is key to sustainability, as is the search and development of alternate sources of energy such as biofuels, wind and solar power.

## Environment



Everything we do as residents on this planet impacts the environment. The environment includes natural resources like water, oil, forests, plants and animals. The choices we make today will affect our environment and its ability to sustain our survival on planet Earth.

## About This Guide

This guide was written by Dr. Chris Conway of the Department of Modern Languages and Evelyn Barker of UT Arlington Library.



Human labor is the earliest source of mechanical energy.



Fire helped to produce bricks and smelt metals.



Cattle were the first animals used as sources of power in agriculture.



Water wheels helped grind grain, saw wood, and crush ore.



Energy

## A Brief History of Energy

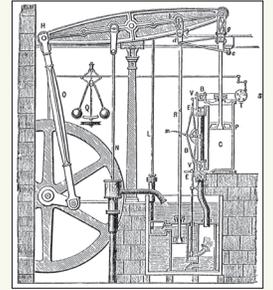
The availability of energy is crucial to sustaining and improving modern civilization, but Vaclav Smil, a University of Manitoba geography professor and energy expert, echoes McKibben's argument that more consumption does not necessarily equal a better life. "It would be very unconvincing to argue that North American consumption levels, twice as high as in Western Europe, make Americans and Canadians twice as content, happy, or secure."<sup>1</sup>



A typical windmill could produce the same energy as 10 good horses.



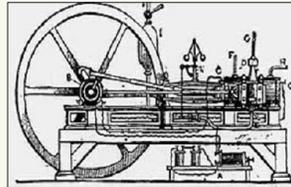
In the mid-1700s, Benjamin Franklin began studying electricity.



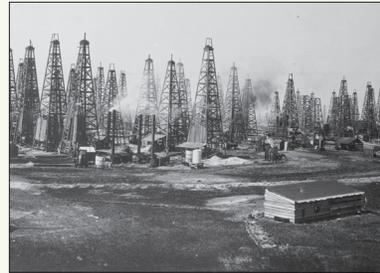
James Watt's improvement on the steam engine in the late 1700s speeded up the Industrial Revolution.



Though in use for centuries, coal became the dominant fuel in the late 19th century.



Jean-Joseph Etienne Lenoir developed the first reliable internal combustion engine in 1859.



The Spindletop oilfield, discovered Jan. 10, 1901, in Beaumont, Texas, ushered in the reality of cheap oil for transportation.<sup>2</sup>



The first commercial nuclear power plant began operations in 1957.

### Sources

1. Smil, Vaclav. "Historical Perspectives and Social Consequences." *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Energy*. Ed. John Zumerchik. Vol. 2. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2001. 621-630. Gale Virtual Reference Library. Gale. UNIV OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON. 16 July 2009.
2. Photo of Spindletop courtesy of Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, AR406, Series 6, Special Collections Division, The University of Texas at Arlington Library.



Community

## Volunteering for Community

In chapter three of *Deep Economy*, McKibben writes that our sense of community has diminished as we isolate ourselves from family, neighbors, and people who are different from ourselves. This hyperindividualism, in turn, drives unsustainable living practices.

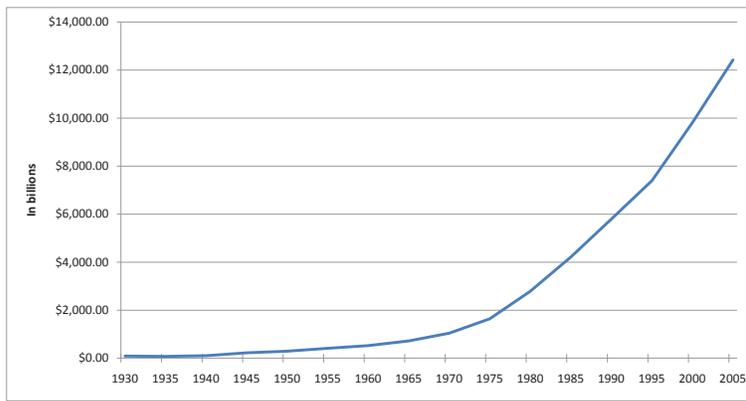
One way to regain a sense of community is to volunteer with a group or for a cause that means something to you. Whether it's finding a cure for breast cancer, promoting animal welfare, or building homes for the homeless, there are unlimited local opportunities to promote and build communities.

### How Can You Help?

UTA Volunteers is a student group that promotes active citizenship and strong communities by helping students become involved in community service and providing tools and resources to the UTA community. Projects include blood drives, Locks of Love, and alternative spring breaks. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/stuact/volunteers/>.

