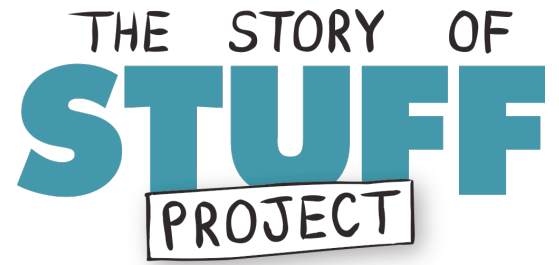

THE STORY OF CHANGE

FAQs



Isn't recycling a solution?

Recycling is both a good thing to do and not nearly enough to turn things around. We need better product design, better industrial regulations, better consumption norms, and better recycling. If we want recycling to make a difference, let's move beyond stressing about washing our jars to lobbying for a nationally mandated 75% recycling goal. That's a realistic target that would be good for the economy and the environment. But we can only get it by working together.

How do I find the least toxic and most fair products?

Since there's a lack of transparency requirements in most countries, it's hard to know which products are the least toxic and most fair. Some online databases provide good, but partial information (Good Guide, Skin Deep). Ultimately, we need to work together to demand much more stringent rules about transparency. We have a right to know what is in our products and how they were made!

One dollar, one vote, right?

If you believe that, watch out, because chances are Exxon Mobil has a lot more dollars than you do! Yes, when we spend our dollars, it's good to put them toward the future we want. But our spending capacity is dwarfed by that of big corporations whose interests, let's be honest, don't always align with ours. That's why we need to work on restricting corporate spending in elections and maximize our engagement where we trump the corporate fat cats—with real people with real votes.

What would a new economy look like?

A new economy would put people and the planet first. It would keep the best parts of today's economy and create new parts that recognize the planet's limits and promote true wellbeing for all. No one knows exactly what it'll look like since it hasn't been invented yet, but there are lots of good ideas about how to get started—from getting corporations out of democracy to clean energy to more fair taxation.

How did anyone get anything done before the Internet?

They organized! They gathered people together. They engaged community members, schools, and churches. They wrote and spoke and marched and sang. Online organizing offers lots of snazzy new tools that are a great addition—but not a substitute for—this kind of tried-and-true, movement-building organizing.

What about folks who can't vote?

Voting is only one way to engage as a citizen. Even those without legal access to the voting booth can flex their citizen muscles: organize community meetings, speak at City Council sessions, write about important issues, register others to vote. At the same time, we need to protect the right to vote for those eligible—no more voter registration purges!—and get voters off their couches and into the voting booth on election day!