

TRANSCRIPT

Taking Action: Applying the Doughnut

Rohan Hazell:

Oxford economist, Kate Raworth, conceptualised Doughnut Economics as a diagram for human prosperity, but it quickly captured the imagination of people eager to apply its principles to their localities.

Through case studies from Amsterdam, Leeds, Bhutan, and others, Kate Raworth will explain how the Doughnut's application in diverse contexts can help communities thrive within ecological limits.

Kate Raworth:

I first drew the Doughnut diagram 10 years ago, and it was a concept for human prosperity as a whole, but almost immediately people started saying, we want to try and put this into practice here. What would it mean for our city or our region, or our nation or our town to aim to live in the Doughnut?

And so, at Doughnut Economics Action Lab, we've created a tool, precisely for any place to explore doing that. I framed it here as a city, but I invite everybody to think of it as, as the place at the scale that you are most interested in transforming from a nation right down to a neighbourhood. So how can our city help bring humanity into the Doughnut?

First, we need to unroll the Doughnut, make some space for ourselves so we can go inside between the social foundation and the ecological ceiling. So, we've got a canvas where we can bring our ideas, experiences, imagination, and possibilities. Here's the question now that we're inside, how can our city or place become a home to thriving people in a thriving place while respecting the wellbeing of all people and the health of the whole planet? That's a big complex question, of course.

So, we break it into four lenses, and on the one side we've got the local aspirations of a place and we need to always put them together with the global responsibilities of that place. So let me just talk you through these four lenses briefly.



Let's start with the local aspirations of people in the place. How can all the people of our city thrive? What would it mean for everybody here to have health and education, housing, transport, community, culture, respect, equity, voice, that everyone needs to be out of that hole in the Doughnut? How would we need to transform the way we're currently living to ensure that no one here is left falling short? That is a local conversation for the people of a place, drawing on their own culture and history and possibilities.



Let's add to that. What would it mean for this place to be as generous as the wildland next door and wherever you are, I invite you to think where is the wildland next door? Where is the closest healthy nature, nature truest to her own form with the least possible disturbance of humanity? Of course, humanity has disturbed nature everywhere. There's no true wildland. But the

healthiest natural habitat next door. Let's go there and then let's see what nature's genius is in your place.



Because everywhere on planet Earth, nature has figured out how to sequester carbon, how to cleanse the air. She houses biodiversity, she cycles the water and harvests solar energy. She regulates the temperature from the treetops to the forest floor. She builds soil. She's regenerative by design, and she makes us feel at home.

What if we were to take what nature's doing in your local wildland as a performance standard, an ecological performance standard of possibility where you are, and make that the performance standard of the city? Can our city sequester as much carbon as the forest next door? Can it cleanse the air? Could it cool the treetops to the forest floor by eight degrees as nature may well be doing on a hot day? Can we harvest solar energy for food production or for energy production here? Can our cities make us feel at home? These are the local aspirations of the portrait. And of course, there are many places where you can go, and I would say the Nordics do quite well on this. The air is clean, the schools are good, the WIFI's great. We can swim in the harbour. What's not to like?

There's another whole side of the story. Our global responsibilities to ensure that living well here does not come at the expense of people or the planet worldwide. So, how do we make sure that our city respects the health of the whole planet?



Think of all the food, clothes, electronics, consumer goods, the construction materials that have been brought into your city or place, and the stream of waste that will go out. That's the red overshoot of planetary boundaries that we see on middle- and high-income countries, and they all need to come back within planetary boundaries.



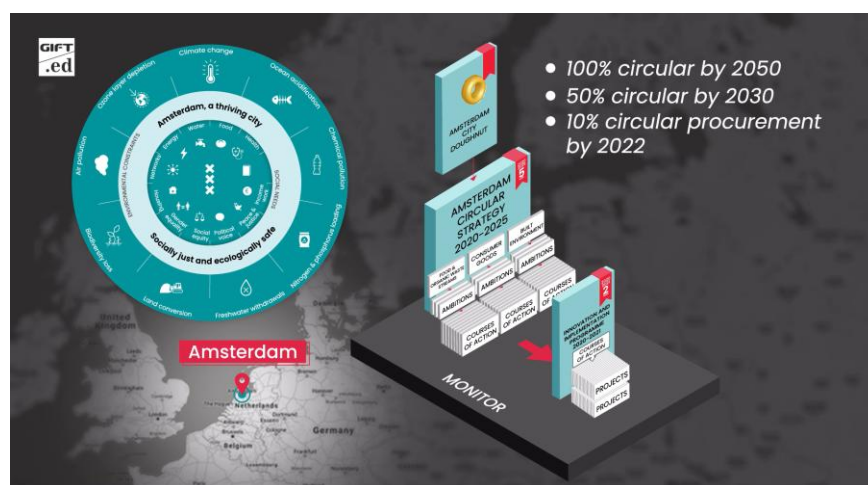
This is why we need a circular or cyclical economy without waste. That's a massive challenge. Also, while you still think of the global supply chains on food and electronics and clothing, think of the people who made our phones, who assembled our laptops, who stitched our clothes, who picked and packed the food we eat. So workers in global supply chains. Think of people worldwide who are impacted today by the climate change that we know is caused by our own lifestyles and nations. Think of the future of refugees that we know is going to be incurred by the climate

impacts and breakdown happening now. How will they be greeted when they arrive, where we live? How will be treated by policy and our cultural welcome? So these are the four lenses of bringing the Doughnut concept locally.

