

Introduction #1

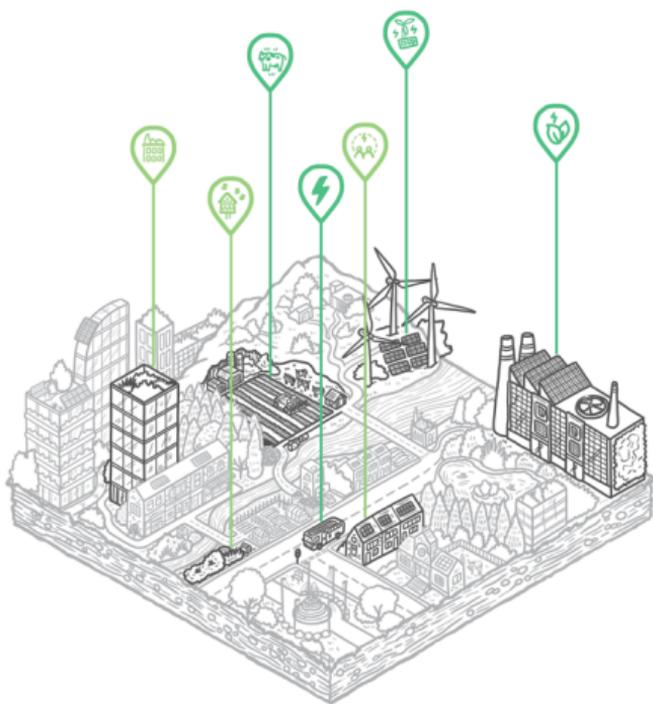
Ecological Citizen(s) Preferable Futures Deck

The deck was developed by the Ecological Citizen(s) Network+ team, from perspectives in and for the United Kingdom. The network unites diverse groups through accessible technology and community centred approaches.

It is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council in the United Kingdom (EP/W020610/1).

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Introduction #2

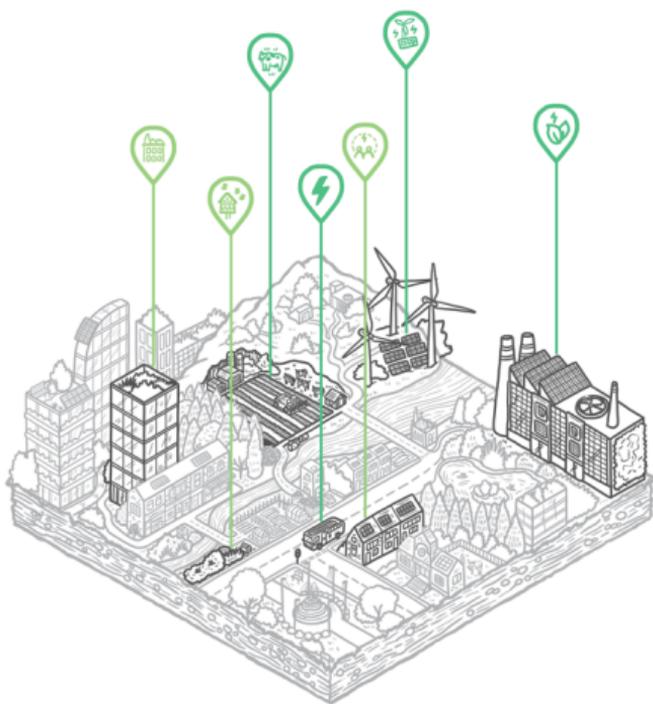
Ecological Citizen(s) Preferable Futures Deck

This deck aims to **empower, foster collaboration, and inspire action toward a sustainable future.** The deck provides a process to **explore possibilities and turn them into action.** 'We' and 'you' is used as an invitation to take part and be involved.

We hope this deck inspires you to take bold actions, and shape interventions that turn dreams into reality.

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#3

The Vision

We are citizens of planet earth, sharing breaths, sustenance and fate with countless beings. Ecological Citizenship concerns actively nurturing and protecting our environment and communities in recognition of our relationship to the natural world. We recognise our interdependent relationship with the planet, and its inherent value beyond its usefulness to humans. This shared existence calls for collective action for a preferable future.

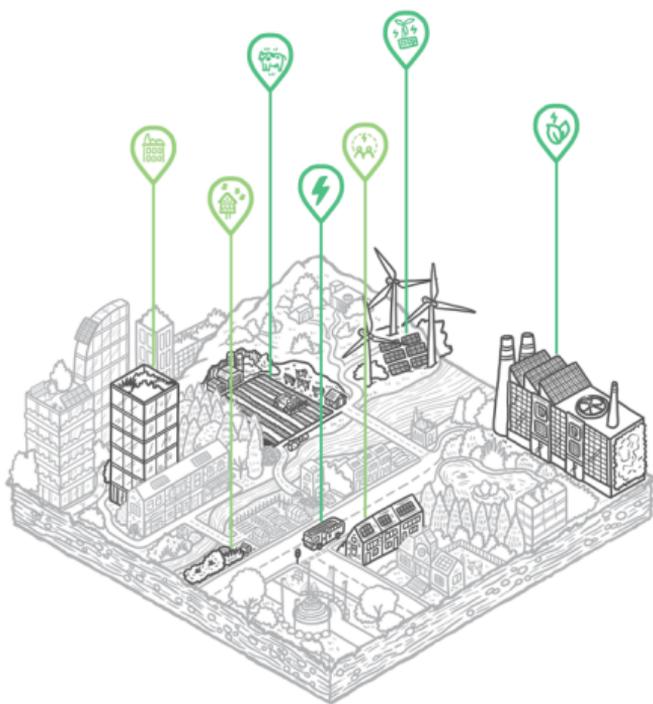
We acknowledge the present responsibility to mend broken ecosystems, foster sustainable practices, and create a world where all beings can flourish. This requires imagination, courage, and collaboration. Let's weave a future together where ecological responsibility is not a burden, but a shared act of love and respect for living and dying on this planet.

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#4

How do you use this toolkit?

The deck is created for collaborative action. The cards and categories:

Mindsets cards are written as 'we' to invite you as a team. They describe qualities you might want to bring to your work based on your beliefs.

Approaches cards point to action. Describing some potential approaches to take, in general terms.

Considerations cards help critically explore work.

The Archetypes are written as 'we' to invite you as a team. They describe aims beyond the original theme, issue or question.

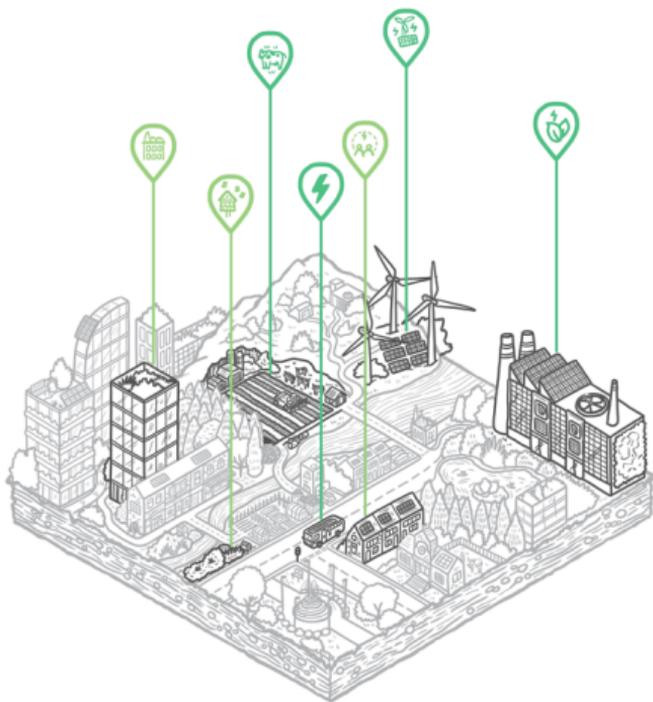
The Plan cards are partially blank for expressing your team's collective plan for the project you're developing.

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Introduction #5

Where are you starting from?

Here are some questions to get started with the deck:

What do you care about?

What do you want to tackle?

What do you have?

What do you need?

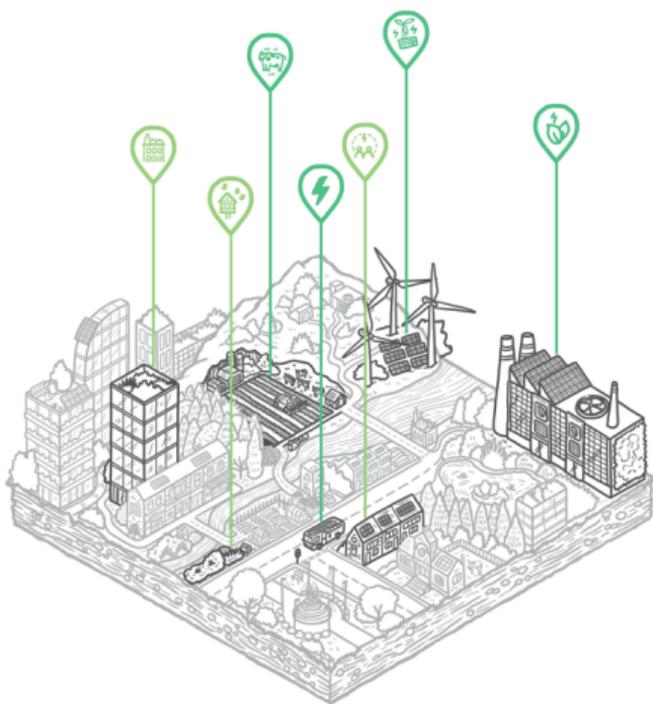
What do you hope for?

What does success look like to you?

Consider answering them individually and/or navigate them as a team. Take time to collectively imagine the end of your successful project: What would your home life be, what has changed in your neighbourhood, village, town, city, country, and on a planetary scale? Three years from now?

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#6

Cyclical and Reflective Approach

Creating a project proposal is not a destination but an **evolving process**. This deck supports a cyclical process to define propositions, activities, or interventions for **positive sustainable action**.

Consider using the deck to **critically assess initial ideas**. Be generous in your discussions, **listen and build together**. Think about how documenting your process can support your work by recording your journey and progress. Consider scheduling follow-up deck sessions throughout the project.

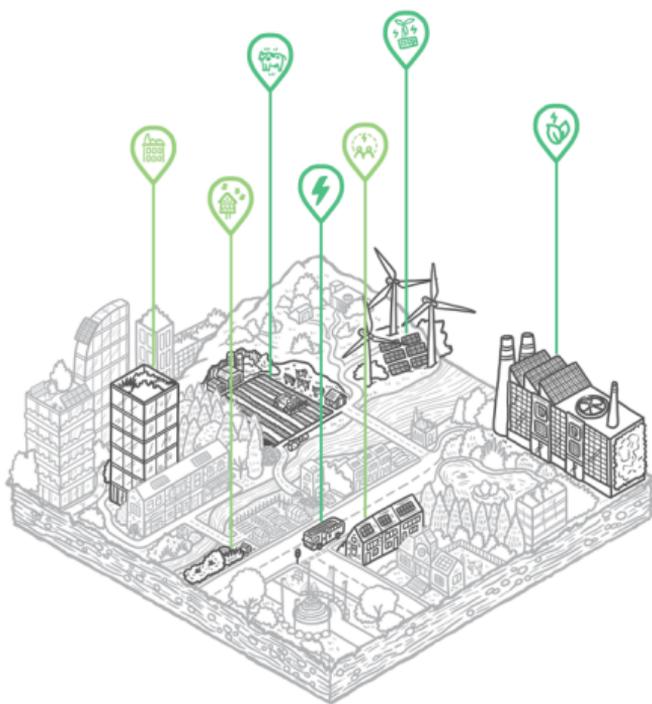
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Introduction

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EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]



EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]

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Introduction

Introduction

#7

Core Values

These values are critical to consider for all Ecological Citizenship initiatives.

