- Business as usual;
- Hitting the wall, acknowledging challenges, but business as usual;
- **Technology will save us; <<<<<<<<<<**
- Creating resilience.

The waterwheel

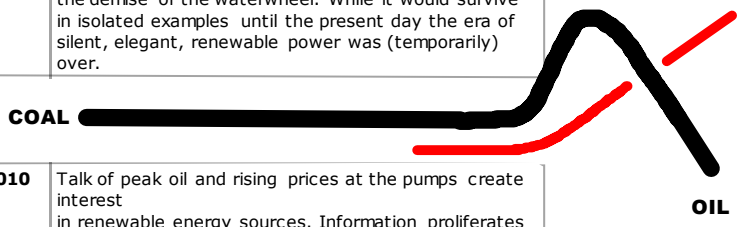
2009-Sep-Sat-26
11:54 a.m.

Stephen Lowe

? Technology got us into this mess, can we start using it intelligently to save us?

A brief history of the waterwheel

100 A.D.	The vertical waterwheel used for milling had become common. The Romans were hot on aquaducts and reticulation, bringing water to where they needed it for irrigation, power, drinking and bathing. There is historical and archaelogical evidence that they relied heavily on watermills to produce sufficient flour to feed the military and civilian population.
1200	The English landscape was defined by the watermills that can be seen in early landscape paintings, and many of which survive to the present day.
1750	The waterwheel started to evolve into the prime mover for the new industrial age.
1815	Improvements to the steam engine by Watt marked the demise of the waterwheel. While it would survive in isolated examples until the present day the era of silent, elegant, renewable power was (temporarily) over.
2010	Talk of peak oil and rising prices at the pumps create interest in renewable energy sources. Information proliferates and entrepreneurs get active. The waterwheel sees something of a revival.

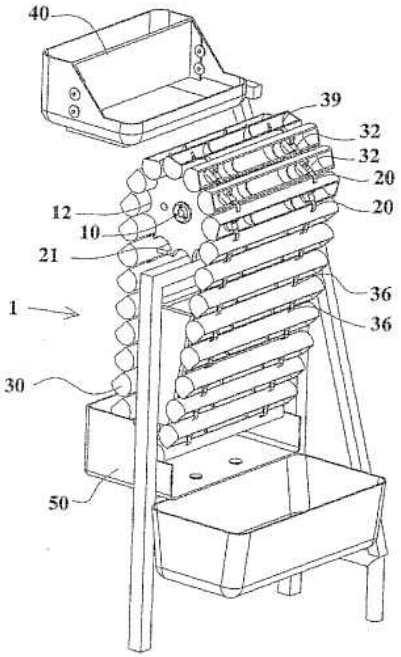


Now two approaches to the future emerge:

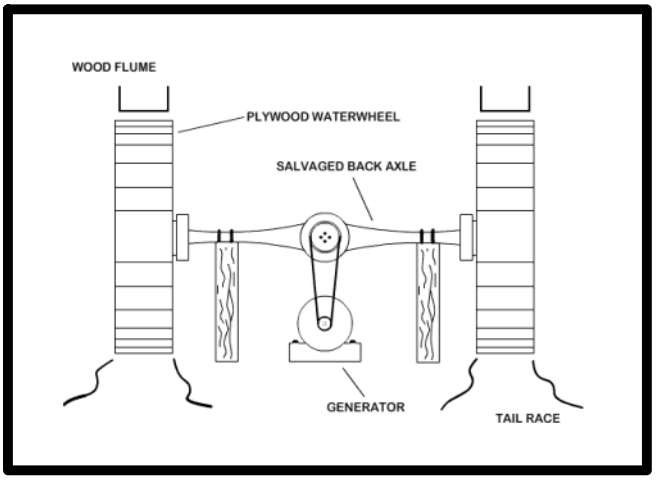
A. The ***innovation approach*** in which technological advances create a brave new world.
B. The ***post-apocalyptic approach*** in which we adapt discarded technology to aid survival.

INNOVATION APPROACH

Inventor(s): GILMARTIN JOHN GRAHAM [GB]
Applicant(s): BECK MICKLE HYDRO LTD [GB]; GILMARTIN JOHN GRAHAM [GB]



POST-APOCALYPTIC APPROACH



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