

# Earth Imagination Toolkit

Let's re-imagine, re-invent, and  
re-design the ecologically harmonious  
world we do want



# Welcome to the future

Imagine you have woken up in the future and the world is different. In this future, humans have learned to live in harmony with the planet and no longer cause it harm.

In this new world, humans have stopped using fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas. Carbon dioxide levels have steadied and we have solved the threat of climate change.

The ocean is clean and free from plastic trash. Fish, dolphins, and corals are growing back. The biodiversity in forests, lakes, and rivers is protected. Global forest cover increases every year and existing forests increase in ecological richness.

There is no trash or litter. All landfills have been closed because waste no longer exists. Animals are not factory-farmed or harmed to make human food.

Buildings are blanketed with living roofs, walls, shade vines, hanging gardens, and micro-forests. The abundant green space in cities maintains the temperature, absorbs rainfall, and houses birds and butterflies.

Cars no longer dominate the streets and the air is clean.

Cities are vibrant, creative, safe places. Towns and cities are designed for people to walk, meet, play, gather, and enjoy.





# Imagination questions

In order to make this future world happen, we need to figure out how to get there. This is going to take lots of ideas, creativity, and problem-solving. Coming up with ideas is an important creative process that will hatch open your powers of imagination and build your motivation to make these ideas happen in real life.

Here are some questions to prompt your idea-storming:

How do you think this world would work?

What would it feel like? What would it look like?

How would it smell?

What kind of plants, animals, birds, insects, butterflies, and fish would you see? Where would you see them?

How would your home, school, and office buildings be different?

How would you stay warm in winter and cool in summer?

How would roads, deliveries, and getting from place to place be different?

How would stores, shopping, products, and packaging be different?

How would electricity be created?

How would gathering food, preparing meals, and restaurants and take-out meals be different?



# What makes up an eco-city?



**Green roofs**



**Shading by trees  
and vines**



**Electric cars, trains,  
buses, and trucks**



**Electric charging stations  
for bicycles and cars**



**Green walls**



**Wetlands to treat  
waste water**



**Natural gutters and swales  
to absorb rainfall runoff**



**Art to make  
it beautiful**



**Nice lighting**







**Solar panels**



**Color**



**Biodiversity**



**Easy composting**



**Community**



**Zero waste reusable  
containers**



**Birds**



**Flowers gardens**



**Textile recycling**



**Permeable paving**



**Plant-based foods**



**Green and shaded  
parking lots**





**Food gardens**



**All-electric buildings  
(no natural gas)**



**Wildlife corridors**



**Walking paths**



**Cycle ways**



**Safe lovely spaces for  
children and girls**



**Light-colored roofs to  
reflect the heat**



**Pleasant and efficient  
public transport**



**Hanging gardens**





# What does an eco city NOT have?



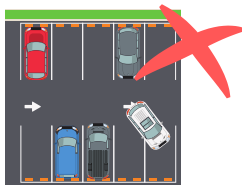
**No disposable plastic  
packaging that can  
be littered**