The power to take action

Ecological Citizenship is about finding the power to take action, amplifying and supporting those around us to feel motivated to act.

Doing 'stuff' together

We believe in working together as citizens, mutually benefiting living beings, ecosystems and the planet.

Ecological positive action

We believe human and planetary wellbeing are intertwined. We prioritise actions that restore, rebuild our ecosystems, communities and the planet.

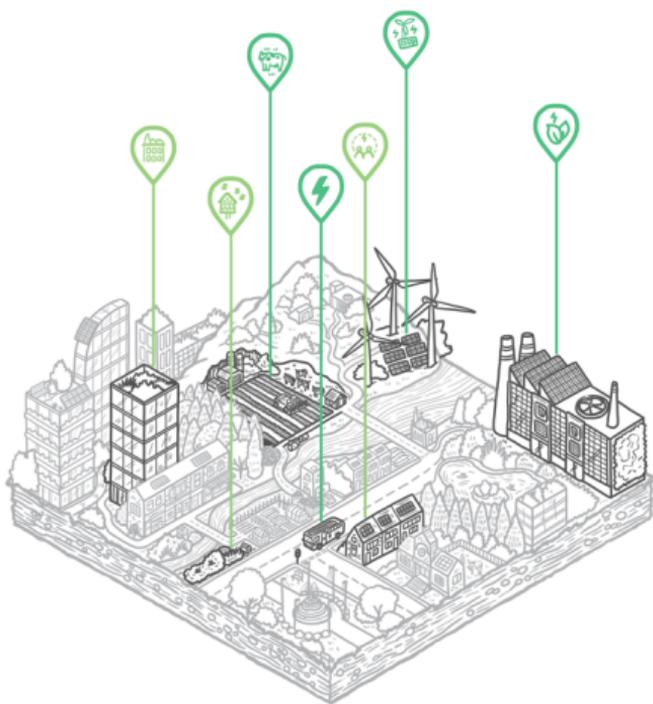
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Introduction

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EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]



EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]

Introduction
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Mindset

#8

Openness and Accountability

We acknowledge the **urgency and complexity** of the bigger picture and our position within it as change-makers in our areas of interest/expertise. We are implicated in the work we do as active agents rather than outsiders.

We aim to **foster trust and understanding** through our openly communicated decision-making process. We are committed to our work and doing the best we can and are **accountable for the things we do and don't do**.

**Accountability
and
Openness**

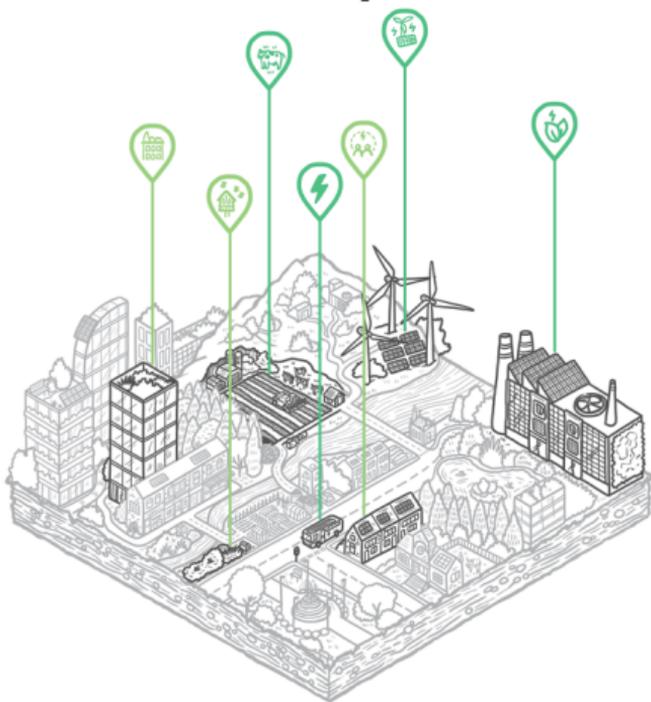
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Mindset

Mindset

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Openness and Accountability



**Openness and
Accountability**



**Mindset
8**

Mindset

#9

**Accessible, Considerate
and Inclusive**

We are **sensitive to the people, environment and context** we work within. We see our collaborators as experts in their fields and through their lived experience.

We **listen deeply, with open hearts and minds**. This includes an awareness of potential impacts to other beings and ecosystems.

We are **committed to inclusive and accessible processes and outcomes**.

**Accessible, Considerate
and Inclusive**

#9

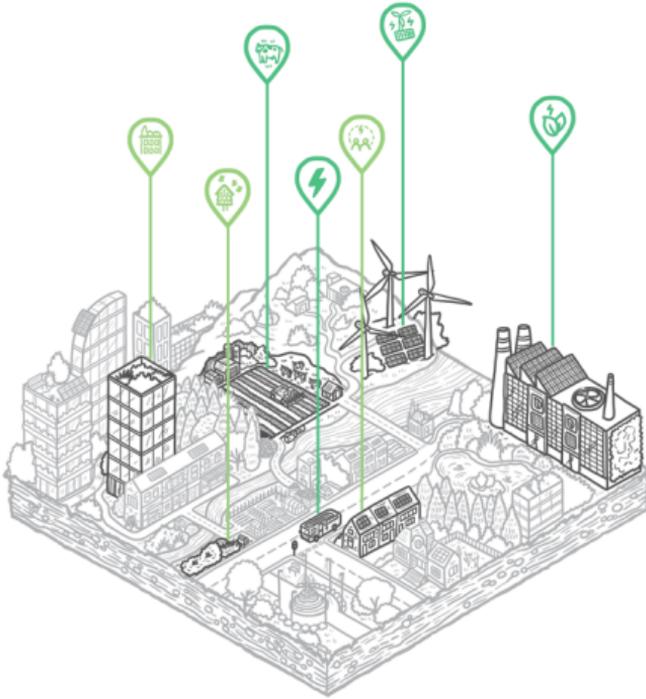
Mindset

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**Accessible, Considerate
and Inclusive**



**Accessible, Considerate
and Inclusive**



**Mindset
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Mindset

#10

Creating Stories of Hope and Positivity

We inspire positive change by creating empowering **hopeful narratives**. We focus on encouraging positive change rather than placing blame.

We **acknowledge the grief and pain** connected to the eco-emergency and create space and time to respect and reflect on this.

We foster an **optimistic outlook** through constructive action and collective equitable progress by accepting all our feelings connected to our ecological future.

Creating Stories of Hope and Positivity

#10

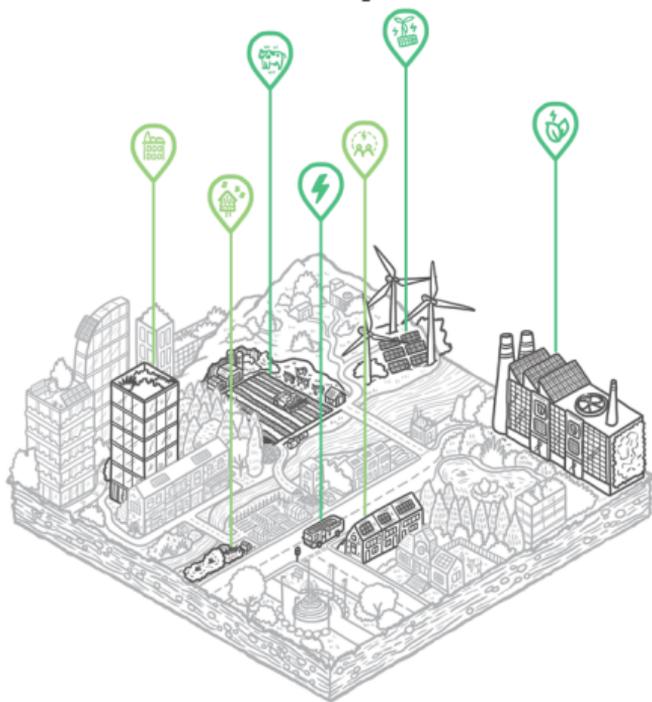
Mindset

Mindset

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Creating Stories of Hope and Positivity



Creating Stories of Hope and Positivity



Mindset # 10

Mindset

#11

Appropriate and Curious

We approach our work with curiosity and ground it in place, communities and contextual understanding. Our projects, initiatives or ideas are **based on real-world needs, local expertise, and scientific evidence**. We are adaptable and open to experimentation.

Curious

Appropriate and

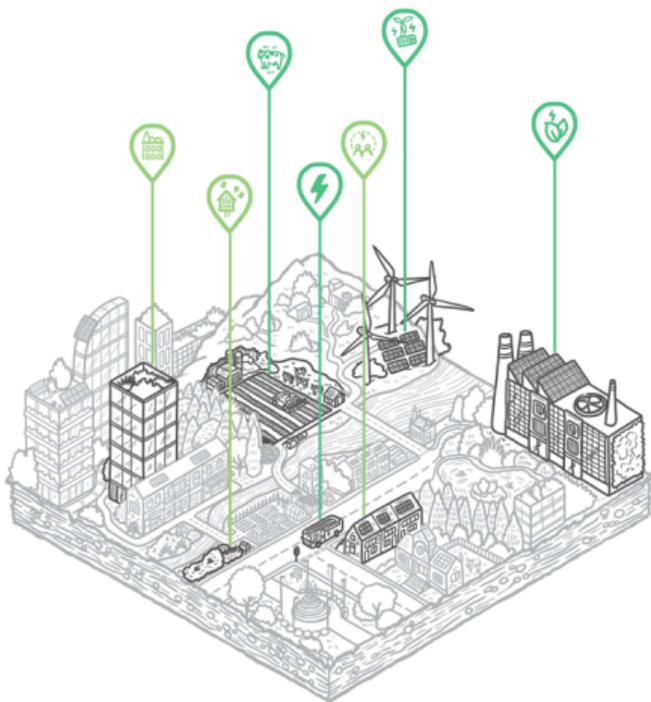
Mindset

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Appropriate and Curious



Appropriate and Curious



Mindset
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Mindset

#12

Collaborative Creation

We work as facilitators, rather than experts, by actively inviting citizens to shape the things we do together through a **co-creation** process when designing projects.

Through **community collaboration** we create lasting impact beyond the activities proposed. We embrace the principle of '**nothing for us without us**'. We propose activities with clear boundaries, expectations and accountability for all involved, for mutual benefit and knowledge sharing.

Collaborative Creation

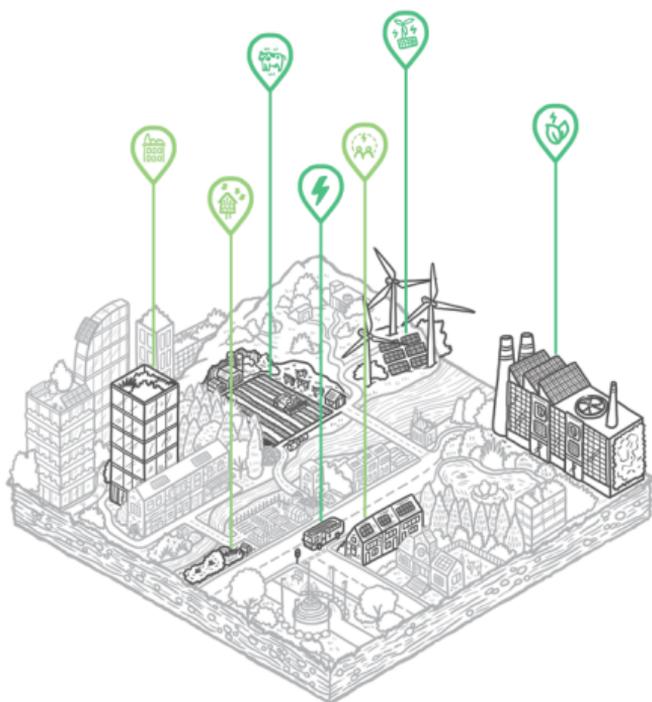
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Collaborative Creation



Collaborative Creation



Mindset
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Mindset

#13

Think in Connections

We carefully consider the relational aspects of our work. We examine the relationships between different elements and their **impact across people, communities, species, ecosystems and planet.**

We recognise that we as a group are not made up of separate individuals nor separate from our environment.

