

The benefits of taking a Root Cause Analysis approach are:

- 1. Faster time to solution**, due to getting it right the first time by focusing on root causes and high leverage points.
- 2. Lower cost of solution**, since resolving root causes is much more efficient than attempting to resolve intermediate causes and because solutions that work become so much easier (and hence cheaper) to find.
- 3. Increased solution reliability**. This is the natural consequence of resolving root causes with solutions that work instead of attempting to resolve intermediate causes with superficial solutions that work temporarily, partially, or not at all.
- 4. Higher acceptance of your work**. The job of selling your research proposals to funders and your solutions to institutions (including government) becomes much easier because you can prove a solution set (or proposal) has a high probability of working since it resolves clearly identified root causes and is (or will be) backed up by rigorous analysis, a model, and testing of all key assumptions.
- 5. Better cooperation**. Satisfying stakeholders, building coalitions, and gaining support becomes much easier because overcoming change resistance is built into the process.

Thwink.org is an educationally rich resource:

TOOLS - We offer one main working tool: the System Improvement Process. This incorporates a host of smaller tools, concepts, principles, and definitions. The System Improvement Process is a *generic* wrapper for Root Cause Analysis. This allows Root Cause Analysis to be routinely applied to difficult large-scale social problems *of any kind*, not just the sustainability problem.

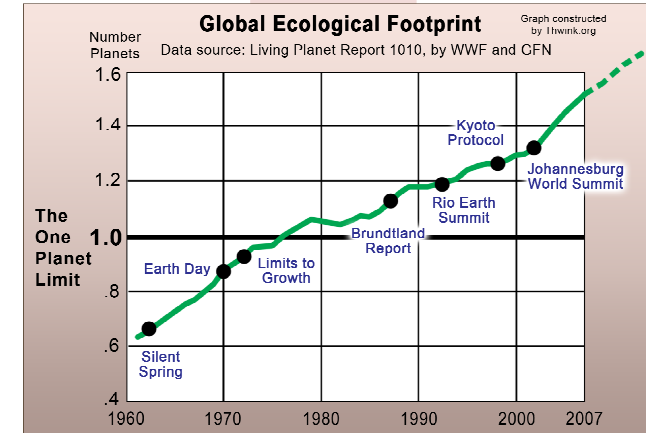
A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS - If you're taking a broad, deep approach and wish to base your work on Root Cause Analysis, then dive into our analysis. There you will find subproblems, root causes, high leverage points, simulation models, and all sorts of insights that can give you entirely new and potentially more correct ideas. These can be used as a starting point for your own analysis, which can save considerable time.

SAMPLE SOLUTION ELEMENTS - If you're tired of solutions that don't work or want to research some of the latest leading edge ideas for solutions that are much more likely to work, then explore our 12 sample solution elements. This is what it takes to resolve the 4 root causes found in the Root Cause Analysis.

Thwink.org is a non-profit "thwink tank." Our goal is to help you solve the sustainability problem using the most effective methods available. All the above resources are freely available on the Thwink.org website. For questions, discussion, training, and assistance please contact us.



The Evidence Is Irrefutable.



Despite over forty years of prodigious effort, problem solvers have failed to solve the sustainability problem.

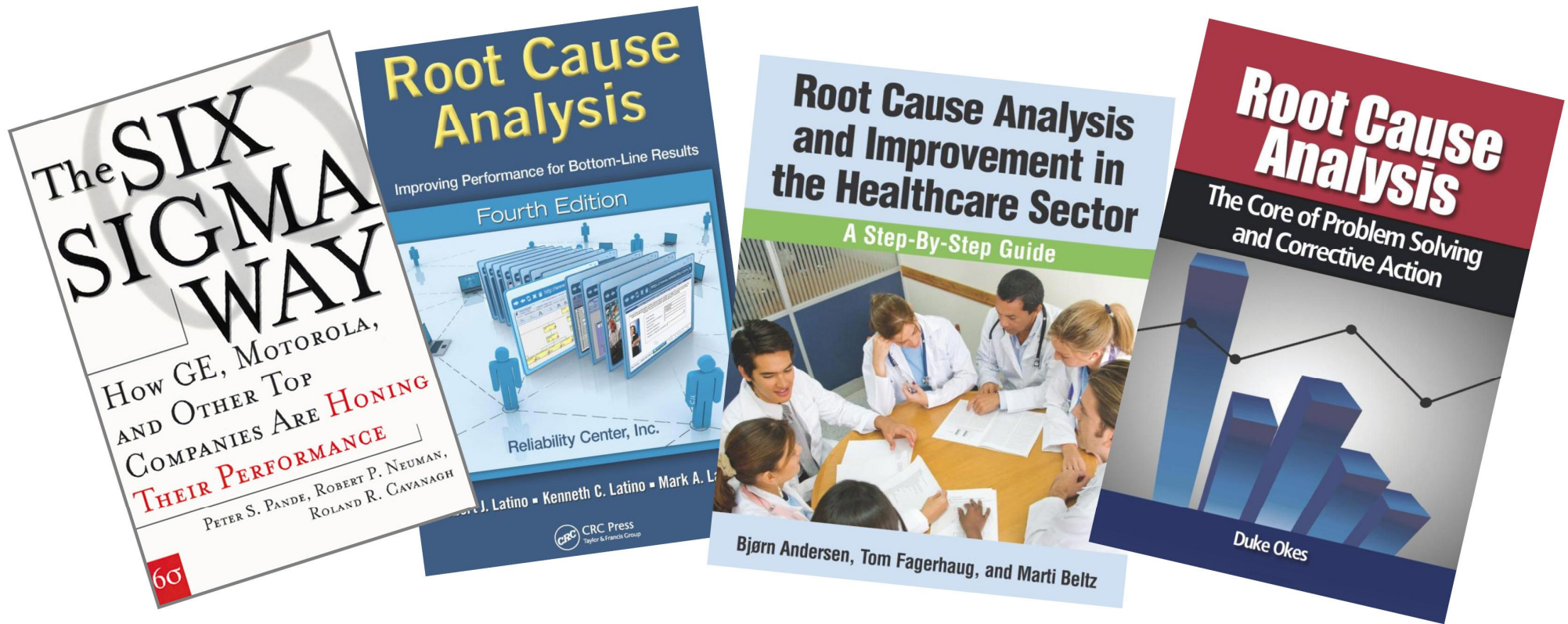
Why is this?

Because popular solutions do not resolve root causes.

So what can we do?

We can try Root Cause Analysis.

If it works on business problems then it can work on the sustainability problem.



The evidence Root Cause Analysis works is overwhelming. Vast swaths of the manufacturing and service sectors have adopted Root Cause Analysis as if their life depended on it—which it does, given the competitive nature of so many markets. Processes like Six Sigma, Total Quality Management, Kaizen, and the ISO 9000 family of standards incorporate the concept.

Root Cause Analysis will work on the sustainability problem because it's worked on millions of other problems and because our preliminary analysis shows the sustainability problem appears to have root causes that can be resolved. In other words the sustainability problem, once correctly analyzed, is not that much different from other problems that have been solved.

What we've done at Thwink.org is adapt the tool of Root Cause Analysis to large-scale social system problems by wrapping it in the System Improvement Process. Once problem solvers begin using this approach and perfect it they will enjoy the same results industry has long achieved, because **all problems arise from their root causes.**