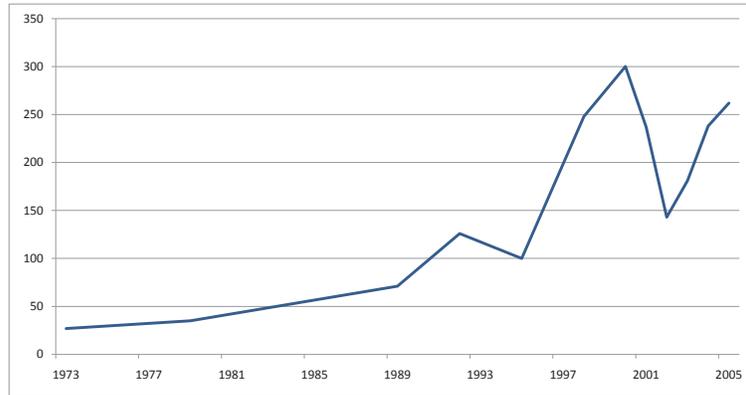


Students at Mission Arlington during UTA's Big Event.



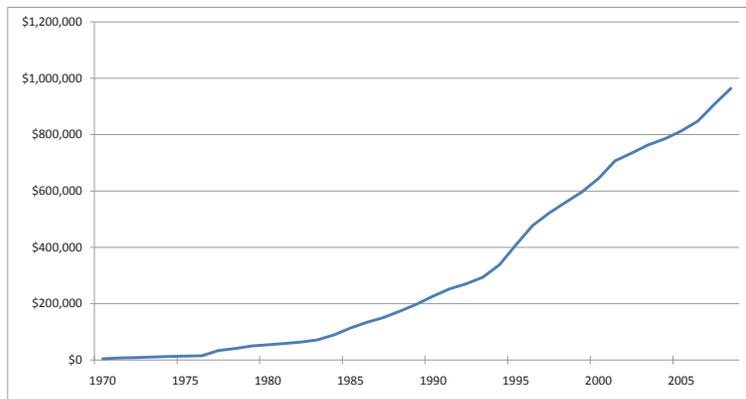
**U. S. Gross Domestic Product**

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Dept. of Commerce



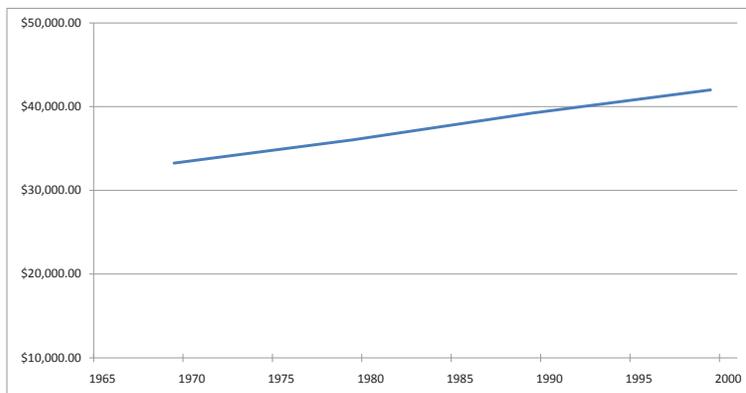
**Ratio of CEO pay to average worker pay**

Source: Mishel, Lawrence, Jared Bernstein, and Sylvia Allegretto, The State of Working America 2006/2007. Economic Policy Institute.



**Average annual outstanding revolving consumer credit in millions of dollars**

Source: U.S. Federal Reserve



**Median U.S. household income in 1999 dollars**

Source: United States Census Bureau



## For Richer and Poorer

### Commerce

Between 1975 and 2005, the U.S. gross domestic product—the output of goods and services produced by labor and property located in the United States—expanded 658%. During the same time, executive pay multiplied, reaching an all-team high in 2000 when the average U.S. CEO made 300 times more than the average U.S. worker. Meanwhile, for the average citizen, median household income rose just 26% between 1969 and 1999, although credit card debt ballooned 5761%.

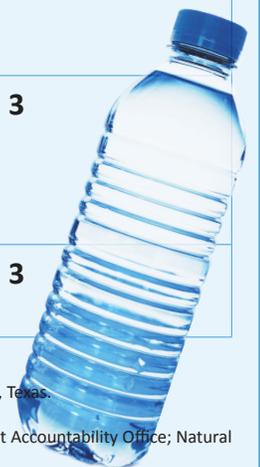


## Bottled Water: Environmental Burden

### Environment

The U.S. has some of the cleanest drinking water in the world, yet the consumption of bottled water has doubled over the last decade. Why? Some people think bottled water is “more pure” than tap water, but a quarter of all bottled water is simply reprocessed tap water from municipal sources. Furthermore, a study by the Natural Resources Defense Council found that 22% of bottled waters tested had at least one sample with “harmful chemical contaminants” that violated state limits.