And we at Doughnut Economics Action Lab are working with city and places worldwide to put this into practice. Let me give you some examples. We began in 2019, pre-COVID in Portland, Philadelphia, Amsterdam. These are city politicians and community members and they said it's such a relief to be sitting together around a shared goal.

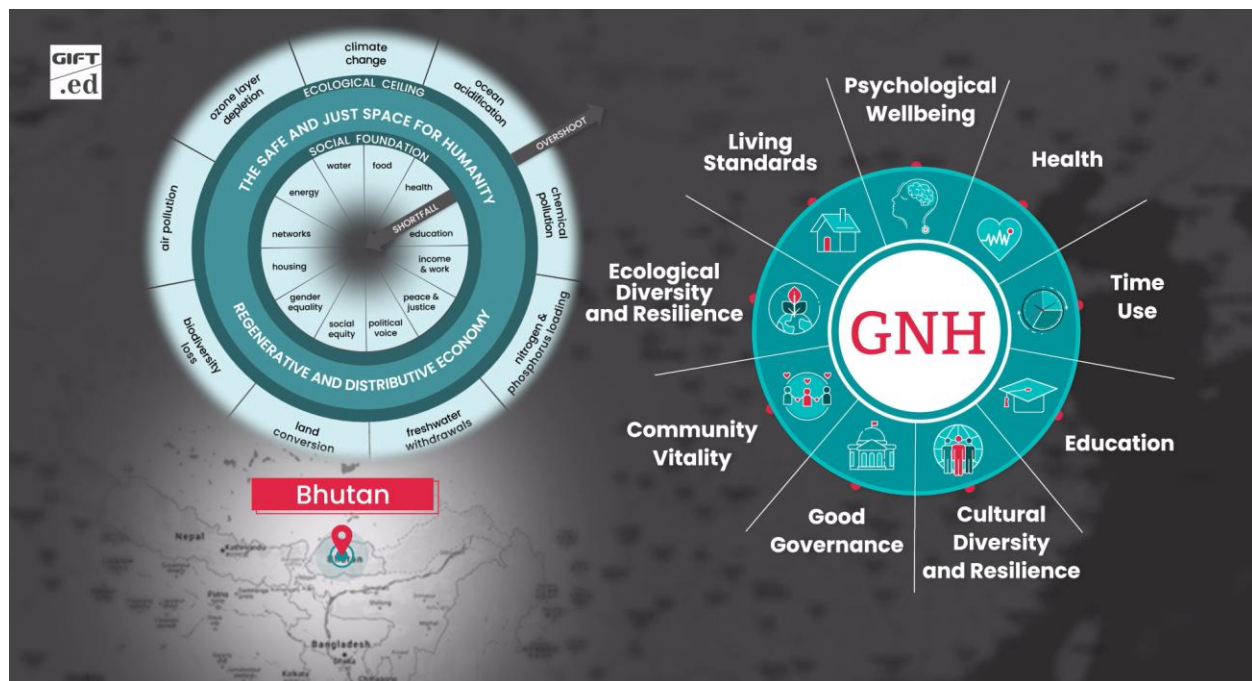


Back to that conversation about purpose, having a purpose. Can we all together see how we could create our own vision of coming into this space? We worked with the city of Amsterdam, which was the first to adopt the portrait and create their own city portrait, and put the doughnut as a concept at the heart of their vision for the city. A thriving, inclusive, regenerative city for all residents, while respecting the planetary boundaries. They used it to create a circularity policy.



The Doughnut is the core concept, with strong ambitions for becoming a circular city, not just by 2050, but almost halfway there by 2030, and then putting it into practise in housing, in the textile sector and in food. Early practise, there's also been the rise of a civic network. In Amsterdam, many organisations, over 100 got together and they said the Doughnut provides a shared goal for all the different things we're doing. So they are organising and also holding their policymakers to account, to keep moving.

Other cities and places have been inspired by what began there. The nation of Bhutan have told us that they find the Doughnut a really interesting concept that sits alongside their concept of Gross National Happiness.