Think in Connections

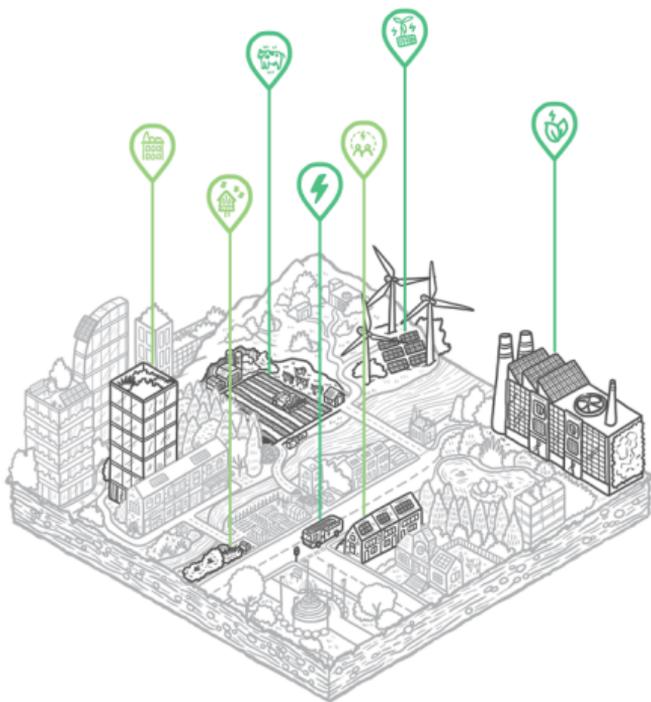
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Think in Connections



Think in Connections



Mindset
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Mindset

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Leaving a Lasting Legacy

We **consider the legacy of the project** from conception to beyond the end of the project. By **involving communities (humans and nonhumans) from the start**, we build lasting change through shared learning and responsibility.

We **track progress together** to make the project self-sustaining and contribute to a positive future for people and other beings.

Legacy

Leaving a Lasting

#14

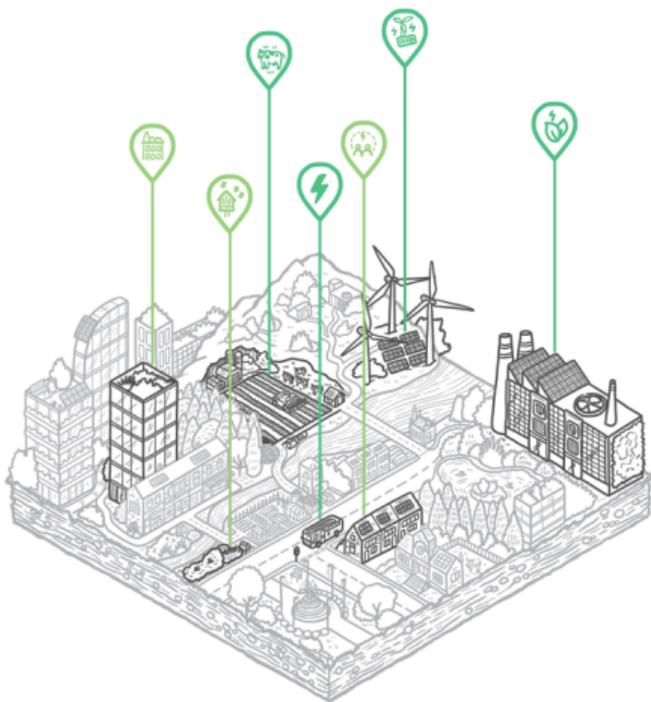
Mindset

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Leaving a Lasting Legacy



Leaving a Lasting Legacy



Mindset
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Approaches

#15

Local Innovation Hubs

WHAT: Community initiatives for making like living labs, fab labs, maker spaces.

HOW: Prototype, build and test ideas, models and interventions, develop innovations and businesses in local innovation hubs.

WHY: Access to technology, tools and expertise within a community of makers and doers.

Local Innovation Hubs

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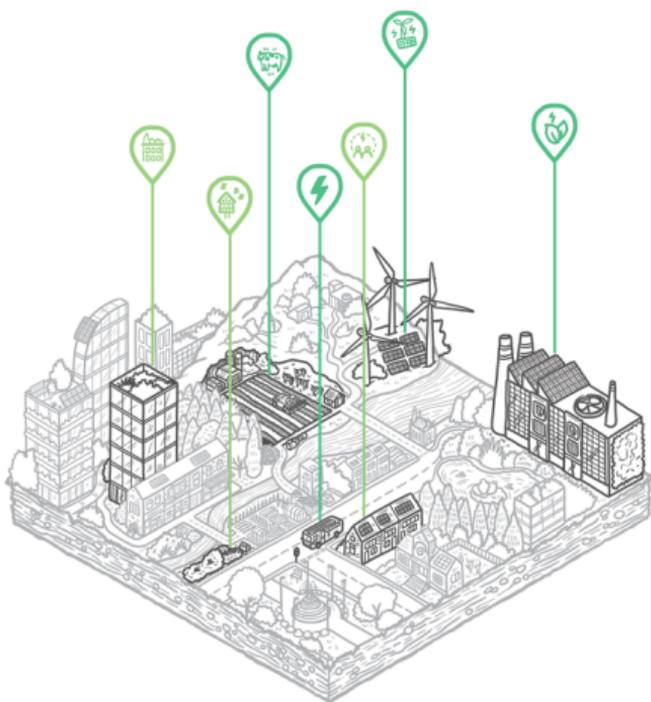
Approaches

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Local Innovation Hubs



Local Innovation Hubs



Approaches
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Approaches

#16

**Training for
Ecological Citizen(s)**

WHAT: Learning resources for Ecological Citizenship for all ages and abilities.

HOW: Work with educators to develop resources that embrace intergenerational, traditional and non-traditional methods in and out of classrooms.

WHY: Ecological Citizen literacy is not limited to age groups or abilities, but is open to all.

**Ecological Citizen(s)
Training for**

#16

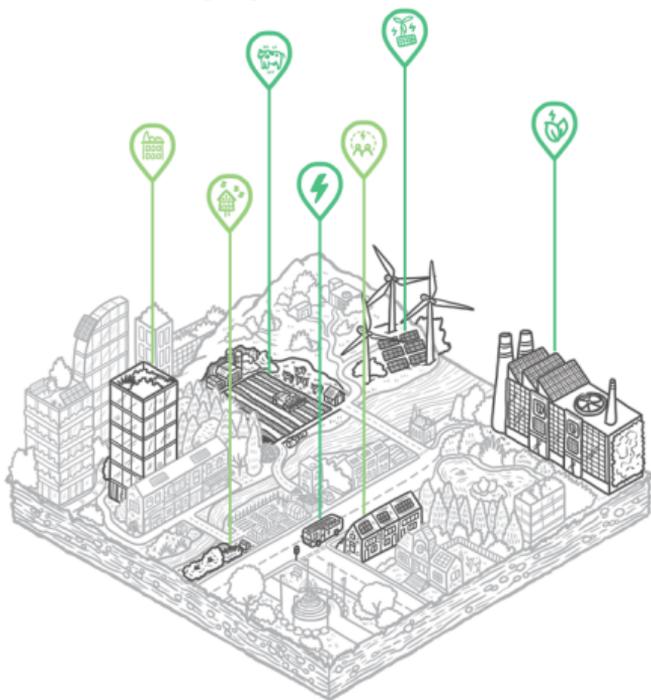
Approaches

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Training for Ecological Citizen(s)



Training for Ecological Citizen(s)



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Approaches # 17 **Wilding and Rewilding**

WHAT: Initiatives that restore natural habitats and ecosystems. Work with respect for the environment of a place and the local community.

HOW: Allowing nature to dictate its course, rather than engineering solutions for recovery. Sometimes this requires active interventions and other times it means taking a step back.

WHY: Support flourishing for landscapes, environments, nonhumans and humans.

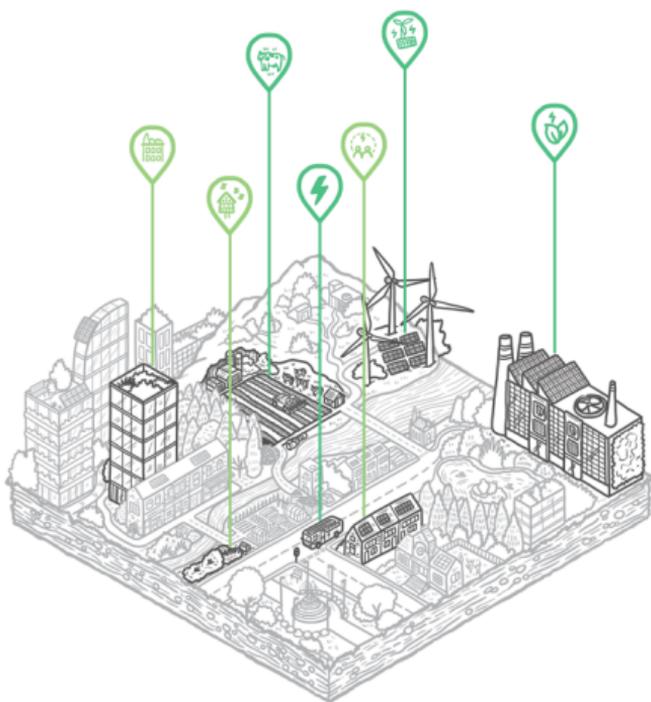
Approaches #17
Wilding and Rewilding

Approaches

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Wilding and Rewilding



Wilding and Rewilding



Approaches
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Approaches

#18

Close the Loop

WHAT: A circular model of production where nothing goes to waste.

HOW: Examine current processes, manufacturing and waste streams. Explore how to reuse, reclaim and minimise waste to close the loop.

WHY: The planet contains a finite amount of resources.

Close the Loop

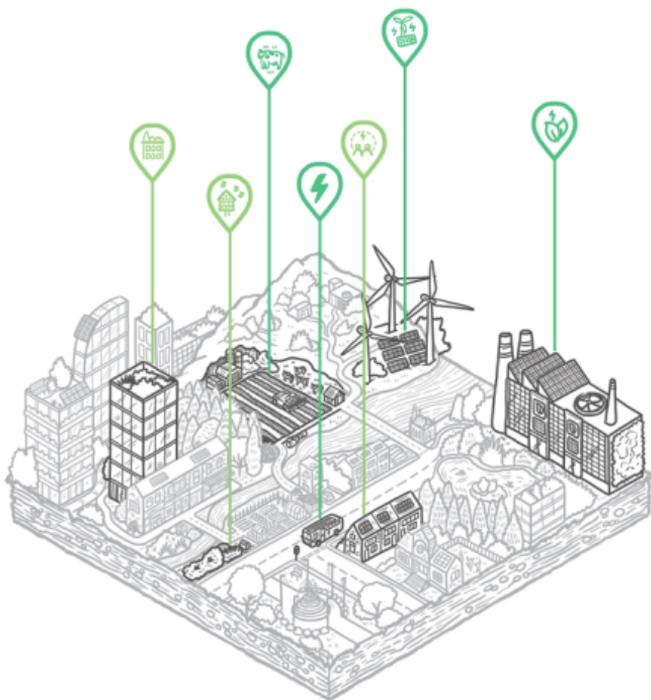
Approaches

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Close the Loop



Close the Loop



Approaches
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Approaches #19 Collaborative Science

WHAT: Scientific approaches that involve collaboration with communities for a research aim, like citizen science and community science.