**No large concrete  
expanses or large  
paved surfaces**



**No gas or petrol fuel  
stations, coal power  
stations, or pipelines**



**No large black asphalt  
parking lots and dark  
colored surfaces**



**No animal  
factory farming**



**No over-abundance  
of parking spaces  
or cars**



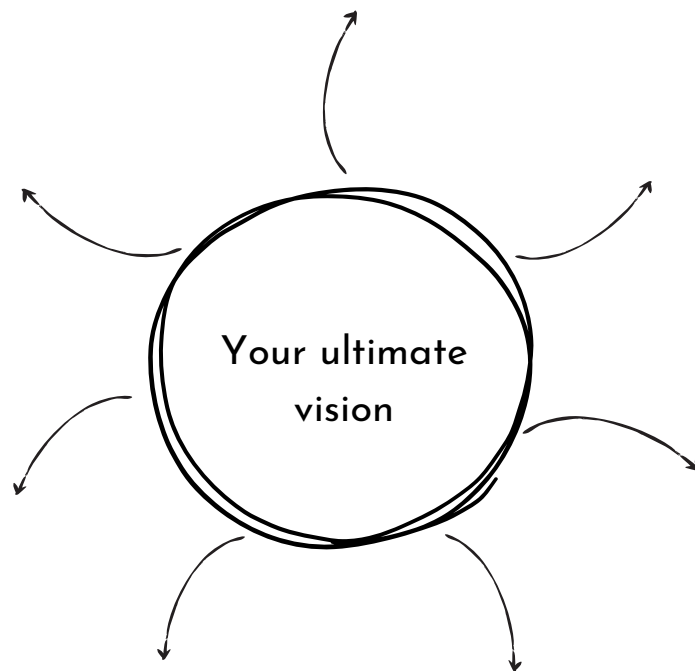
**Draw a picture of what  
your eco-city will look like**





# Idea Storm

Come up with one hundred ideas for what it will take to reach your vision of a vibrant ecologically harmonious world. Add your ideas for how to get there, branching off the circle in the middle of the page. Don't hold back – throw down everything you can think of! You never know which idea could be your special calling.



# Share your dream

How can you share your vision with more people?





# Ways you can turn your ecotopia dream into reality

You really can make a project happen in real life.  
Here are some ideas you can get started on.



## Plant a tree

If you have access to land where there is no tree, then plant one! It could be at your school or at a friend's or relative's house.



## Install a green wall

Find a building where you can talk to the building owner and see if you can get a green wall installed. It could be your home, office, school, or any building, really!



## Build a green roof

Find a building where you can talk to the building owner and see if you can get a green roof installed. It could be your home, office, school, or any building, really!



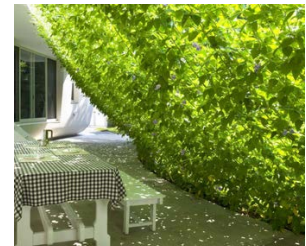
## Re-vamp and urban spaces

See if you can find an unpleasant urban space and re-imagine it. Contact your local city and ask how you can redesign urban spaces with plants, color, and function.



## Establish a micro forest

Many parks contain only grass. These parks are great candidates to add a micro forest of trees. Contact your local city and ask how you can do it.



## Grow a shade vine

If there is a side of a building that gets very hot in summer, you can grow a shade vine on that side. These are easy and inexpensive to set up.





### **Establish a community garden**

Find unused land or a park area in your neighborhood and approach your local city and ask them how you can turn it into a community garden.



### **Build a food garden**

Do you have access to a yard? Set up a food garden. It's easy to build a raised garden bed. If you don't own a property, you can grow potatoes in bags and tomatoes and lettuce in pots.



### **Install a vertical food garden**

If you don't have much outdoor space, you can grow a vertical food garden made of stacked planters on a balcony, roof, or in a tiny yard.



### **Replace concrete with green drainage**

Can you see any unnecessary concrete in your neighborhood that could be replaced with vegetation? Rainfall needs to flow into soil. Your local water department may even fund you to replace concrete with plants.



### **Green a streetscape**

On many sidewalks, you can remove part of the concrete path and add more greenery, like trees, shrubs, and flowers. The vegetation can attract birds, butterflies, and crickets.



### **Turn parking spaces into parklets**

We need fewer cars taking over streets. You can turn a single parking spot into a mini park (a "parklet") that contains plants and useful things like tables, chairs, artwork, and shade.



### **Grow food on the nature strip**

You can plant food gardens on the nature strip or near the footpath or sidewalk in your neighborhood.



### **Grow a pollinator garden**

Grow plants that attract bees, butterflies, and birds. Pollinators help to maintain the health of the ecosystem.



### **Lobby for more street trees**

Is there a street in your city that doesn't have many trees? Look for treeless places and talk to your city about what you can do to add more street trees to that location.

