

Better(not bigger)Vermont



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- Yet another commentary by George Plumb.
- Recent Front Porch Forum post critical of the Vermont Chamber's latest effort to import large numbers of workers into Vermont.
- The coming dearth of affordable energy will end our addictions to growth.
- Hijacking the "Global Environmental Footprint".

George Plumb hits the nail on the head again!

About 50 years ago, George Plumb helped form the precursor to Better(not bigger)Vermont; and George is still writing great commentaries about population.

This one recently made it into *VTDigger* and the *Times Argus*...

<https://vtdigger.org/2023/10/27/george-plumb-vermont-is-already-almost-150000-beyond-a-sustainable-population-level/>.

Go George and Thank You!

Bringing in more people will only make matters worse.

Wolfger Schneider, BnbVT's President, recently posted the response below to a Front Porch Forum post calling for policies to attract more young people to move to Vermont to, you know, give us more workers.

Wolfger makes good points, and the Elizabeth Anker article he references is a must read. She offers excellent reasons to explain why young employees are hard to come by. Before the pandemic, it was relatively easy to hire help for our farm. But since then, workers are nonexistent at any reasonable price.

The bottom line is that our society today has deep, deep structural issues that will be made even worse by bringing in large numbers of young people from outside Vermont.

Yes, our population is aging as the large cohort of baby boomers is retiring. And yes, young people are having fewer children, many for good reasons. Vermonter Elizabeth Anker in her latest blog post (<https://by-my-solitary-hearth.net/2023/10/20/the-daily-20-october-2023/>) ponders this exact question. She is well worth reading IMHO.

If we want our children to give us grandchildren, then we need to provide them with a world worth creating those children in without impoverishing the parents in a plundered world facing many crises.

Bringing in new residents to compensate for the lack of native children to help the Boomers age will just create another population bubble when these immigrants age. Is this not a Ponzi scheme?

Attempts to boost Vermont's population such as The Vermont Futures Project (vtfuturesproject.org) aims to increase our population by 150 000 in 12 years, “to lead to economic prosperity for all Vermonters as a bright future depends on economic growth.” This far exceeds the all-time high population growth rate of 5000/year in the 1970-80s. No attempt is made to determine what a sustainable Vermont population might be in an energy descent future or is there an attempt made to determine how this fast rate of growth would help meet our climate goals.

The cheap and abundant energy wave mankind has been surfing will soon hit the beach.

In case you're unfamiliar with the expression "energy decent future" in Wolfger's post above, [this article](#) provides a good explanation.

What happened to the Ecological Footprint?

Did you suspect that the Ecological Footprint, which was created by the once-great Global Footprint Network, doesn't make sense? Well, [this article](#) explains why your suspicions are indeed correct.

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