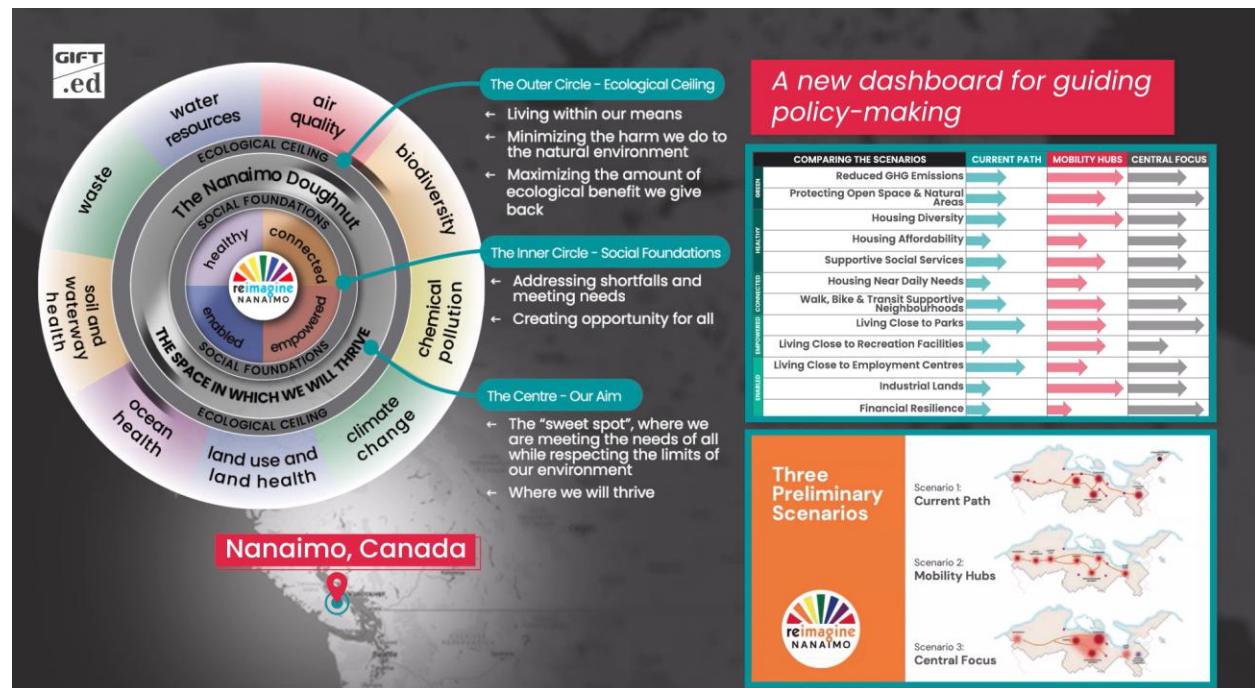


And so we've been working both with the civil servants of Bhutan, but also the city of Thumpu and the Paro region, to see how this can inform their current design of a new city plan.

The city of Leeds in the UK have taken the Doughnut as a concept and created their own downscaled concept to drive their transformation towards 2030. Can they become a socially equitable, low carbon, just city by 2030? In Birmingham in the UK, there's an amazing work going on at the community level. An organisation called Civic Square, bringing about transformation street by street. A conversation amongst neighbours. How do we decarbonise our homes together? How do we transform what we eat? How do we transform how we travel and how we heat our homes?

Creating really strong community conversations, inspiring local people who've never felt they could have a say in an economic conversation to realise that this conversation is about their lives and they are the speakers to be on the stage.

Nanaimo in Canada took the Doughnut and turned it into their own dashboard and are now using it to assess different options and scenarios, not against a cost benefit analysis, but against a Doughnut dashboard analysis, which possibility for our future of transport will best help bring us into the doughnut.



Ipoh in Malaysia has the ambition of being the first city in Asia to say that we want to be a Doughnut city and heading in that direction. And so have started working with the downscale Doughnut tools to see how they need to bring about that transformation.

Barcelona and Spain have dived in and are creating a city portrait, gathering local data to see where they're falling short, where they're overshooting so that they can monitor their own progress over time on a journey of becoming a city that lives in the Doughnut.

Doughnut Economics Action Lab exists because people around the world started playing with the Doughnut seriously and wanting to put it into practice in their communities, in their cities, in their businesses, in their schools.



If you're interested, you can visit our platform, which is open to anybody to join, or you can just browse. And on that platform are the tools like the Doughnut Unrolled tool I've just introduced. These are in the commons, so everybody is welcome to use them. We simply ask as commoners for reciprocity, please share back your innovations and share back your experience.

Rohan Hazell:

The challenge of new economic paradigms is translating them into tangible changes, from global metropolises to local neighborhoods.

As Kate Raworth has shared, the Doughnut Economics Action Lab has provided many cities and businesses with practical frameworks and tools for redesigning society in their own contexts, spanning four key areas: local aspirations, global responsibilities, regenerative design, and distributive systems.