

# BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

*a monthly environmental education and discussion forum*

**Sunday, March 24, 2013**

**4:00-5:30 PM**

**Optional Affinity Groups 5:30 – 6:30 PM**

**Maryland Presbyterian Church**

1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD 21286

<http://www.mpchurch.org/About.htm>

## **Howard T. & Elisabeth Odum and A Prosperous Way Down**

**Presentation by Elliott Campbell, Ph.D**

Over this past century we have observed unprecedented growth in human technology, infrastructure, food production, along with destruction of the natural world. All of this was made possible by cheap, high energy yield, fossil fuels.

We environmentalists are aware that these fossil fuels are nonrenewable and that human civilization must change to adjust to a lower energy using civilization.

What most of us are not aware of, however, is the pioneering work of Howard and Elisabeth Odum in showing how systems concepts developed for bioscience can greatly help our understanding both of the past growth and the changes ahead. The late Howard Odum received the equivalent of a Nobel Prize for Bioscience in 1987.

Even veteran environmentalists should be astonished by how much the Odums can deepen their understanding. And the last book by the Odums illustrates this.

A Prosperous Way Down, published in 2001 by Howard T. and Elisabeth Odum, provides a blue print for transitioning from a society incompatible with a declining energy base to one that can cope with, adapt to, and ultimately make energy descent prosperous. This talk outlines these prescriptions and provides some ideas on how we can work towards the paradigm shift necessary for these ideas to take hold in society.

Elliott Campbell is a recent recipient of a doctoral degree from University of Maryland in Ecology and now serves as a Faculty Research Assistant at UMD. He is a contributor to the Prosperous Way Down blog ([www.prosperouswaydown.com](http://www.prosperouswaydown.com)) and the grandchild of Betty Odum, step-grandchild of H.T. Odum. For more information contact Elliott at [ecamp88@umd.edu](mailto:ecamp88@umd.edu)

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*The Purpose of the **Baltimore Green Forum** is to seek to improve the quality of *all* life in the greater Baltimore area. Our contribution to this goal will be to gather monthly in order to: **Discern** the progress towards regional sustainability that has already been achieved, **Discover** the connections amidst the chaos of the movement and build a community of like-minded individuals, and **Do** take appropriate action to address the challenges we face together. BGF is open to the public and is free of charge, but donations to Maryland Presbyterian Church are greatly appreciated. For questions, updated program info, to co-sponsor, or to RSVP, contact [baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com) or 410-554-0006*

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**Go to <http://www.baltimoregreenforum.org>**

**Contact re this meeting:**

**Sam Hopkins**, Planning Committee for Baltimore Green Forum and Moderator for this meeting

**410 554 0006**

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