HOW: Facilitate citizen groups to investigate, gather, and examine research data. Consider how the participants are involved and how they benefit from the work.

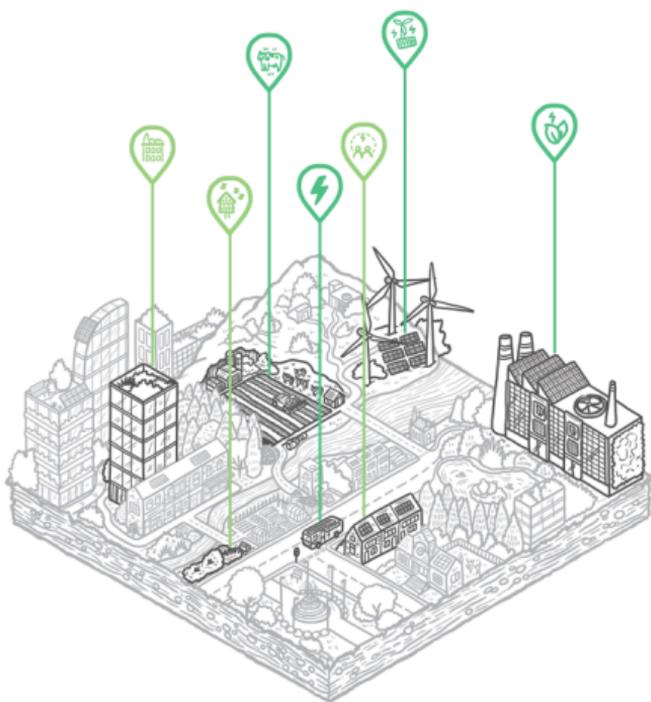
WHY: Active participation leads to mutual benefits between citizens, place and data.

Approaches #19
Collaborative Science

Approaches

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Collaborative Science



Collaborative Science



Approaches
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Approaches

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Resource(s) Audit

WHAT: Understand the material composition of a place. Recover and repurpose materials from industry and urban environments, prioritising local resources first.

HOW: Develop systems for material retrieval and redistribution, focusing on local networks to collect and repurpose materials efficiently.

WHY: Lessen the burden on the planet by reclaiming existing materials. Emphasising local resources reduces transportation impacts and supports the local economy.

Resource(s) Audit

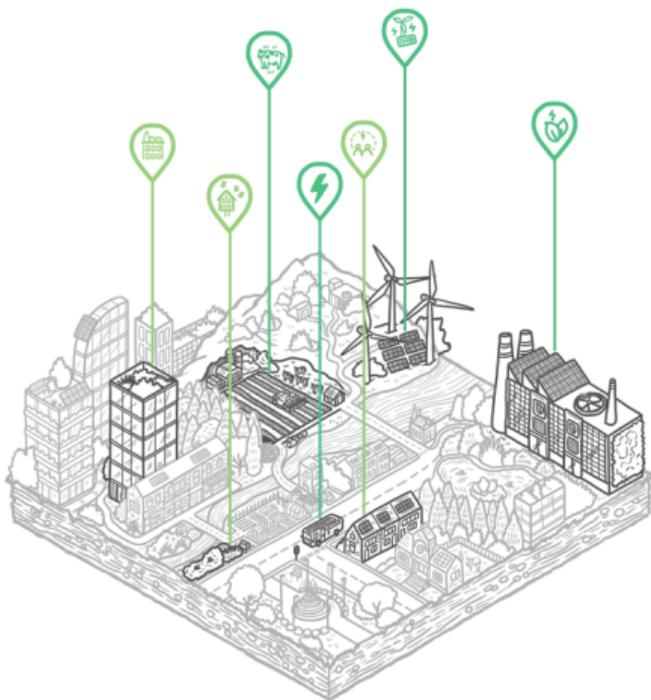
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Approaches

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Resource(s) Audit



Resource(s) Audit



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Approaches

#21

Ecological Justice

WHAT: Expanding justice work to include diverse ecosystems, species and ecologies in addition to humans.

HOW: Advocating for the rights of more than humans through policy shifts, raising awareness and public understanding. Collaborate with existing sustainable organisations and promote a just sustainable practice.

WHY: Raising awareness and public understanding to transition to a sustainable and equitable future for all.

Ecological Justice

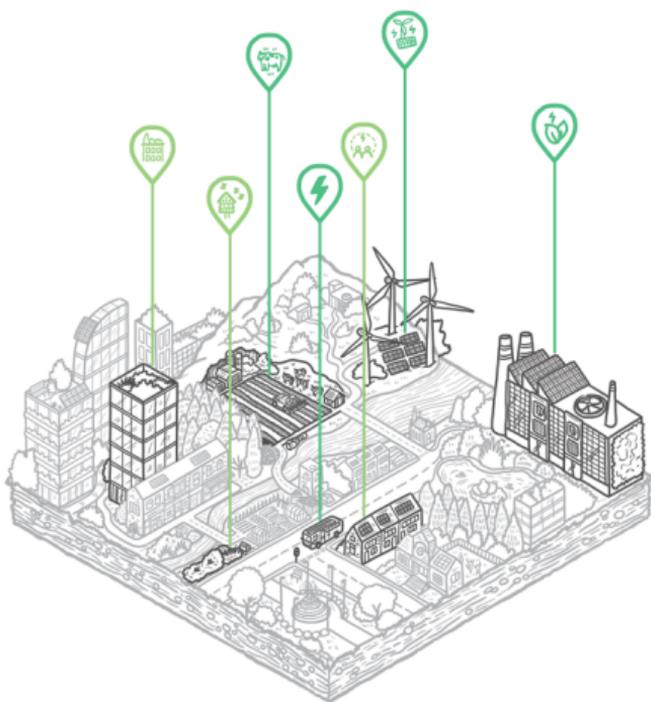
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Approaches

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Ecological Justice



Ecological Justice



Approaches
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Approaches

#22

From Place to Places

WHAT: From hyper-local approaches concerned with the distinct characteristic of a locale to approaches that scale and move across cultures and locations.

HOW: Work with local resources, communities and landscapes. What is essential, and how can this be found or created elsewhere? Consider if activities and interventions can scale and translate.

WHY: Resourcefulness of working within a place, respecting the heritage, natural history, culture and resources of a place, developing approaches that connect local to global.

From Place to Places

#22

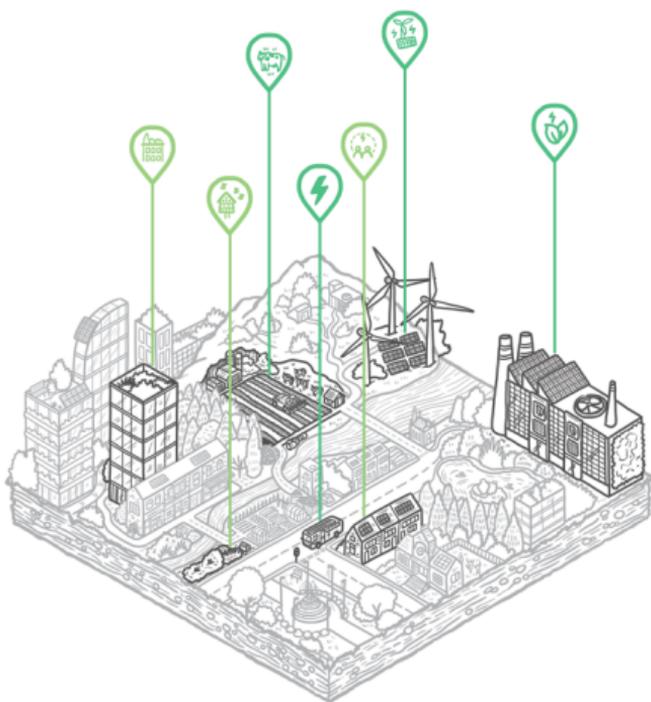
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From Place to Places



From Place to Places



Approaches

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Approaches

#23

Community Ownership

WHAT: Community controlled and owned assets or organisations, like cooperatives.

HOW: Working closely with a community as a facilitator to develop a shared vision and plan. Identify potential assets. Grow community trust and cohesion, and develop structures and systems together.

WHY: Collective autonomy for the community, connection and cohesion built on mutual benefit.

Community Ownership

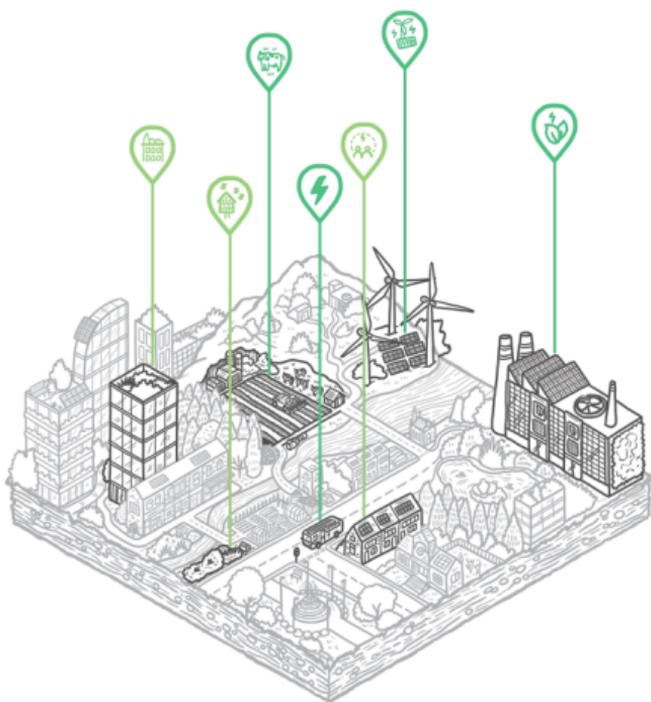
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Approaches

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Community Ownership



Community Ownership



Approaches
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Open Design

WHAT: Sharing designs, processes, source code and solutions for others to adopt and build on.

HOW: Make accessible plans and instructions through detailed documentation. Share plans generously.

WHY: Foster an open and collaborative environment. Collectively build on each other's ideas and work generatively.

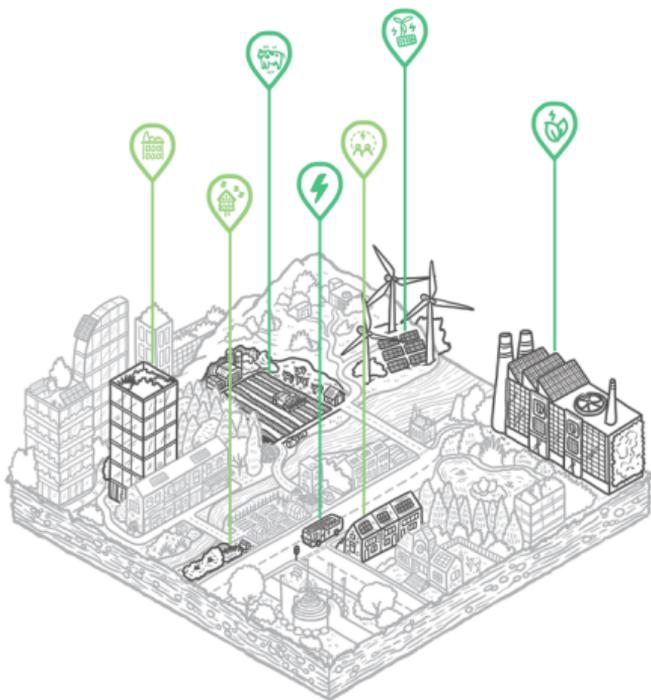
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Approaches
Open Design

Approaches

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Open Design



Open Design

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Approaches



Approaches

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Emerging Economic Models

WHAT: Alternative economic models and structures that prioritise concepts such as the commons, and values like social capital over growth and profit.

