

## Post Carbon Business Ideas

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### Community Services

- Co-ops: One or more in each neighborhood; to bulk-buy food, building materials, hardware, housewares, clothes and cloth, candle wax, steel.
- Courier (mail and package delivery service).
- Entertainment.
- Errands, perhaps co-op. Includes car-pooling.
- Financial services: Community banking with local currency, trade dollars, no-interest loans for community functions.
- Healing practitioners, clinics & hospitals: herbalists, mid-wives, medicine men/women, witch doctors and other natural healers.
- Hydro generator water power from local streams where this will not impact fisheries.
- Libraries and information retrieval in a post-internet world: manage books, reference material & library facilities (if the county library system is defunct).
- Planning (urban and rural), for walkability, close-in services, public transportation, bike/horse trails, & general accommodation to reality of lower energy availability.
- Script printing, management and recording of local barter and trade. This might be a co-op rather than individually owned business, but someone will have to manage it.
- Security: see new 'Security' category
- Transportation, or mass-transit (public or private)

### Fuel

- Charcoal-making for indoor/outdoor Hibachi-style cooking, and small-space heating
- Wood gasification (producer gas) to fuel a very few engines for some tasks (machine tool power, well-drilling, etc) instead of propane/natural gas.
- Wood waste pelletizing for fuel. Using wood waste for insulation, garden mulch, etc. Large supplies from mills could become small business ventures.
- Non-wood fuels??

### Home, Farm and Ranch Services

- Animal husbandry: large (horse, cattle, buffalo, etc) & small (chickens, rabbits, goats, sheep, mink, marten) care. Such animals used for their companionship, meat, milk, eggs, skins/leather, feathers, fur/hair; lawn management; manure for fertilization. And related veterinary services.

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- Beekeeping. Bee health, pollination services with beehive sharing. Horse, mule, donkey breeding and harness training for buggy, cart and wagon.
- Blacksmithing and iron forging. Iron casting. Spring making, coil and leaf type. Forge welding and heat treating
- Bulk foods sales (local and imported): grains, nuts, seeds, yeasts
- Butchering & aging meats; meat preservation; fat rendering
- Canning business or neighborhood co-op, using custom wood-fired stoves designed for canning. Small commercial canning operations for larger farms.
- Clothing design, construction, alteration and repair (sewing, tailoring)
- Composting toilets/privies (construction and maintenance)
- Construction (homes, barn, coops, root cellars, wells, commercial buildings, etc)
- Dyes for fabrics, wood, etc. from natural sources (plants, clays, etc.).
- Distillation: alcohol for consumption, solvents, medicine.
- Electric car repair
- Farrier (horse-shoeing, grooming); see also 'Blacksmithing' above
- Fermentation, as of soy to make miso & tofu, beer, wine, sauerkraut, pickles, etc.
- Fibers: cotton, hemp, linen (flax), feathers, etc. for cloth. (see also wool gathering)
- Food drying -- co-op or business.
- Gardening
- Grain grinding using horse/water power. Commercial or co-op business.
- Handwork (crocheting, embroidery, knitting, lacemaking, needlepoint, quilting etc) for utilitarian and decorative use.
- Harness-making.
- Horse-shoeing, including forging the shoes.
- Leather goods (personal): shoes, wallets, purses, clothes; design, construction, repair
- Laundry, or laundry co-op, especially for water conservation
- Lye: Ash collection and reduction into lye.
- Light-mirroring lamps (and furniture) for spreading candle and lantern light. Shelves with mirrors behind them; candle lamps, tallow lamps.
- Methane generation from methane digesters using manure -- pig, human, etc.
- Net making (knotting, similar to lace-making), such as for fishing and gardening
- Port-a-potty rentals to augment the limited carrying capacity of rural septic systems. <http://troutclancampfire.blogspot.com/>
- Rug making.
- Saddle making.

