...sustainable, collaborative, and socially just communities...
2010 has seen major changes for Post Oil Solutions. Becoming a 501c3 has led to growth and new challenges, especially around our finances, reporting and decision making. Our successful projects have grown beyond our organization’s capacity, and so, we recognized our need to slow down and build better systems for organizational sustainability. Several themes kept us focused during the year:

Visioning: We spent much time reflectively looking at where we want to be in 5 years. We crafted this Vision Statement: **People working together creatively on the opportunities in challenges for taking care of this and future generations.** We will be expanding our vision with specific goals and values in the year ahead.

Racism and Class: As a largely white, middle-class organization, we want to build true community that crosses the socially constructed barriers of race and class. To do this, we have brought in outside resources to help move beyond our comfort zones. An Anti-Racist Organizational Assessment in 2009 led us to a facilitated Class Assessment in 2010. We focused on our own personal histories, and looked at how our backgrounds affect us. We discussed shifting individual and organizational classist behaviors. We need to be very intentional to put some of the ideal practices in action. As a small step, we begin our monthly meetings with a question and discussion related to racism and class.

Strategic Planning: We are committed to the following actions:

1) **Hire our first paid Executive Director:** We have grown significantly with 3 years of 3 VISTA volunteers. Beginning in July 2011, when our VISTA contract ends, we aim to fund an Executive Director to manage the capacity development and sustainability of our work. We are working on a definitive job description and raising the funds.

2) **Build administrative and organizational capacity:** We continue to work on strengthening our organization and Board by clearly defining roles and responsibilities of the members, staff and the Executive Director.

3) **Solidify and focus on main project areas:** We took a long look at what we do and what we want to continue doing. The 3 main areas are: 1) Post Oil Education and Resources, 2) Building a Community-Based Food System, and 3) Supporting Grassroots Initiatives. (See the following pages for more details.)

4) **Tell our story better:** We are updating our website to increase our accessibility and relevance. We are expanding our outreach through quarterly newsletters and the use of the local media.

As you can see, we are working to be a more sustainable organization. We need to increase our ability to engage our communities. We continue to be open to your questions, concerns, ideas, suggestions, or comments. Keep in mind, we are currently looking for more Board members and volunteers to join with us in this very important work!

Sincerely,
Richard Berkfield, President of the Board (2010)
Celebrating our 5th anniversary, Post Oil Solutions continues to grow and change. This has been reflected both as an organization and the number of projects we’re involved with. We are proud to announce that we received the 2010 Vermont Sustainable Agriculture award! Many thanks to our community! Without you, none of this would be possible. A few of the highlights as written by Vern Grubinger of UVM Extension in his nomination letter:

- Sales at the Brattleboro Winter Farmers’ Market and the Townshend Farmers Market exceed $222,700 from 2009 to date
- Sales of local food to low-income families in the Westgate Apartments and Elliot St. Market Basket Project total over $10,000 to date.
- Direct sales through low-income food programs such as EBT and Farm to Family at all POS markets were over $8,000.

We worked hard to reframe our main program areas in the following way. Please visit our website for more information about each project.

**Post Oil Education and Resources:**
As a foundation to our key program areas, POS is dedicated to sharing information on Global Climate Change and Peak Oil Research. We provide educational materials and resources for building sustainable communities that strive to effectively transition into a post oil society.

**Projects:**
- Global Warming/Energy Depletion Email Update
- Post Oil Solutions Lending Library
- Website Resources and Links
- Public Forums, Speakers, and Workshops

**Community-based Food System:**
We are working to build an environmentally sustainable and socially just community-based food system that promotes community self-reliance.

**Highlighted Projects:**
- Brattleboro Winter Farmers’ Market *pg 4*
- The Great Falls Food Hub *pg 4*
- Elliot Street Market Basket Project *pg 4*
- Farm to School Programs in Brattleboro and Windham County *pg 5*
- (Re)learning to Feed Ourselves Workshops *pg 5*
- Gleaning Partnership with the Vermont Foodbank *pg 5*

**Support for Grassroots Initiatives:**
We believe that our communities need to become more active participants in all of our lives. We continue to encourage others with ideas or initiatives related to our mission and benchmarks to approach us for support through our 501c3 status, website and email networks, and other organizing support.