HOW: Implementing a multi-level approach encompassing individuals, communities, policy, and education. Emerging models include caring, digital, local, repair and circular economies.

WHY: To foster a shift towards a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive economic future.

Models

Emerging Economic

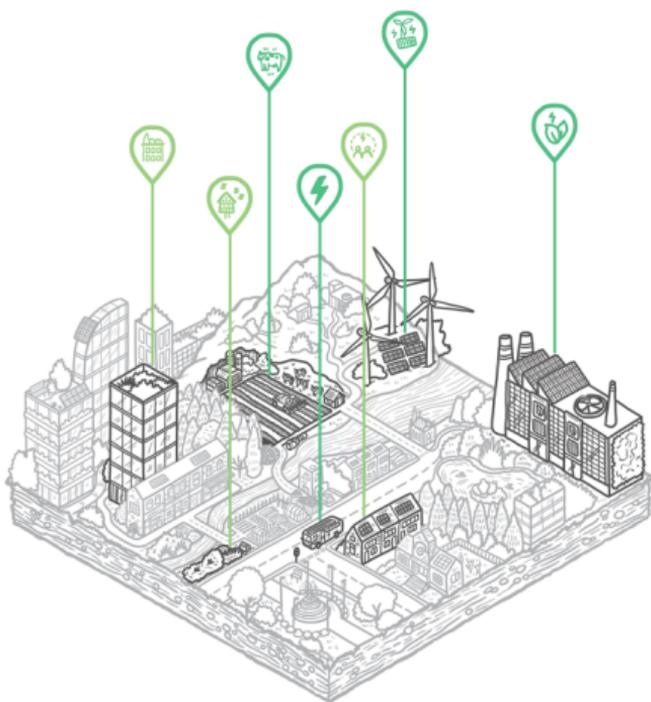
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Approaches

Approaches

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Emerging Economic Models



Emerging Economic Models



Approaches
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Approaches

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Engaged Citizens

WHAT: Engagement mechanisms and platforms that enable citizens to access various civic and public activities.

HOW: Creating spaces that encourage and actively support intergenerational, intercultural, and cross-society voices, such as citizens assemblies.

WHY: Build collective autonomy where people have an active voice in the matters concerning their lives.

Engaged Citizens

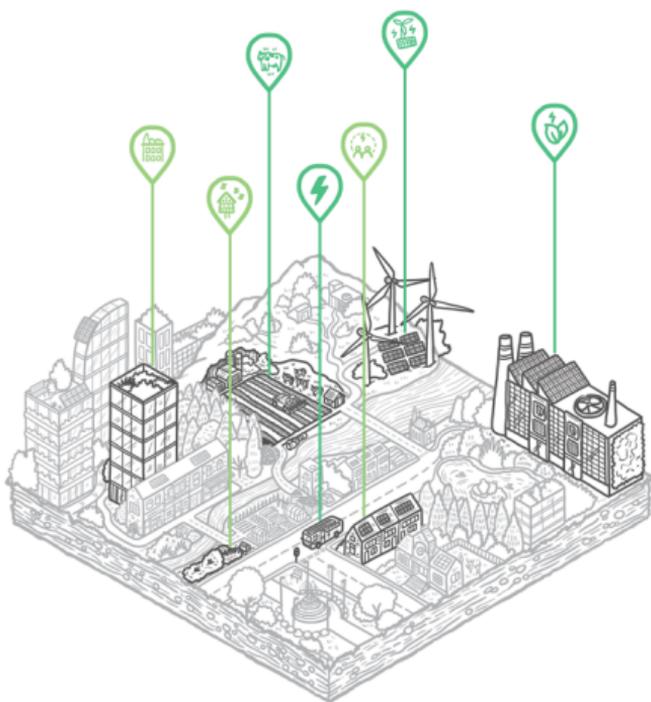
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Approaches

Approaches

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Engaged Citizens



Engaged Citizens



Approaches
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Approaches

#27

Healing and Restoration

WHAT: Addressing social and emotional dimensions of transition work.

HOW: Acknowledge and engage with emotions connected to the challenge we and future generations face. Creating spaces that build trust and allow for vulnerability (human and nonhuman) to be expressed, shared, listened-to and acted on.

WHY: Communicate and act with enhanced compassion, generosity and care.

Approaches
Healing and
Restoration

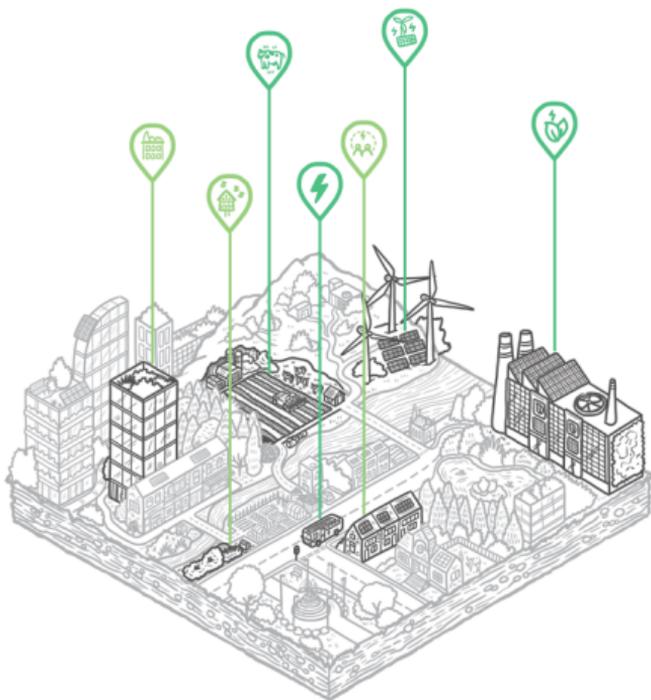
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Approaches

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Healing and Restoration



Healing and Restoration



Approaches
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Approaches

#28

Spark Change

WHAT: Strategically addressing critical elements within a system instead of focusing on the system as a whole to initiate a positive chain reaction.

HOW: By identifying the underlying values and assumptions that shape the systems related to your work, you can pinpoint opportunities for strategic interventions aimed at shifting these foundational elements.

WHY: Cause a ripple effect by generating a wider, deeper impact than the work itself. Targeted efforts help foster change and influence the broader system positively.

Spark Change

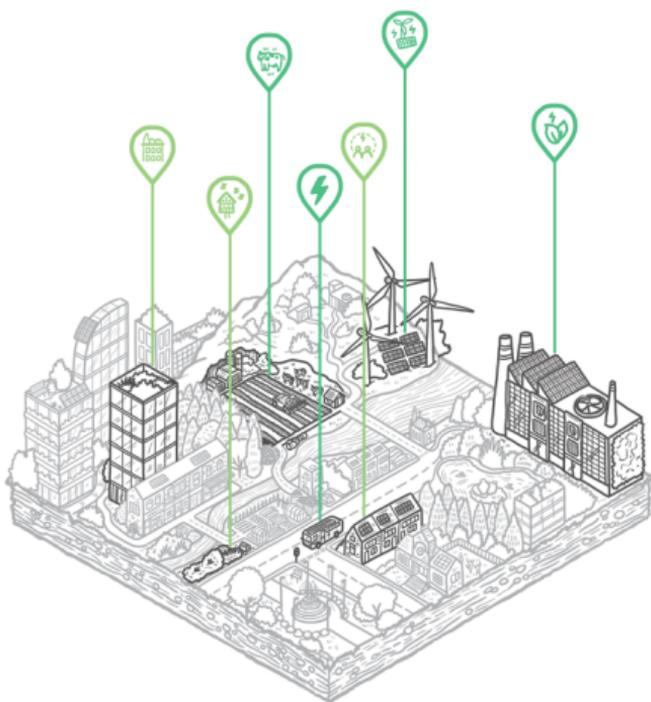
Approaches

#28

Approaches

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Spark Change



Spark Change

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Approaches



Approaches

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Clear Governance Models

WHAT: Establishing an overarching governance model for accountability, such as informal conversations or advisory boards.

HOW: Identify external critical friends. Sense check the things you are doing and the decisions you are making with them, and welcome feedback.

WHY: Be accountable for your work through an independent group that prioritises the collective interest of all involved including wider ecosystems.

Models

Clear Governance

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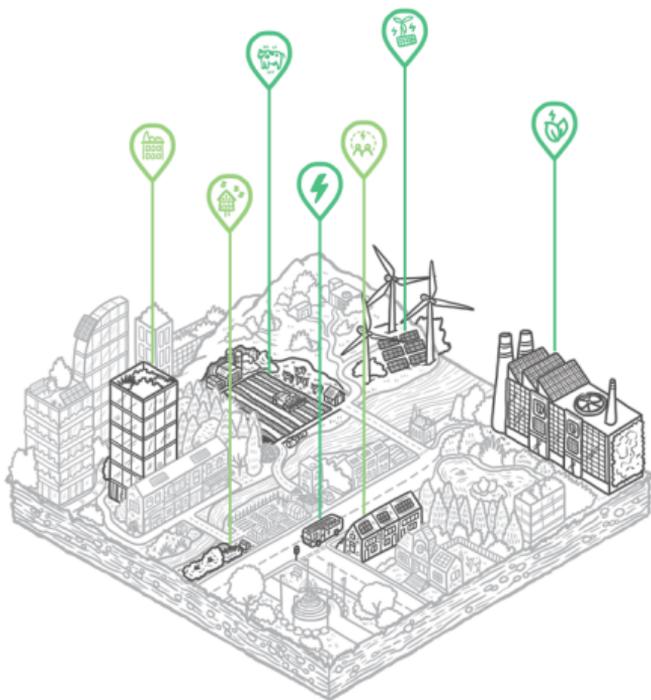
Approaches

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Clear Governance Models



Clear Governance Models



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Approaches

Archetypes

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Creative Activist

By presenting creative and viable alternatives to current unsustainable practices they are able to **influence policy at both local and global levels** through their evidence collection, advocacy and commitment to consciously living lightly on this earth.

Creative Activist

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Archetypes

Archetypes

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EC^[s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]



EC^[s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]

Archetypes
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Archetypes

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Restorative Naturalist

By **working with nature** to minimise the disruption of existing ecosystems, they considerately integrate natural elements and hands-off approaches where appropriate in their work. Through this they are able to **support the recovery of degraded or destroyed ecosystems** and encourage flourishing regeneration.

Restorative Naturalist

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Archetypes

Archetypes

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EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]



EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]

Archetypes
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Archetypes

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Lifelong Learner

They are members of a vibrant community of life-long learners through action and experimentation.

Inspired by their sense of curiosity, they are **dedicated to continuous learning**, sharing, testing and adapting their ideas. They embody a dynamic collective that evolves, grows and develops together.

Lifelong Learner

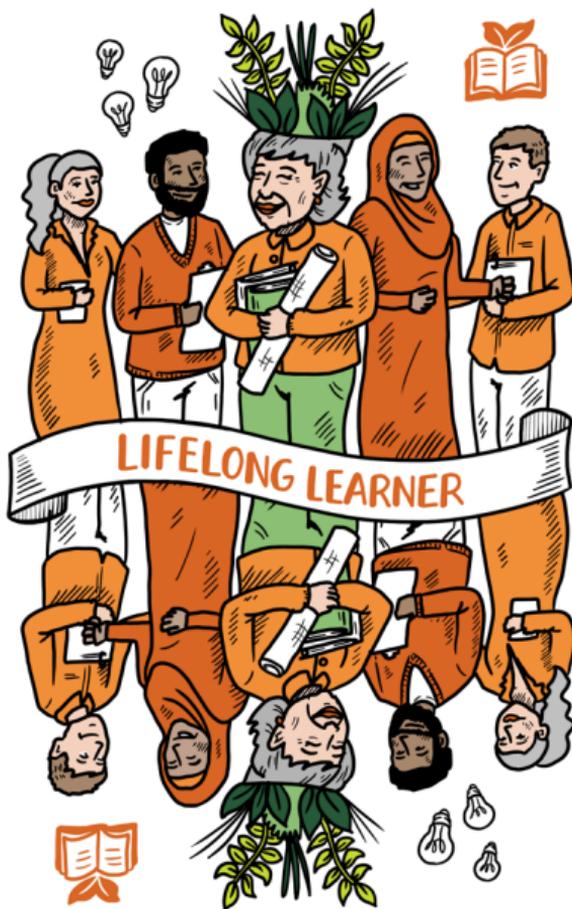
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Archetypes

Archetypes

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EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]



EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]

Archetypes
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Archetypes

#33

Community Economist

Inspired by the core values of Ecological Citizenship, they **actively explore alternative economic models** that prioritise the collective community (human and nonhuman) over traditional economic values and challenge individualistic and profit-driven motivations.