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- Salt mining.
- Seed source; seed bank.
- Soap making. Tallow collection and fat rendering.
- Soil rejuvenation-Terra Petra.
- Tanning, leather production.
- Thrift and used-goods store.
- Tinker
- Toilet paper; perhaps mullein leaves and other 'paper' alternatives.
- Water storage construction (e.g., water tanks)
- Weaving from natural fibers. Cloth making. Linens.
- Windmill operations
- Wild-crafting of herbs, etc.
- Wood work: including furniture, houses, carts, and re-sawing old lumber. Small co-op mills for local neighborhood residents
- Wool gathering, spinning, for weaving, etc

### Manufacturing/Recycling

- Battery making and recycling
- Bicycle building and repair (for delivery and material transport). Large Chinese three-wheeled bicycles can haul up to 400 pounds and one rider.
- Bottle making: furnaces to smelt silica for glass, and casting standard-sized bottles for canning and general use. Also sterilizing recycled bottles
- Bow making & supplies: arrows, cross-bows, & parts. Archery, bow-hunting training
- Candle making. Wax collection (bees and plants).
- Canning lids for canning jars (Ceramic & tin); canning seals from natural products
- Car parts
- Cart & buggy construction & repair
- Cellophane (and other cellulose products including plastics) from wood waste.
- Chemicals, natural source: paints, sealants, turpentine, medicines, battery acids
- Cold storage: root cellars, cold boxes. Ventilation, moisture control.
- Containers: basket, bag, box; from leather, wood, woven materials, recycled paper
- Drive wheels: Pelton type water-driven slow-speed wheels for mechanical drive (machine shops) and electrical power where feasible. Even a few feet of water head may generate significant power if water quantity is enough.
- Drugs, herbal tinctures: antibiotics, pain medications, and other medicines

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- Dryers (food and clothing) for home/commercial use: Design & production of solar and wood fired food dryers; making dryers with wood frames and natural fiber screens, using woven string-based trays; wood-frame floor or wall-mount clothing racks
- Electric car (conversion or new manufacturing)
- Grinders/mills for grain, etc. for home and commercial use. Human powered, horse powered or water powered.
- Gun smithing. Gun repair and construction. Gun and ammunition supplies and parts. Reloading supplies and equipment.
- Lamps: oil or kerosene manufacture & parts; lamp oil
- Local electric motor construction; fabrication of magnets, iron motor structures, copper wire, varnish insulation, carbon brushes
- Linens (bedding, toweling, tablecloths, etc)
- Loom construction for weaving, including parts and repair. Shuttles, etc.
- Oils for cooking and lubrication. Cold press process from grains, nuts, seeds
- Match factory. Strike-anywhere matches
- Plastics: recycling and reusing (such as for pipes, buckets, containers)
- Pottery for cookware, storage, pickling
- Pumps: hand, pedal, wind-powered pumps for shallow wells, and for pumping irrigation water. <http://permapak.net/handpump.htm>
- Printing (newsletters, newspapers, script, etc)
- Refrigeration jars (porous types used in hot climates for cooling (evaporative type)
- Solvents, e.g. turpentine from wood, alcohol from grain
- Trailers (small) for hauling behind everything from horse carts to bicycles.
- Tubs (for bathing, washing, troughs, feeding, etc)
- Spinning wheel design and construction.
- Water purification systems and technique: J-tube with top filled with straw, sand, charcoal -- Primary filter. Easy to clean takes out the junk. Take filtered water and float it in a basin painted black. Solar still (reclaimed glass top); water runs down glass and into a bowl on the rim.
- Windmills for wind power and/or pumping
- Wood stove design & construction (scrap steel & iron, clay & ceramics). Especially cook stoves; small two burner units, with a top grate and bottom ash bin.

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### Security

NOTE: the contributor of this list indicated these will be most needed in larger urban areas, but we should not shortchange this need in our rural area. Perhaps the most important is 'Neighborhood watch': neighbors watching out for neighbors.

- Ammo Reloading
- Guard service (for businesses and neighborhoods)
- Guard dog trainers and sellers.
- Neighborhood watch
- Security installation and service for home and business
- Weapons sellers and trainers.