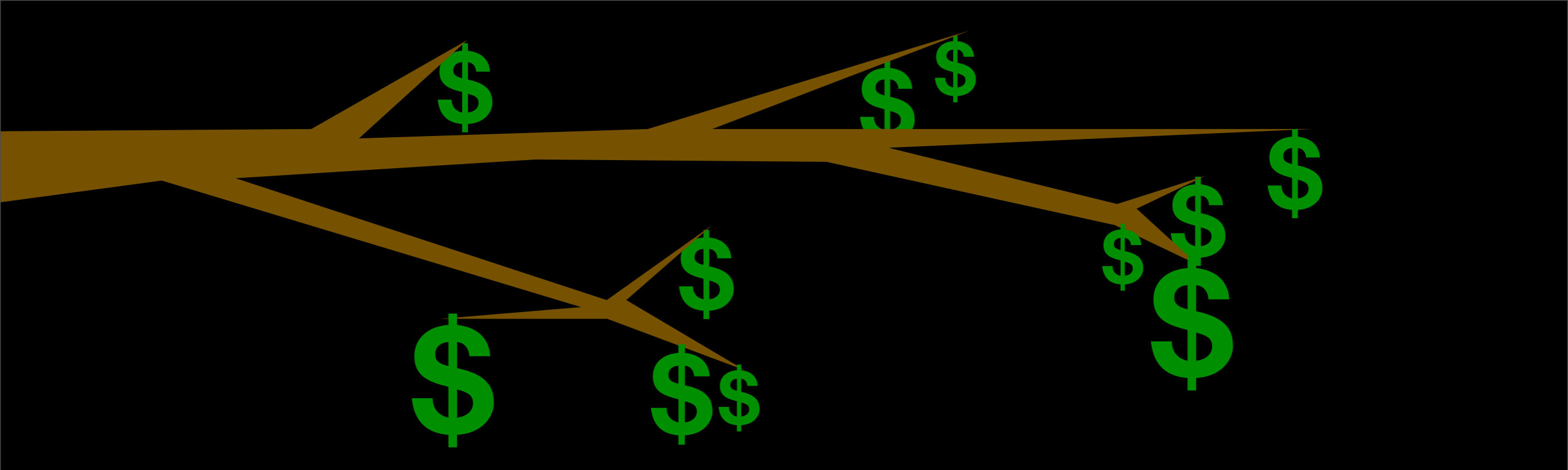


Growing Money On Trees

The Complementary Currency Investment Policy

Michael Ruberto



Growing Money On Trees

The Complementary Currency Investment Policy

What is a Complementary Currency?

- **local or community currency**
- **nothing to be afraid of**
- **not illegal**
 - equivalent to US dollar
 - bear no resemblance to national currency
 - no denomination value < \$1
 - TEFRA (Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act) 1982
- **form of money**
 - not backed by national government
 - intended only to be exchanged in a local area

What is Money?

- **practical definition** (distinguishing feature)
 - anything that is accepted in payment
- **functional definition** (what money does)
 - medium of exchange
 - measure of value
 - store of value
- **essential definition** (what money is)
 - accounting or information system

“an information system we use to deploy human effort.”

—Michael Linton

So-and-so has a lot of money...



What is Wealth?

- **economic definition**
 - total assets minus total liabilities
- **other definition**
 - welfare measured by valued items in a given culture
 - individual, household, community, or country

My Wealth...

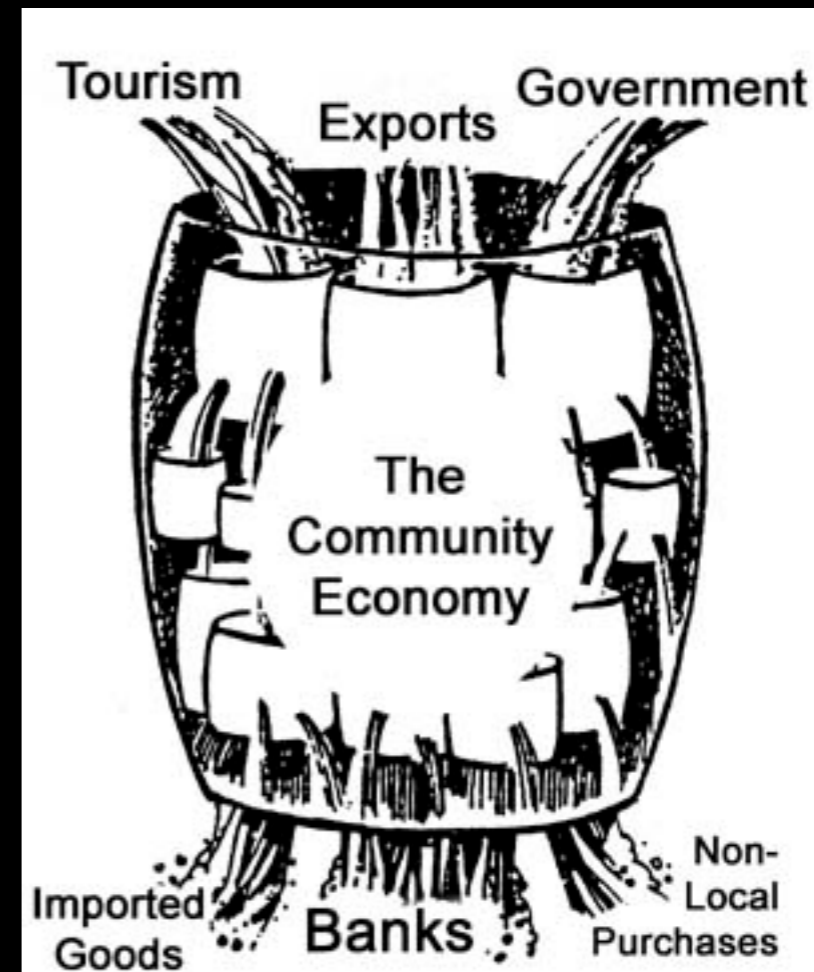


Problems With Money Structure

- **expensive**
- **private interests**
 - unmet social needs
 - concentrates power and wealth
- **depression and inflation cycles**
- **social and international conflict**

Impacts of Current Money Structure

- **local economies struggle**
 - non-local business chains
 - social deprivation
 - lack economic diversity



Creating Local Solutions

- keep money local
- promote buying from local vendors
- foster local production
- strengthen self-dependency
- encourage use of local resources
- ensure local laws and values
- make consumer aware of impact
- provide support for local labor
- distributes wealth more evenly
- makes small-scale production viable
- creates new jobs at home

Creating Non-local Solutions

- **active economy generates tax revenue**
- **reduce social security/welfare costs**
- **enhance savings opportunities for investment purposes**
- **hold domestic economy together in economic crisis**
 - macro level—scarcity
 - micro level—abundance

Policy Proposal

- **limited government allocated funds available annually**
 - research
 - efficiency
 - effects on community
 - *economic*
 - *social*
 - *political*
 - start-up costs
 - production
 - advertising
 - labor

Review

- **Complementary Currencies**
 - legal form of money
- Money \neq wealth
 - system of information and accounting
 - wealth concerns welfare
 - tangible or intangible
- Money Problems
 - affect welfare of communities
- Complementary Currencies
 - resolve local and non-local issues
 - need help

Thank you!