Community Economist

#33

Archetypes

Archetypes

33

EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]



EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]

Archetypes
33

Archetypes

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System Connector

As inclusivity champions, they **prioritise mutual respect between all inhabitants** (human and nonhuman) and natural habitats with their ability to witness the interconnectedness of everything. With a focus on systems, rhythms and flows, they are able to recognise and communicate connections, respect similarities / differences and enable action.

System Connector

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Archetypes

Archetypes

34

EC[s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]



EC[s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]

Archetypes
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Archetypes

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Responsible Materialist

Committed to **living lightly on this earth**, they reduce their impact by minimising the use and extraction of new/virgin materials by reusing existing resources and exploring sustainable alternatives. They are resourceful, creative, practical and conscientious in the decisions they make.

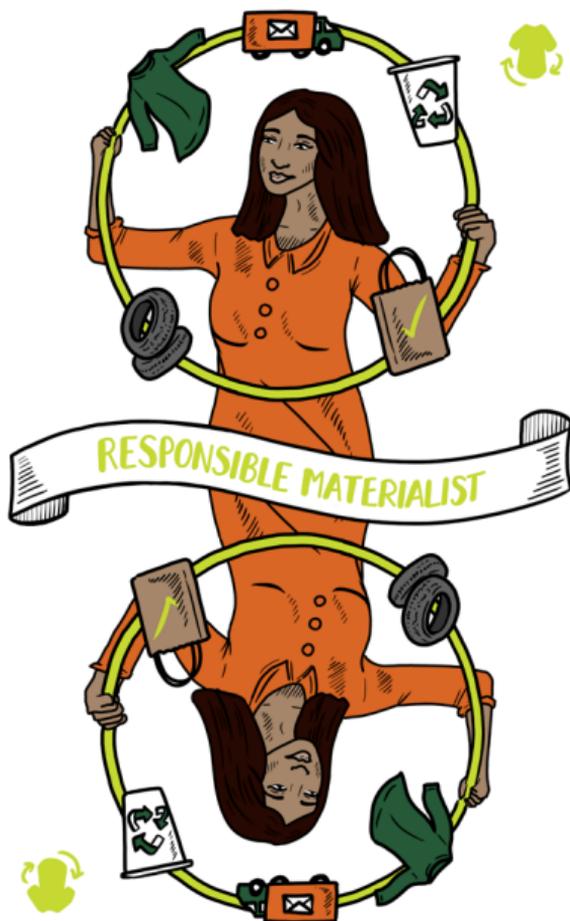
Archetypes
Responsible
Materialist

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Archetypes

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EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]



EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]

Archetypes
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Archetypes

#36

Nurturing Caretaker

By transitioning their role from owners to caretakers, the work they do nurtures and safeguards the resources they use. This minimises negative impacts on the landscapes they inhabit and the lives that surround them, both human and nonhuman. As **stewards of the Earth**, they actively encourage others to do the same.

Nurturing Caretaker

#36

Archetypes

Archetypes

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EC[s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]



EC[s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]

Archetypes
36

Archetypes

#37

Community Convener

An expert communicator, they are the driving force behind cooperative structures and community initiatives and are deeply committed to collaborative decision making and **the power of the collective**. Through responsible leadership they make things happen, inspiring positive 'change' in their neighbourhoods.

Community Convener

#37

Archetypes

Archetypes

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EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]



EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]

Archetypes
37

Considerations #38

Communicating and Sharing

Who will want this shared with them?

Who will talk about this?

Who is already talking about it?

Who will support you?
(identify your allies)

Who might feel alienated?

How can you engage them?
Why is it important?

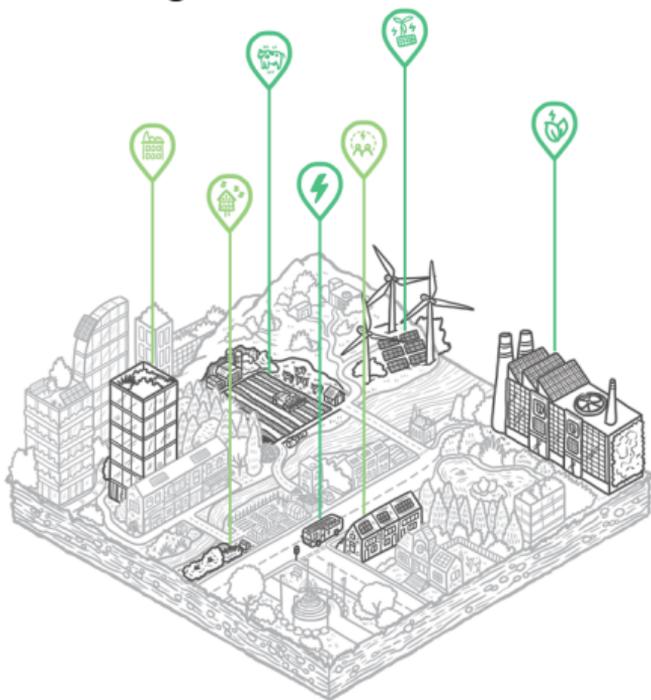
Communicating and Sharing
Considerations #38

Considerations

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Communicating and Sharing



Communicating and Sharing



Considerations # 38

Considerations #39

Empowerment and Limitation

Who is included in this work? (people, nonhumans living/non-living systems)
How and when are they included?

Who is affected by your work?

Who might benefit or who might be burdened or harmed?

Who have you not talked to yet?

How do you ensure you hear quieter or marginalised voices and recognise uncomfortable truths?

How do you address these uncomfortable truths?

Limitation
Empowerment and

#39

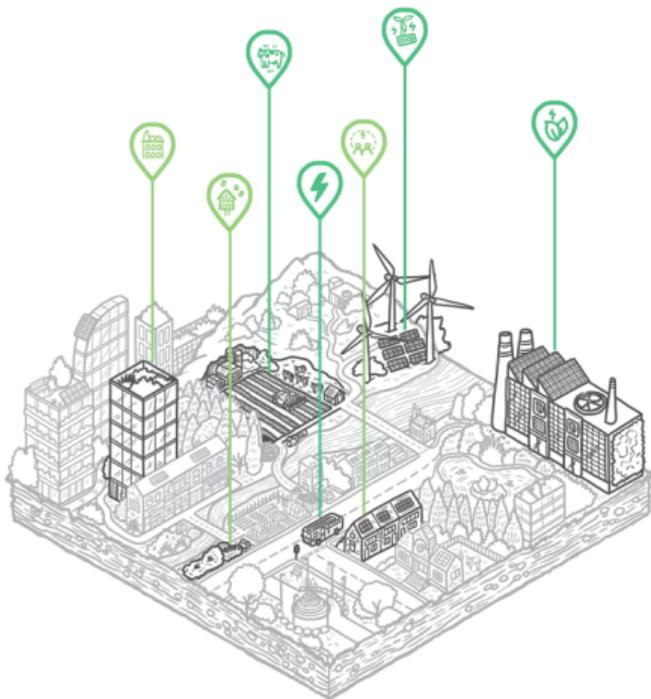
Considerations

Considerations

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Empowerment and Limitation



Empowerment and
Limitation



Considerations
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Considerations #40

Economic Factors

What routes can make this financially sustainable and self-sustaining?

What measures have been taken to ensure values other than 'profit' are prioritised?

How do you balance profit with sustainable and social value?

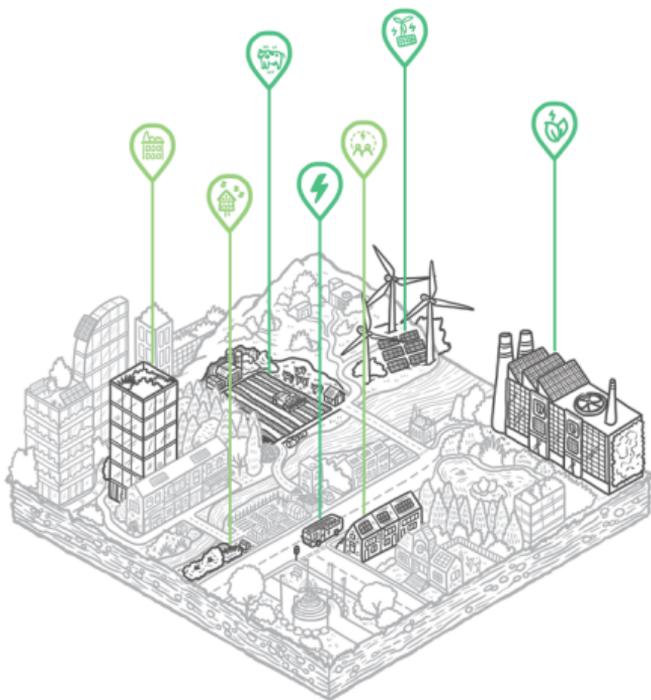
Economic Factors

Considerations #40

Considerations

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Economic Factors



Economic Factors



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Considerations

Considerations

#41

Technology and Innovation

What technologies and innovation can enable this?

What already exists to support your work?

How do you envision the technology being used?
Who is using it?
Who is responsible for maintaining it?

Where does the technology come from and where does it end up?

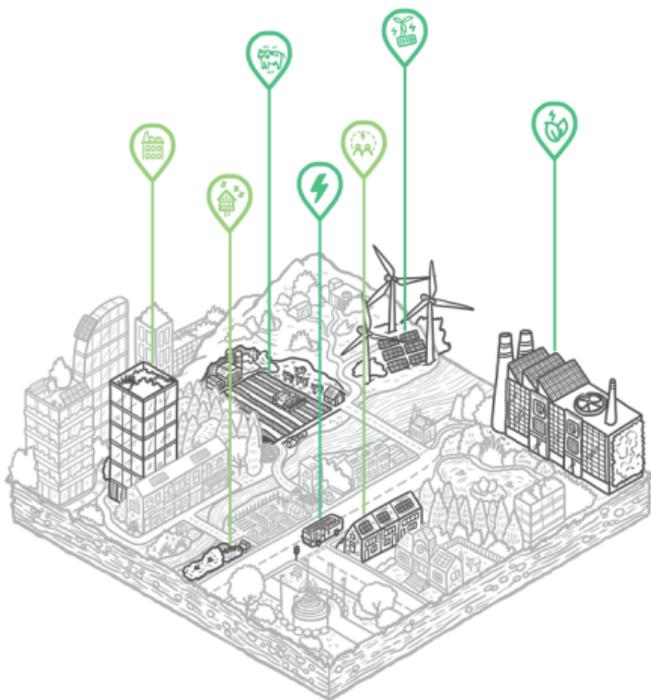
Considerations
and Technology
Innovation

#41

Considerations

41

Technology and Innovation



Technology and Innovation

41

Considerations



Considerations #42

Skills and Knowledge

What skills do you need to develop and deliver this?
What skills are already present in you/your team.
Who might have the skills you need?