<b>Average cost for a gallon of bottled water<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$5.92</b>
<b>Average price of a gallon of gasoline</b>	<b>\$2.38</b>
<b>Residential cost of a gallon of water</b>	<b>&lt;\$0.01</b>
<b>Amount of PET<sup>2</sup> water bottles produced in 2006</b>	<b>827,000 to 1.3 million tons</b>
<b>Barrels of oil required to produce bottles for American consumption</b>	<b>&gt;17 million, not including transportation</b>
<b>Amount of water bottles recycled in 2006</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
<b>Estimated percentage of bottled water that is really just tap water</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Number of universities in the U.S. and Canada that have banned or restricted sales of bottled water</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Liters of water required to make 1 liter of bottled water</b>	<b>3</b>



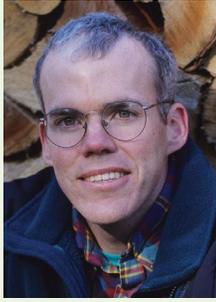
<sup>1</sup> Water and gas averages calculated for the City of Arlington, Texas.

<sup>2</sup> Polyethylene terephthalate

Sources: KRLD.com; City of Arlington, Texas; U.S. Government Accountability Office; Natural Resources Defense Council; Pacific Institute.

# OneBook Author Bill McKibben at UTA on March 10, 2010

The UT Arlington OneBook program is delighted to be hosting a visit to campus by Bill McKibben, the author of this year's OneBook, *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and Our Durable Future* (2007). McKibben is possibly the most prolific, important and influential environmental writer of our time. His first book, *The End of Nature* (1989), was



a pioneering work of journalism on climate change that was hailed by reviewers as a compelling, must-read about the future of our planet. Subsequent books, such as *Hope, Human and Wild: True Stories of Living Lightly on the Earth* (1995), *Maybe One: A Case for Smaller Families* (1998) and *Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age* (2003) explore sustainability, population growth and the perils of technology and genetic engineering. McKibben's great stature and contribution to American environmental writing is evidenced by the recent publica-

tion of a retrospective collection of his essays titled *The Bill McKibben Reader* (2008). Bill McKibben is more than just writer, though; he has been a tireless environmental activist. He has led two of the largest protests against global warming in U.S. history, one in 2006 and the other in 2007. McKibben also founded Stepitup07.org, a website designed to help pressure the U.S. government toward more sustainable policies on carbon emissions. After reading and discussing *Deep Economy*, join us to meet its accomplished and fascinating author!

## Resources

These online resources will help you explore the issues discussed in *Deep Economy*.

### OneBook Home Page

<http://www.uta.edu/onebook>

Your first stop to all of the web resources listed on this page. Everything you need for a deeply rewarding experience with *Deep Economy* is just a click away!

### Library Resources

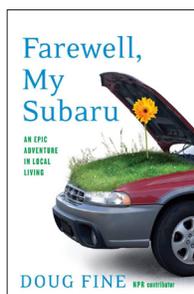
<http://libguides.uta.edu/deepEconomy>

A wealth of information relating to themes discussed in *Deep Economy*: peak oil, climate change, alternative energy, environmental engineering, and more. Find information for your ENGL 1301 paper including how to cite sources, how to find sources mentioned in the book, and where to get more help.

## Doug Fine Visits UTA on October 22, 2009

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to really live in a sustainable way? To just pick up and leave the city or suburban life and try to live off the land, without using fossil fuels? In that case you should not miss the fun, irreverent and unforgettable stories of Doug Fine, the author of *Farewell, My Subaru: An Epic Adventure in Local Living* (2008). During his visit to UTA, Fine will tell us about his experiences living locally off the land in rural New Mexico. We'll hear about how he scoured Chinese restaurants for used vegetable oil to power his pickup truck, as well as his

adventures in raising goats (for ice-cream) and installing solar panels on his roof to power his laptop and appliances. Don't miss this fun event by a writer who the *Miami Herald* described as "an eco-hero of our time"!



### UTA Sustainability

<http://www.uta.edu/sustainability/>

The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to sustainability and stewardship of the environment. Find out what's going on around campus and how you can make a difference for the environment.

### President's Sustainability Committee

<http://blog.uta.edu/sustainability/>

An electronic meeting place for members of the UTA community to converse, strategize, and share resources.

### Diving in to Deep Economy

<http://www.youtube.com/user/OneBookUTA>

A series of video tutorials on *Deep Economy* by UT Arlington faculty and staff. These videos will make the experience of reading this book even more rewarding by exploring its key themes.



### Facebook

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

The "*Deep Economy* by Bill McKibben" Facebook page contains video favorites and other resources that will help stimulate discussion and understanding of the book. To find the page, type "Deep Economy by Bill McKibben" in the Facebook search field. Join our group, take advantage of our resources, make friends and work together to build community!

### Bill McKibben

<http://www.billmckibben.com/>

Find out more about McKibben and his works.

### Doug Fine

<http://www.dougfine.com/>

Fine's site and blog explores the question: Can a regular American kick his addiction to oil and live more locally while still dancing to thumping subwoofers and not looking like a refugee from a Rainbow Gathering?

