

Contact & review copy details

To contact Professor Tim Jackson during COP15, or for review copies of *Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet*, contact gudrun.freese@earthscan.co.uk or Tel: +44 (0)20 7841 1930 / Mob: 0782 5600 487.

Dear all

I'm writing to let you know that Professor Tim Jackson will be in Copenhagen from 9th December to December 14th, and again on the 17th and 18th December, and will be speaking at a number of events (see Notes).

Tim Jackson is economics commissioner on the UK government's Sustainable Development Commission, Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey, and author of [*Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet*](#) (Earthscan, 2009), which:

- argues against continued economic growth in the advanced economies
- presents the results of a two-year research programme on the economics needed to tackle climate change, and
- sets out guidelines for a new macro-economics for sustainability.

As world leaders approach Copenhagen they are caught between the mantra of growth and the need to curb climate change, clinging to the illusion that a high level of economic growth is compatible with the sustainable, low carbon economies they have committed themselves to. But the evidence is increasingly against them.

Below is a summary of some of the COP-related material covered in Professor Jackson's book:

- **Continued economic growth is not compatible with emissions targets that ensure a temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius**

Jackson's research on decoupling (Chapter 5: The Myth of Decoupling) makes it difficult to hide behind the widespread assumption that capitalism's propensity for efficiency will allow us to stabilise the climate and protect against resource scarcity, without confronting the structure of market economies.

In the book, Jackson shows that growth has driven material ambitions to unsustainable levels. Growth has pushed carbon emissions up by 40% since 1990 – the Kyoto base year. Even based on a moderate level of growth of 2% per year, meeting the IPCC's 2050 carbon reduction targets would mean achieving a carbon content of no more than 6gCO₂ for each dollar spent – a staggering 130 times lower than the average carbon intensity today.

Tim Jackson says: "There is no evidence as yet of decoupling taking place on anything like the scale or speed that would be required to avoid increasing environmental devastation. The sheer scale of decoupling required to meet emissions targets – and to stay within them while the economy keeps on growing in perpetuity – staggers the imagination."

“It’s time to face reality. We stand in urgent need of more realistic solutions, more honest policy making. The truth is that there is as yet no credible, socially just, ecologically sustainable scenario of continually growing incomes for a world of 9 billion people. In this context, simplistic assumptions that capitalism’s propensity for efficiency will allow us to stabilize the climate are nothing short of delusional.”

- **Green stimulus**

The default assumption of even the ‘greenest’ stimulus package is to return the economy to a condition of continuing consumption growth. The idea that climate change can be fixed through green stimulus, and that economic growth can go on more or less as usual, sidesteps the absurdity of indefinite growth, and its role as a driver of climate change.

In discussing policy responses the latest carbon intensities data, Jackson supports a 'green stimulus' as a sensible response to the economic crisis. But ultimately "a different kind of macro-economic structure is essential for an ecologically-constrained world. There is no macro-economics for sustainability, and there is an urgent need for one."

- **Guidelines for a new macro-economics for sustainability**

Tim Jackson says: “Progress towards sustainability remains painfully slow. And it tends to stall endlessly on the overarching commitment to economic growth. A step change in political will is essential.

Above all, there is an urgent need to develop a resilient and sustainable macro-economy that is no longer predicated on relentless consumption growth. The clearest message from the financial crisis of 2008 is that our current model of economic success is fundamentally flawed. For the advanced economies of the western world, prosperity without growth is no longer a utopian dream. It is a financial and ecological necessity.”

[*Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet*](#) calls for a new vision of prosperity based around providing the capabilities for people to flourish – within the ecological limits of the planet. Key recommendations include the need for:

- an economics fit for purpose on finite planet
- a massive uplift in ‘ecological’ investment: renewable energy, energy efficiency, local infrastructure, low-carbon transport, climate adaptation, ecological protection
- support for ‘ecological’ enterprise – resource efficient, community-based activities that offer meaningful employment and deliver low-carbon goods and services
- clear restraints on unbridled consumerism
- the protection of public spaces and a renewed vision of social goods
- investment in the capabilities for people have to participate in society in less materialistic ways
- the overhaul of national accounts to measure the things that matter

- real commitment by the richer nations towards low-carbon development in the poorer nations

NOTES & RESOURCES

Tim Jackson's events at COP15

9 December, 15:15 – 18:15: KlimaForum09 Seminar: ***Globalization to Localization of Life and Economy*** with Tim Jackson and Vandana Shiva and others. Further details are [here](#).

10 December, 13:00 – 16:00: KlimaForum09 Seminar: ***Limits to Growth*** - with Tim Jackson, Matthijs Wackernagel, Niels I. Meyer and Jorgen Norgaard Further details are [here](#).

13 December, 18:00: St Albans Anglican Church Event: ***Prosperity Without Growth*** with Tim Jackson <http://www.st-albans.dk/cop15/>

18 December, 10:30 – 12:30: EU Pavilion Event – European Economic and Social Committee Side Event: ***Climate Change, GDP and Measurements of Prosperity*** (See attached for details – final details will appear here: http://www.eesc.europa.eu/index_en.asp)

Downloads

- [Chapter 1](#) of *Prosperity Without Growth*. Please contact gudrun.freese@earthscan.co.uk Mob: 0782 5600 487 for additional chapters.
- [Table of Contents](#)
- [Pre-publication endorsements](#)

Archived Webinar: An Economy Fit for a Low Carbon World – The Pre-COP Earthcast with Tim Jackson (Broadcast on 25th November 2009)
[Download the archived 'earthcast' here.](#)

About Tim Jackson

Tim Jackson is economics commissioner on the UK government's Sustainable Development Commission, and Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey (the first such chair to be created in the UK, in 2000), where he is Director of the Research group on Lifestyles, Values and Environment ([RESOLVE](#)).

For over twenty years, Tim has been at the forefront of research and teaching in sustainability. He developed a form of 'green GDP' (the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare) for the UK in the 1990s, and has written extensively on the relationship between wellbeing, economic growth and sustainability.

Among numerous other advisory roles, Tim Jackson chairs the 'New Energy Solutions' Advisory Board for Danish investment company BankInvest and is associate researcher on a Templeton Foundation project on 'The Pursuit of Happiness' at Emory University, Atlanta.

Read more here:

[Tim's SDC Profile>>](#)

[Tim's FCRN Profile>>](#)

[Tim's University of Surrey Profile >>](#)

About the University of Surrey: The University of Surrey is one of the UK's leading professional, scientific and technological universities with a world class research profile and a reputation for excellence in teaching and research. Ground-breaking research at the University is bringing direct benefit to all spheres of life – helping industry to maintain its competitive edge and creating improvements in the areas of health, medicine, space science, the environment, communications, defence and social policy. Programmes in science and technology have gained widespread recognition and it also boasts flourishing programmes in dance and music, social sciences, management and languages and law. In addition to the campus on 150 hectares just outside Guildford, Surrey, the University also owns and runs the Surrey Research Park, which provides facilities for 140 companies employing 2,700 staff.

The Sunday Times names Surrey as 'The University for Jobs' which underlines the university's growing reputation for providing high quality, relevant degrees.