What knowledge are you drawing on?
What do you need to know to move things forward?

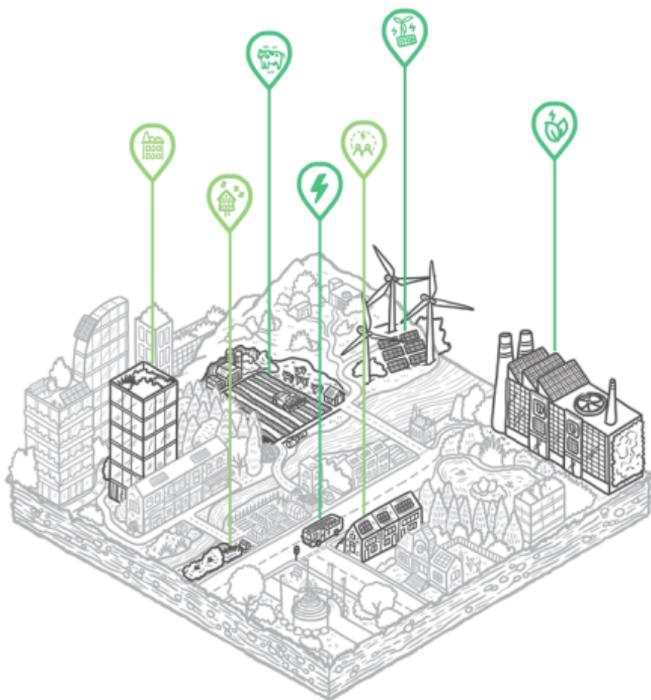
What don't you know?
Who might know what you don't?

Skills and Knowledge
Considerations #42

Considerations

42

Skills and Knowledge



Skills and Knowledge



Considerations
42

Considerations

#43

Time and Space

What timescales are you working with?

When will you start and end?

Where are you starting from?

(physically,
metaphorically,
spiritually, digitally,
geographically,
historically, emotionally)

Where might you end up?

When and where will you see change?

Time and Space

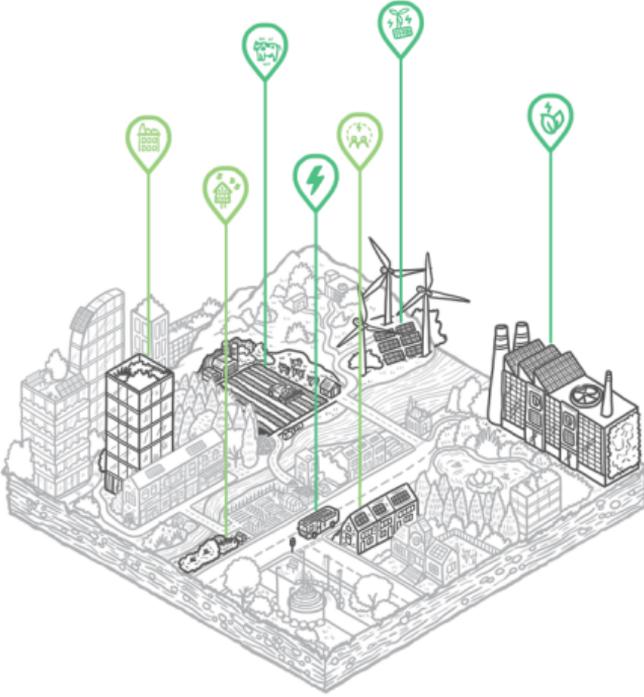
Considerations

#43

Considerations

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Time and Space



Time and Space



Considerations
43

Considerations

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Delivery

Who will deliver this work?

Who makes the decisions in the project?

How will it be delivered?

What support does it require?

(logistics, maintenance, finances, people)

Where and when will it be delivered?

Delivery

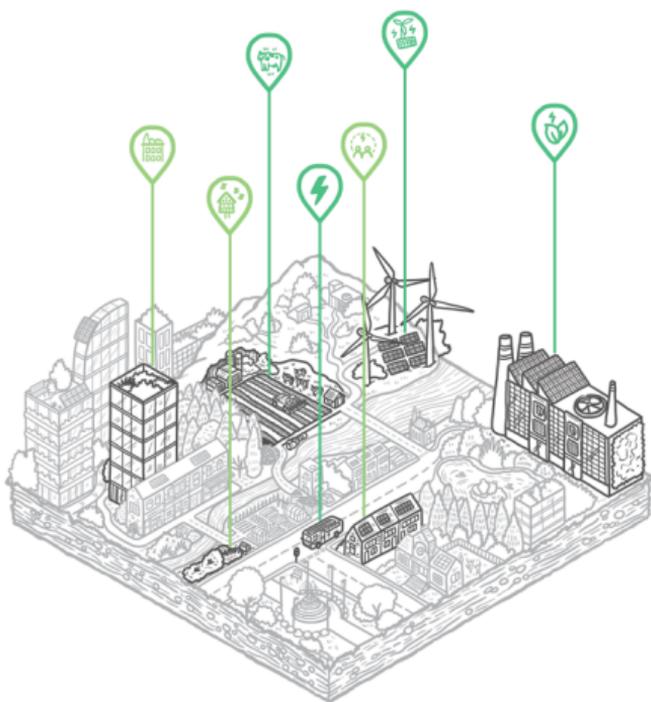
Considerations

44

Considerations

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Delivery



Delivery

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Considerations



Considerations #45

Tools and Resources

What tools and resources do you need to develop the project?

What tools and resources will support your work?

What tools and resources already exist that you can use and adapt?

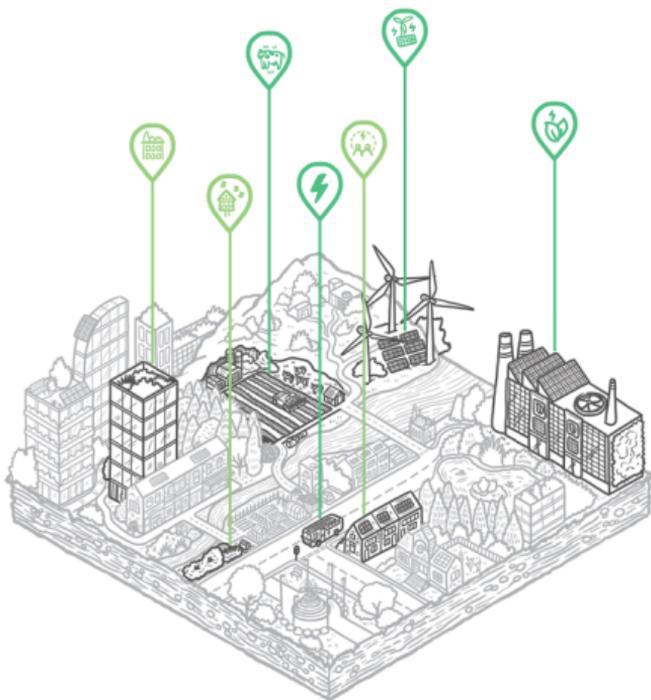
What tools and resources might you need to create?

Tools and Resources
Considerations #45

Considerations

45

Tools and Resources



Tools and Resources



Considerations
45

Considerations #46

Systems and Scales

What scales are you working at or with?

What systems and structures intersect your work?

How does your work relate and interact within a wider system or systems?

Are there other opportunities in these systems for intervention?

How might your work affect wider systems?

Systems and Scales

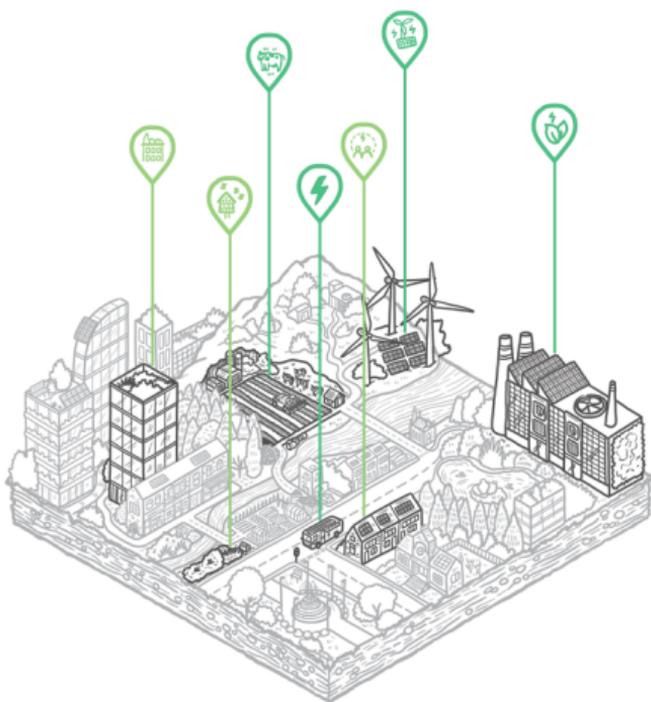
#46

Considerations

Considerations

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Systems and Scales



Systems and Scales



46

Considerations

Considerations #47

Make the Invisible Visible

What are you assuming?
How do you make the
implicit visible?

What are the foundations
you are building from?
(life experience,
expertise, culture,
knowledge, circumstance,
beliefs)

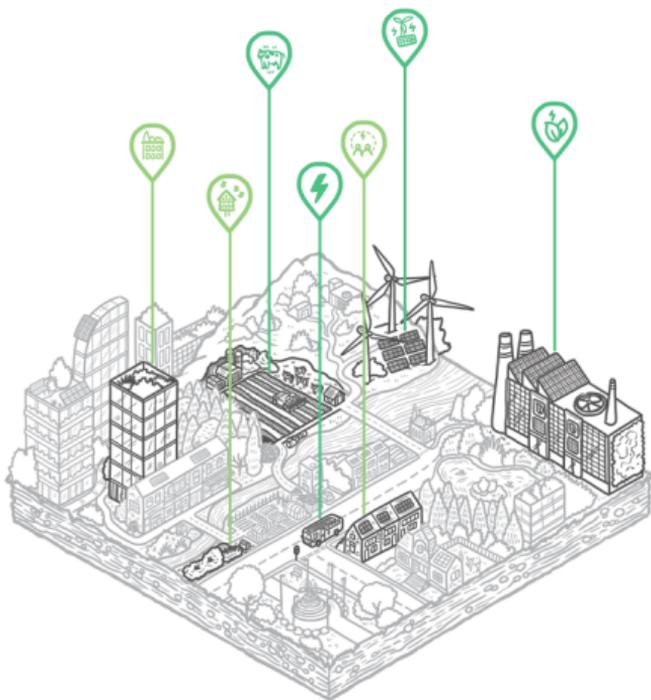
Where is your heart in
this work?

Considerations #47
Make the Invisible
Visible

Considerations

47

Make the Invisible Visible



Make the Invisible
Visible

47

Considerations



Considerations #48

Environmental Positive Action

How are you leaving things better than you found them?

(ecosystems, landscapes, cycles, communities)

How do you foster a sense of shared responsibility?

How do you address the long term effects of your work?

What sort of legacy will this leave for future generations?