**Highlighted Projects:**
- Community Conversations *pg 6*
- Brattleboro Time Trade *pg 6*
Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market
Following a very successful 2009-10 season ($102,000 in gross sales, over 75% of which was farm products or other locally produced food items), the WFM enters its 5th season with an indoor market scheduled for every week from November 6 through March 26. The market's mission is to support local agriculture, build community and promote regional sustainability.

$102,000 in total sales, over 75% agriculture and local food sales!

The Great Falls Food Hub
The mission of the Great Falls Food Hub is to make locally produced food available and affordable to the people of Windham, Windsor, Cheshire, and Sullivan counties while providing a fair return to farmers. The project was awarded $60,000 in grants this year, has hired a Project Coordinator who is busy organizing a comprehensive feasibility and marketing study, and has a number of very active committees including ones developing a business plan and assessing potential sites.

$60,000 in grants this year

Elliot Street Market Basket Project
The first season of the Elliot St. Market Basket was successful at connecting farmers and consumers in Brattleboro. This POS project is an innovative way to make local produce affordable and accessible for low income folks in the community, without taking away from the retail market. Three new farms - SIT Farm, Heart’s Bend, and Amazing Planet! Farm - sold produce to 45 participants who signed up for the 16 week season. Live music, cooking demos, and kids activities created a fun atmosphere that generated a lot of excitement. We are looking forward to expanding the market next season.

3 new farms, 45 participants: $6,664
Thanks to attending several of your garden workshops last spring, we were able to eat out of our new vegetable garden all summer! I would not have had the confidence to start this garden without attending a few of your workshops, which made me feel I could do it, and take the plunge! Bert Picard, Brattleboro

Program Highlights: Community Based Food System

Farm to School (F2S) Programs
Post Oil continues to support school communities throughout the county to strengthen farm and food education. Our Brattleboro Farm to School Coordinator, Katherine Gillespie, has been working hard to build sustainable programs that can be replicated throughout the county. See the new website for more info and fantastic resources:
www.windhamcountyfarmtoschool.org
Specifically, around Windham County, we are working with the 3 C model.
- Cafeteria: We are working to increase local food offerings and improve student nutrition.
- Classrooms: We are supporting farm field trips, taste tests, school community gardens, and professional development for teachers and staff
- Community: We are hosting a number of food and farm related events for families and school staff.

Over $25,000 raised to support county wide farm to school efforts!

Re)learning to Feed Ourselves Workshops
In its 5th year, and centered around the theme of eating out of the garden 12 months of the year, (Re)learning has a Jan-March gardening workshop series, a June-Sept series on raising and harvesting backyard animals, and a Sept-Oct series on putting food by. Altogether, the series had 212 participants during the past 12 months. We hope to get more people leading workshops in their own communities.

212 participants during the past 12 months

Thanks to attending several of your garden workshops last spring, we were able to eat out of our new vegetable garden all summer! I would not have had the confidence to start this garden without attending a few of your workshops, which made me feel I could do it, and take the plunge! Bert Picard, Brattleboro

Gleaning Partnership with Vermont Foodbank: In its 2nd year, this very successful program continues to provide fresh produce to local food shelves. Oct 2009-Oct 2010: 76,000 pounds have been gleaned in Windham County. Many thanks to Theresa Snow and the volunteer supporters. While most of this produce was donated to food shelves and meal sites, we were able to use some of it for cooking classes and community meals, this transforming surplus food into an opportunity for self-empowerment of our community.

Oct 2009-Oct 2010: 76,000 pounds gleaned

www.postoilsolutions.org
Community Conversations

We started gathering for these events this past January, and have brought together an average of 25 people to discuss projects they’re working on or ideas they would like to develop. The heart of these gatherings has been the networking of people who learn about and get involved with projects. Over this year, a strong sense of community has developed amongst the many who participate, welcoming and including the newcomers who always appear, and making a point about being inclusive of everyone.

