


**RADICAL FUTURES TOOLKIT SERIES**



# *Essentials* **FOR A** *Solarpunk* **LIFE**

**SHADO MAG X SOLARPUNK FARMER**

**THE FIRE THESE TIMES X NOWADAYS EARTH**



# What is Solarpunk?

Solarpunk is a movement that imagines a world where **social, ecological, political, and economic systems** are completely transformed - creating a bridge between human society and the natural world

EMERGING IN THE LATE 2000S TO EARLY 2010S, SOLARPUNK BEGAN AS A RESPONSE TO BLEAK, DYSTOPIAN NARRATIVES ABOUT THE FUTURE. IT SOON GREW INTO A MOVEMENT OF DIVERSE EXPRESSIONS, FROM THE PUNK ETHOS OF **DIY CULTURE** TO THE POLITICAL VISION OF **ECOLOGICALLY-MINDED ANARCHIC RADICALS**.

AT ITS HEART, SOLARPUNK CELEBRATES **CREATIVE, AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES THAT LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THEIR LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS**, WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD RESILIENCE.

WANT TO DIVE DEEPER? EXPLORE SOLARPUNK'S ORIGINS AND HOW IT'S SHAPING OUR FUTURE ON OUR **KNOWLEDGE PAGE** WRITTEN BY ANDREW SAGE



At its core, Solarpunk is built on the principles of:



# *Sustainability*

# *Autonomy*

# *Social Justice*

IT OFFERS A FRESH VISION FOR ANTI-CAPITALIST MOVEMENTS, FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE WE CAN CREATE, NOT JUST WHAT WE MUST RESIST.

AS ANDREW SAGE SAYS IN OUR SOLARPUNK KNOWLEDGE PAGE: "ALTHOUGH ASPECTS OF SOLARPUNK AND DEGROWTH MAY BENEFIT FROM PARTICULAR GOVERNMENT POLICIES, THESE MOVEMENTS CANNOT RELY ON THE STATE."

HISTORICALLY, THE STATE HAS BEEN A FUNDAMENTAL BARRIER TO REAL ECOLOGICAL CHANGE WITH ITS VIOLENT AND ECOCIDAL ORIGINS. SOLARPUNK REJECTS TOP-DOWN SOLUTIONS IN FAVOUR OF LOCAL ORGANIZING, MUTUAL AID, AND AUTONOMY - BECAUSE TRUE CHANGE COMES FROM THE GROUND UP.



# *Community experiments in otherwise*

Many successful Solarpunk projects **already exist** at the grassroots level-even if they don't always use the term!

*Community  
pantries & free  
food fridges*

*Makerspaces &  
tool libraries*

*Repair cafes &  
upcycling ups*

**ANOTHER POWERFUL EXAMPLE? SEED LIBRARIES & GUERRILLA GARDENING!**

BY FREELY SHARING HEIRLOOM & NATIVE SEEDS, PEOPLE ARE DISRUPTING CORPORATE SEED MONOPOLIES, RECLAIMING SPACE AND THEIR RIGHT TO GROW FOOD.



# Agroecology

**Agroecology:** a conceptual and practical framework that aligns food production with the rhythms and needs of the local ecosystem, fostering community-driven, sustainable, and regenerative agricultural practices.

## HOW SOLARPUNK COMMUNITIES EMBRACE AGROECOLOGY:

*Community  
gardens*

*Urban farms*

*Agroforestry*

*Regenerative  
farming*

1. **KEY PRINCIPLES OF AGROECOLOGY**
2. **BIODIVERSITY:** DIVERSE CROPPING SYSTEMS, POLYCULTURES, AND AGROFORESTRY FOR RESILIENCE AND SOIL HEALTH.
3. **SUSTAINABILITY:** REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINTS WITH LOCAL RENEWABLE INPUTS, CLOSED-LOOP RESOURCE CYCLES, AND REGENERATIVE PRACTICES.
4. **COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:** INTEGRATING LOCAL, TRADITIONAL, AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE INTO MODERN FARMING TECHNIQUES.
5. **FOOD SOVEREIGNTY:** EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO CONTROL FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Follow @solarpunkfarmer for practical agroecology tips and community-driven food systems that combat climate change!



# Graywater recycling

**GRAYWATER RECYCLING:** TECHNIQUES FOR CAPTURING AND REUSING WASTEWATER (FROM SINKS, SHOWERS, ETC.) THAT IS FREE FROM HARMFUL CHEMICALS AND SEWAGE, REDIRECTING IT INTO FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS LIKE GARDENS, GREENHOUSES, AND IRRIGATION SETUPS!

IN A SOLARPUNK WORLD, GRAYWATER RECYCLING SUPPORTS:

**URBAN FARMS, WATER CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE FARMING** BY CLOSING THE LOOP BETWEEN WASTE AND RESOURCES.

