

Course Outline

For a week-long course at Masaryk University, Brno

Climate change, financial crisis and out-of-control globalisation—all the major problems facing the world have their root in the economic system. The system is broken: we need something radically different. This is what green economics offers. It is a coherent and wide-ranging set of policy prescriptions for a just and sustainable economy that has been developed over the past 30 years. Starting out with a recognition of planetary limits and an understanding of the importance of using resources wisely, green economics address key economic issues such as work, money, land, energy and climate change.

Course objectives:

- To understand that the economy is limited by the ecological system of planet earth;
- To begin to consider the implications of these limits in terms of their impact on systems of provisioning and the existing economic model which relies on economic growth;
- To consider how an economy without growth might challenge the structures of the prevailing economic model in terms especially of the way money is created and the use of energy;
- To consider how respecting the limits of the planetary system implies a reconsideration of issues of allocative justice;
- To explore the impact of the process of globalisation on natural resources and ecological systems and to consider the options for more local systems of provisioning.

Course content:

1. Land and why it matters to a green economist—plus film about LVT
2. Energy: Why do we worry so much about money, when energy is the scarce resource?
3. Money: What is money? How does it create instability and unsustainability? What can we do to change this?
4. Climate change and social justice
5. Economics of Transition—including German Energiewende

Timetable

1	Tuesday 29th 10:00-11:40 M011	Land and why it matters to a green economist	Bioregional mapping
2	Tuesday 29th 14:00-15:40 M011	Land Value Tax: film and discussion/debate	
3	Wednesday 30th 12:00-13:30 U32	Climate Change	Talking energy budgets
4	Thursday 31st 14:00-17:40 M011	Money	Designing local currencies
5	Friday 19th 10:00-11:40 Studio 527	Two is Company; Three's a Co-operative	Drawing governance structures; planning for bad news