

# Peak oil alarm

## A short story from everyday life about our consumption of oil

### Overview

This method illustrates the ubiquity of oil in our lives. First, a short story of everyday life is read out. Role cards are then distributed to the participants and the story is read out a second time. When they hear the word on their role card, participants interrupt the story and read out what is written on their card. The method encourages the participants to discuss what our everyday life would be like without oil.



10-20



30 minutes



Downloadable materials  
([www.endlich-wachstum.de](http://www.endlich-wachstum.de)):  
“Peak oil alarm” text and role cards

### Instructions

#### Preparation

A single copy of the materials is printed and the role cards are cut to size.

#### Execution

1. If the participants are not familiar with the term “peak oil”, the concept is introduced by the facilitators.
2. The facilitator reads the “peak oil alarm” story out loud.
3. The role cards are then randomly distributed among the participants. Two people can share a role card, or one person can receive more than one card as necessary. The participants are given some time to read their cards and ask comprehension questions if needed.
4. At this point, the next step is explained: the participants are asked to interrupt the story by calling out “peak oil alarm” when the word on their role card comes up.
5. The story is read out a second time. At each interruption, the role card is read out by the participant to the entire group.

#### Evaluation

Possible questions

- › What are your first impressions?
- › What comes to mind when you hear about all the different uses of oil? How do you feel about this?
- › How much did you already know? What was new to you?
- › Do you think it is important to know that so many things in our life are made from oil? Why/why not?
- › Who has talked about this issue with friends in the last week? Why is it that such an important issue is so rarely discussed?
- › What could Hannah do differently to reduce her oil consumption? What does she have no influence over?
- › To what extent does this story influence your consumption habits? What could you (easily) change?
- › What are the ecological consequences of our massive consumption of oil and gas?
- › What is the relationship between growth and our consumption of oil?
- › What are the alternatives to oil, especially as far as your role cards are concerned?

<p>Tips for facilitators</p>	<p>The story can easily be adapted to the participants' everyday life to suit the target group.</p> <p>It is possible that the story will leave the participants feeling despondent. This should be addressed by means of one of the methods in the chapter on alternatives, or by asking about possible courses of action at a later stage in the event.</p> <p>A wealth of information about peak oil and peak everything can be found online. A set of materials on the subject of peak oil can be borrowed at <a href="http://www.ubiz.de">www.ubiz.de</a>.</p>
<p>Suggestions for follow-up</p>	<p>The simulation "Can Yasuní be saved" (chapter 4) is a suitable follow-up activity.</p>