

## **The End of Suburbia – Film Review.**

Made in 2004, this documentary examines the American suburban way of life in the light of Peak Oil. At the time when the film was made, the commentators expressed their uncertainty over the exact timing of Peak Oil and explained that this would not be known for sure until after it had actually happened. Now, in 2008, we think we're just over the cusp and so I found it interesting to view this account in the knowledge that Peak Oil is now upon us, rather than being a scientific prediction. So, it was enlightening and rather alarming to compare some of the consequences of Peak Oil predicted in the film to what is actually starting to happen now.

I was surprised that the majority of the documentary concentrated on defining the problems of suburban living and oil dependency, rather than devoting a larger proportion of the film footage to possible, realistic solutions to the energy crisis. As a result, I fully understand Rob Hopkins' advice when he suggests, during his presentations on Transition Towns, that this film be viewed in groups of people and with sufficient opportunities to discuss the issues it raises. He believes the messages it contains are too alarming to be left as is, in the absence of some balancing, creative and positive ideas for realistic solutions and ways forward. If some, who may have viewed this documentary a few years ago, thought it alarmist then, then revisiting it now might reframe their beliefs in the light of the predicted consequences of Peak Oil which now seem to be actually taking place.

This is essential viewing, in my opinion, in order to raise awareness of our addiction to oil.

[www.endofsuburbia.com](http://www.endofsuburbia.com)

[www.transitiontowns.org](http://www.transitiontowns.org)

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