

Why Doesn't "GROWTH" Have to Pay the Actual Costs of "GROWTH"? How Could We Solve the Problems?

People who care about our local community – and a sustainable local environment – and a fair local economy – and fairness to taxpayers – and honest local governments – are concerned that real estate developers and other people who benefit from local "GROWTH" are not paying for the "GROWTH" that they keep promoting – and profiting from.

So why do the people who profit from local economic "growth" not have to pay for it? What are the methods and systems that enable them to EXTERNALIZE THE COSTS and hurt other people so they can profit?

It's easy to complain about the problems. In order to solve them, we must identify the methods and systems that have been causing the problems. Then our next step will be to weaken or remove those causes and replace them with good solutions.

Imagine the problem in the form of an ancient Greek temple. The problem of GROWTH NOT PAYING FOR GROWTH is the big horizontal top piece. That problem is propped up by a number of pillars, like the photo to the right and the diagram below:



Local economic growth (real estate developments, etc.) is allowed to externalize costs instead of paying for itself.

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How to dismantle the unjust local economic/political system that allows "growth" to externalize its costs:

- (1) Identify the pillars that actually do support and prop up this unjust reality Let's brainstorm them and write them in the blank spaces above.
- (2) Deal separately with **each specific** pillar. For **each** pillar we will analyze, strategize, and organize how to effectively weaken or remove that particular pillar.
- (3) When we have weakened or removed enough pillars, the unjust economic/political problem will collapse.
- (4) In doing this work we will reach out to wider and wider concentric circles of **strategic allies** (those who agree with our goals) and **tactical allies** (those who share a common interest in weakening or removing that particular pillar).
- (5) Simultaneously start **building fair, just, effective alternatives** to replace the pillars, so we can create and prop up a **better set of economic and political realities** that will better serve our local community.