

# THE IN-TIME(S)

Inspired by the future,  
rooted in the past, acting in  
the present

Extracts based on the book "Inventing for the Sustainable Planet" - the inner and outer journey to sustainability.  
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## Carbon plus community centre

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### Introduction

#### Why a community centre?

One step to transition to low impact living is to create a local centre that takes care of energy capture, nutrient recycling, collects rainwater, cleans grey water, provides a meeting place, kitchen and eating area, showers and toilets.

With that in place, locals could handle living in less comfortable conditions whilst they rebuilt other parts of a settlement, for example, adapting their houses to Passivhaus techniques and increasing inhabitants per square meter etc.

A community centre like this also models the techniques of providing a standard of living whilst working with, rather than against, the ecosystem.

### How it works

1. Rainwater is channelled to pond. Water from pond is pumped to roof tank.
2. After being used for laundry, showering etc, grey water returns to double chamber well.
3. Grey water is pumped through a "living wall". The roots of the plants absorb nutrients and soil bacteria neutralise bacteria in grey water.
4. Leaves, fruit, etc which grow above soil are harvested to eat.
5. Organic waste, wood etc is burnt to charcoal in the boiler, providing heat to the building. The charcoal is used to clean water, as a component of the soil in the living wall and in other soils.
6. Urine and black waste are separated, the urine is used to improve soil. The black

### ABOUT THE IN-TIME(S)

We are living at the peak of human achievement, but also at the peak of our resources. Sustainable development means handing over to future generations the possibility to create for themselves a standard of living at least equivalent to that we enjoy. This requires fundamentally re-thinking how we use resources, indeed all of the social arrangements we take for granted. And we need to start now. Ideation, imagining, even fantasizing are tools we can all use in this re-thinking process. The technique used to provide the basis of these extracts, Imagestreaming, opens up endless possibilities to explore our ideal future.

waste is composted and returned to the soil when safe to use.

7. Solar panels and collectors provide electricity and heat from the sun.

### Benefits

The complex demonstrates sustainable investment. Once built, it provides food, water, a social meeting place, and toilets, showers, etc in a sustainable way.

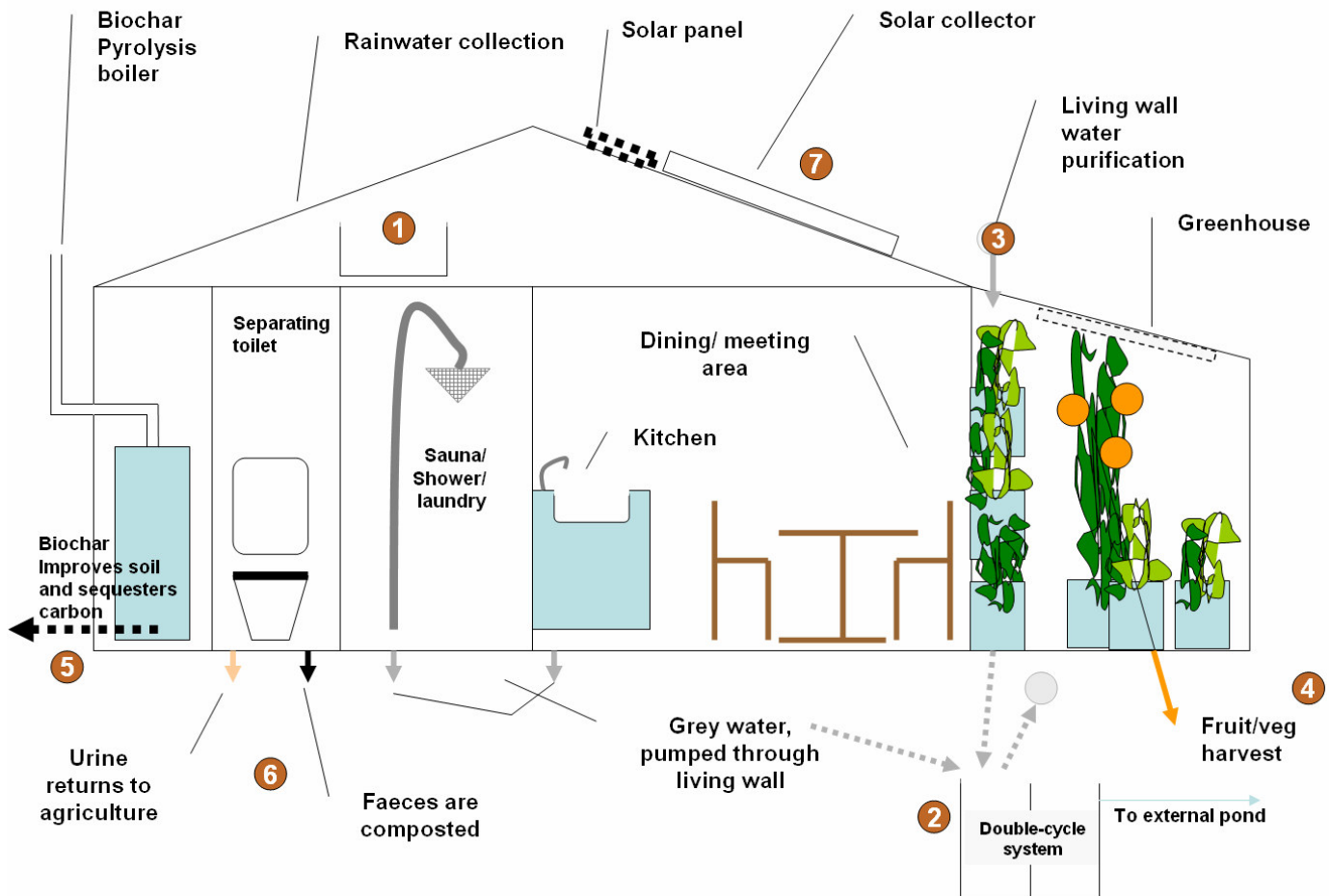
**CARBON NEGATIVE.** If the biochar produced by the boiler is buried in the soil, the carbon will stay there for thousands of years. Effectively, the carbon is removed from the atmosphere.

**NUTRIENT RECYCLING.** For example: the phosphor in urine is recycled back to the food production area, and returns as food.

**FOSSIL ENERGY INTENSITY REDUCTION.** By using biofuel, having food grown close by and by using solar energy, less energy is needed and dependence on fossil fuel is minimized.

**WATER USE REDUCTION.** By using rainwater and recycling, water use is limited to that lost by evaporation.

## Association meeting rooms and conservatory



## Basic Components

- Rainwater harvesting
- Grey Water Capture
- Wet park water cleaning
- Living wall in greenhouse
- Urine recycling
- Faeces Composting
- Solar Collection and Photovoltaics
- Biochar boiler
- Kitchen and meeting rooms
- Sauna, showers, laundry