The gathering now convenes twice a month—**the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Thursday**—at the Elliot Street Cafe in Brattleboro, with socializing and light refreshments at 6:30, and the conversation at 7:00. The latter consists of lively discussions about how the group handles issues within its emerging community, updated reports from individuals about projects they’re working on, dialogs around the basic theme of how to make Brattleboro a healthier, more sustainable community, and, always, time for networking.

**Over 200 different participants during the past 12 months.**

The **Brattleboro Time Trade** is another exciting development in our area. It allows for the exchange of Time Credits, a type of community currency that anyone can earn by using their time, resources, skills or energy to help others. Each hour of service provided to another Time Trade member earns one Time Credit. You can spend your Time Credits on services provided by any of the other members of the Time Trade. Membership has grown to over 150 with over 1300 hours exchanged. This has created a value of over $25,000 according to the United Way's calculations of volunteer hour time!

For more info: [http://www.brattleborotimetrade.org/](http://www.brattleborotimetrade.org/)

**Over 150 members with over 1300 hours exchanged!**
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

We are most grateful to the many great individuals and organizations that we partner and collaborate with. This is the heart of our success!

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont
Amazing Planet Farm
AmeriCorps VISTA
Bellows Falls Moose
Brattleboro Area Farmers Market
Brattleboro Center for Children
Brattleboro Farm to School Committee
Brattleboro Food Co-op
Brattleboro Housing Authority
Brattleboro Memorial Hospital
Brattleboro Retreat
NOFA-VT (Northeast Organic Farmers Association)
Brattleboro Time Trade
Building a Better Brattleboro
CABA: Community Action
Brattleboro Area
Cheshire County Conservation Commission
Circle Mountain Farm
Early Education Services-Parents Policy Council
Elliot Street Café
Fair Winds Farm
Hearts Bend Farm
Lilac Ridge Farm
Meeting Waters YMCA
Monadnock Farm Community Connection
Morningside Shelter
Picadilly Farm
Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)
Townshend Selectboard
Transition Town Putney
Turning Point
UVM Extension
UVM Master Gardener Program
Vermont Department of Health
Vermont FEED (Food Education Every Day)
Vermont Foodbank
Vermont Fresh Network
Westgate Apartments
Windham Farm and Food Network
Windham Farm Bureau
Windham Housing Trust
Windham Regional Commission
Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU)
World Learning/ SIT Graduate Institute Youth Services
Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund and Farm to Plate Initiative

And more...

“We Post Oil Solutions consistently keeps end goals in mind as they build collaborative conversations and relationships in the Windham and Windsor County regions. Their work in food security has the capacity to strengthen our state’s economy, food sector and the accessibility to healthy, ecologically grown food for all spectrums of our citizenry.”

Theresa Snow, Program Director of Agricultural Resources, Vermont Foodbank

“I have witnessed Post Oil’s rock-solid formula for success: lucid vision combined with the organization, community-based experience, determination and general-purpose elbow grease needed to create positive change.”

Hans Estrin, Coordinator, Windham Farm and Food Network, UVM Extension Local Food Coordinator
2010 FINANCIAL REPORT

A VERY Special thanks to our funders!
Vermont Community Foundation
New England Grassroots Environmental Fund,
and Community members support!

**Staff:**
- Executive Director: Tim Stevenson
- Program Manager: Richard Berkfield
- Brattleboro Farm to School Coordinator: Katherine Gillespie
- Farmers’ Market Manager: Sherry Maher
- Community Organizer: Angela Berkfield
- Community Organizer Intern: Elizabeth Johnson

**Board of Directors (2011):**
- President: Michael Whigham: Williamsville
- Secretary: Liz Kenton: Guilford
- Treasurer: Sherry Maher: Athens
- Steve Darrow: Putney
- Cindy Hebbard: Bellows Falls
- Angela Berkfield: Williamsville
- George Reed-Savory: Brattleboro
- Richard Berkfield: Williamsville (Ex-Officio)