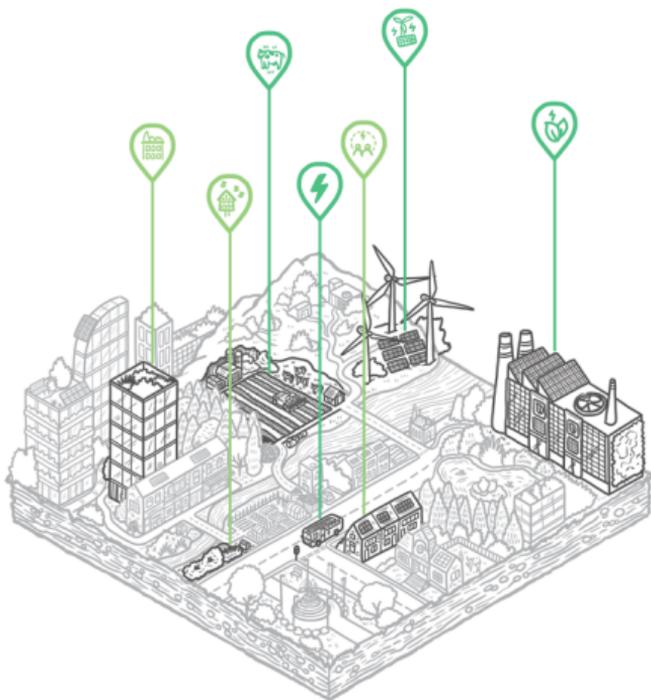
Considerations #48
Environmental Positive Action

Considerations

48



Environmental Positive Action



Environmental Positive Action



Considerations # 48

Considerations #49

Future Generations

What sort of legacy will this leave for future generations?

How is the work improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of parties involved?

How might future generations adopt or carry-on this work?

Future Generations

#49

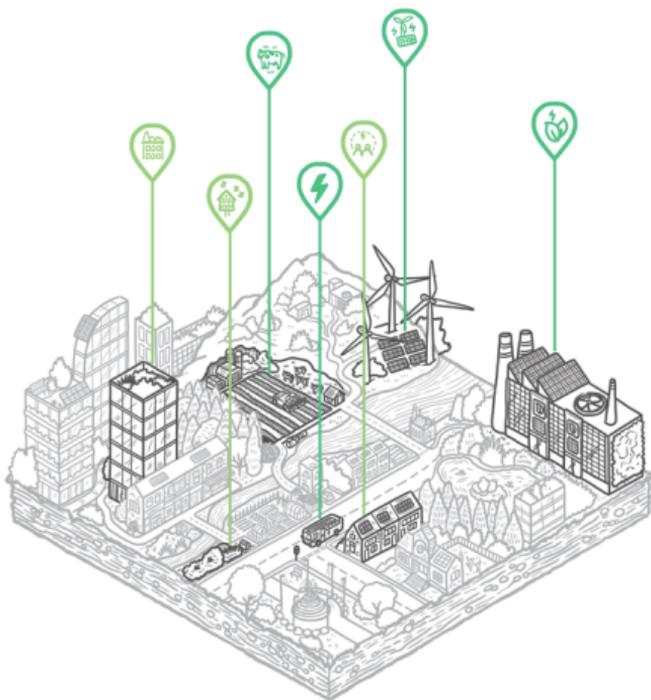
Considerations

Considerations

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Future Generations



Future Generations



Considerations
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The Plan

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Our next steps are:

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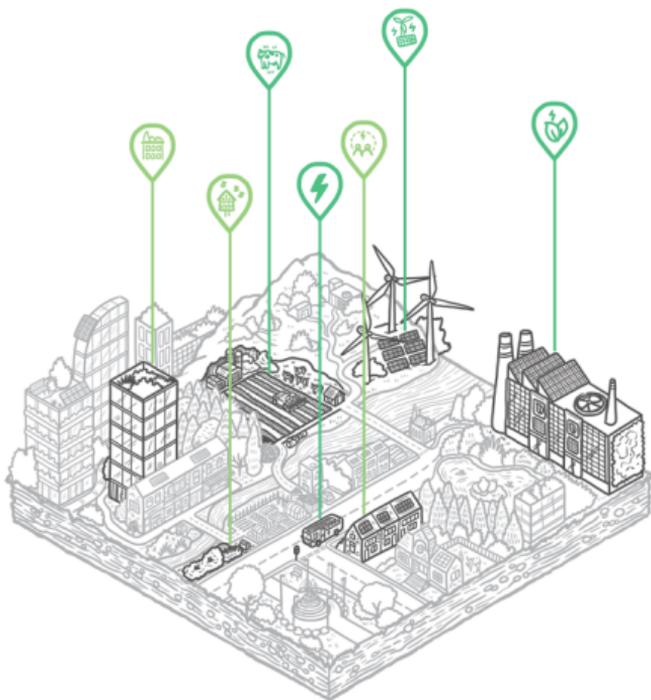
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The Plan

The Plan

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EC [s]
Ecological
Citizen[s]



EC [s]
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The Plan
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The Plan

#51

We discussed:

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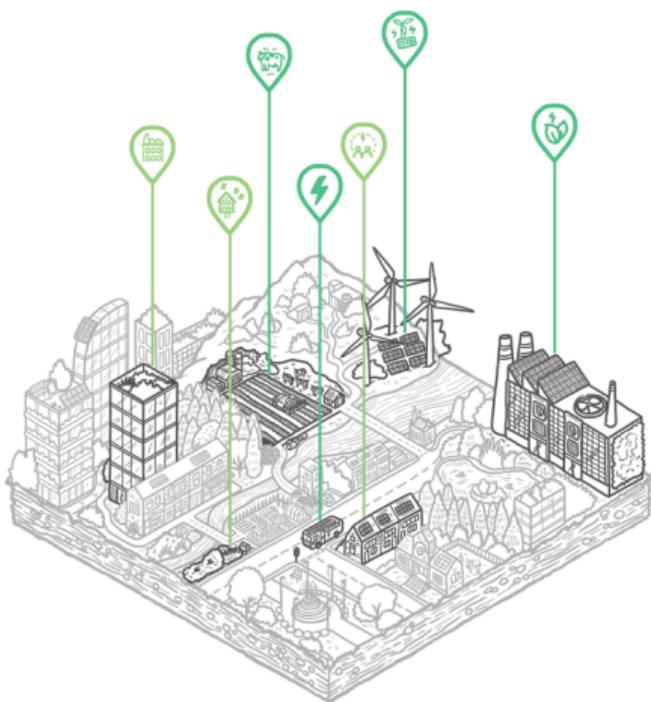
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The Plan

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Our theme:

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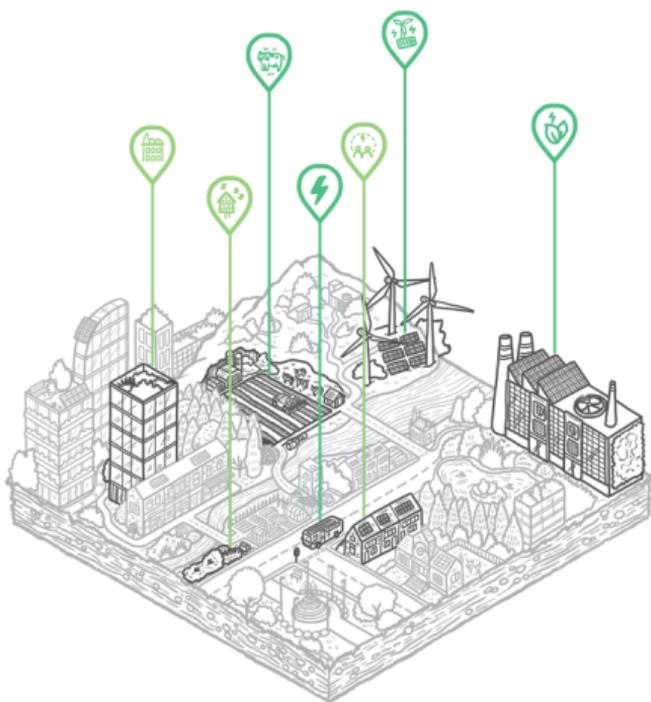
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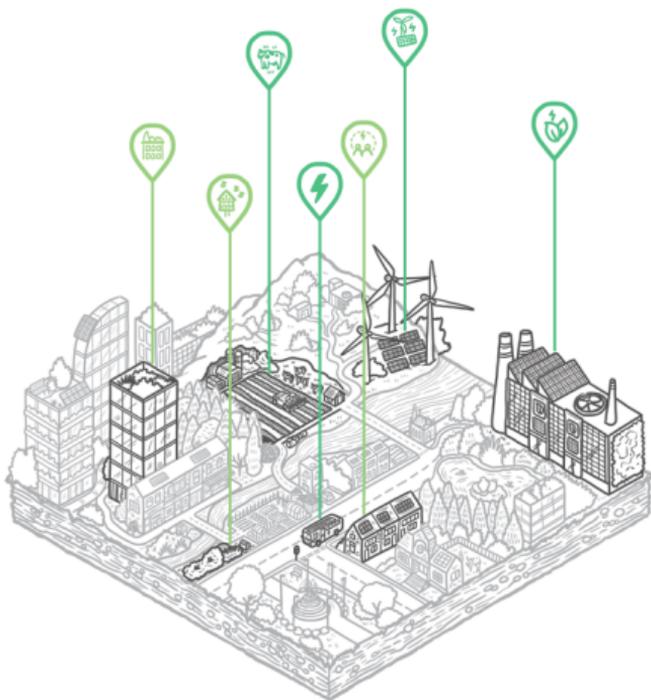
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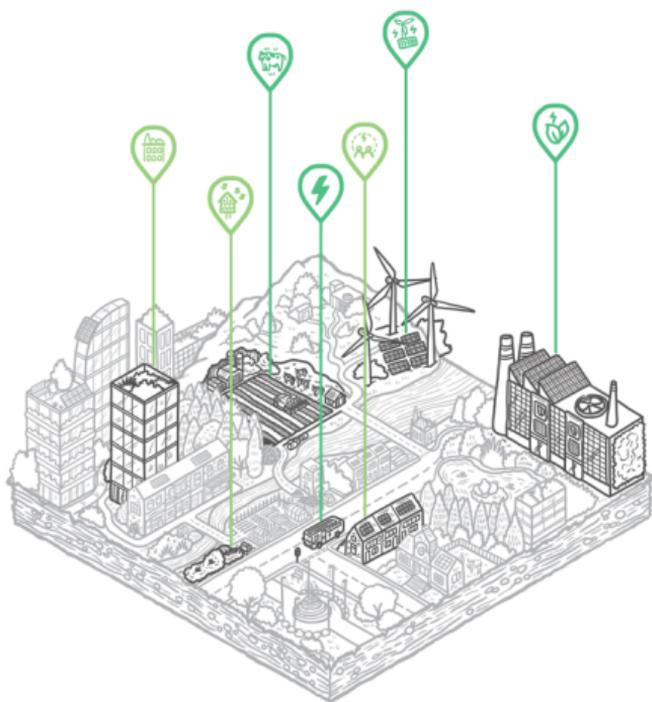
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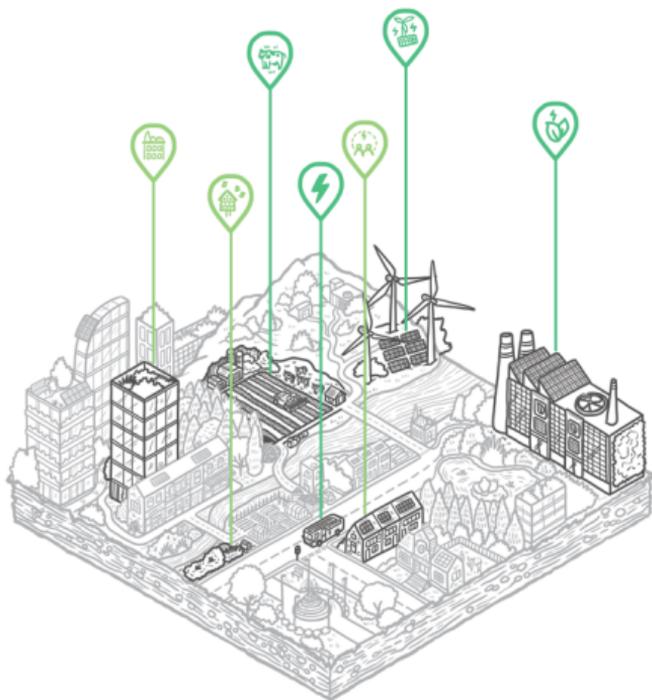
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