A CIRCULAR ECONOMY WHERE WATER, ENERGY, AND NUTRIENTS ARE CONTINUALLY RECYCLED, ELIMINATING THE LINEAR MODEL OF WASTE PRODUCTION AND DISPOSAL.

**HOW MIGHT GRAYWATER RECYCLING FIT INTO YOUR COMMUNITY OR HOUSEHOLD?**

CONSIDER WHAT WASTEWATER STREAMS (FROM SINKS, SHOWERS, OR LAUNDRY) YOU COULD REUSE AND HOW THEY COULD BENEFIT LOCAL GARDENS OR FOOD SYSTEMS.

## Case Study

### THE GRAHAM STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN IN SAN FRANCISCO

This urban farm takes wastewater from sinks and showers to irrigate their vegetable gardens and fruit trees. The community garden uses simple, low-cost techniques to capture and reuse graywater, helping to reduce water consumption in a drought-prone area.



# Open Source Ecology

What if anyone could build what they need—without relying on centralized systems or corporations? Open Source Ecology (OSE) is making this possible!

*Their flagship project:*

THE GLOBAL VILLAGE CONSTRUCTION SET (GVCS) INCLUDES 50+ OPEN-SOURCE BLUEPRINTS FOR ESSENTIAL TOOLS & MACHINES, FROM OVENS TO 3D PRINTERS.

BY MAKING THESE DESIGNS FREELY AVAILABLE, OSE CHALLENGES

CAPITALISM & PROVES THAT COLLABORATIVE, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS CAN BUILD A MORE SUSTAINABLE, ABUNDANT FUTURE FOR ALL.

EXPLORE MORE:  
[OPENSOURCEECOLOGY.ORG](https://opensourceecology.org)



# Battery recycling & repurposing

*Instead of tossing old  
batteries, repurpose them!*

Battery recycling and repurposing is a  
crucial part of building a **sustainable,  
decentralized future:**

GIVING USED BATTERIES NEW LIFE IN  
SMALL-SCALE SOLAR & WIND PROJECTS,  
REDUCING RELIANCE ON  
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES

DIVERTING E-WASTE FROM LANDFILLS &  
REDUCING RESOURCE EXTRACTION

POWERING COMMUNITY-OWNED ENERGY  
SOLUTIONS INSTEAD OF RELYING ON THE GRID.

A SIMPLE YET POWERFUL WAY TO  
DECENTRALIZE ENERGY!



# *DIY solar panels + microgrids*

**DIY solar panels and microgrids** are at the heart of creating decentralized, community-owned energy networks that build towards **local resilience** and **autonomy**.

**MICROGRIDS & DIY SOLAR PANELS**  
ALLOW COMMUNITIES TO:

**GENERATE THEIR OWN POWER**  
INSTEAD OF RELYING ON  
EXPLOITATIVE CORPORATIONS.

**BUILD ENERGY INDEPENDENCE &**  
RESIST POWER MONOPOLIES.

**ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE** WITH  
LOCAL, RENEWABLE ENERGY  
SOLUTIONS - WHETHER IT'S FOR A  
SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD OR A  
LARGER RURAL COMMUNITY.



# Nomadic Food Jungle

**NOMADIC FOOD JUNGLE:** A CONCEPT FOR ULTRA-DENSE, LAYERED PERENNIAL FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS DESIGNED FOR URBAN AND TRANSIENT SPACES.

THE FOCUS HERE IS ON CREATING **LOW-COST, HIGH-YIELD SYSTEMS** THAT CAN BE RAPIDLY REPLICATED AND REINSTALLED FROM VEGETATIVELY PROPAGATED PLANTS AND LOW COST SEEDS.

THE GOAL IS TO GROW **NUTRIENT-RICH, DIVERSE FOOD** IN **SMALL PLACES** AND BE EASILY ADAPTABLE TO LOCATIONS WHERE LAND IS TEMPORARY OR TRANSIENT.

THE NOMADIC FOOD JUNGLE COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN:

**URBAN BACKYARDS, VACANT LOTS, AND COMMUNITY GARDENS** TO CREATE MOBILE, ADAPTABLE FOOD SOURCES.

**HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS OR TEMPORARY HOUSING SOLUTIONS**, OFFERING PEOPLE THE TOOLS TO PRODUCE THEIR OWN FOOD EVEN IN SHORT-TERM OR UNSTABLE LIVING SITUATIONS.

**RENTER COMMUNITIES** WHO CAN INSTALL THESE SYSTEMS IN TEMPORARY SPACES WITHOUT THE NEED FOR PERMANENT LAND ACCESS OR LONG-TERM COMMITMENT.

## Case Study

### GUERRILLA GARDENING IN LOS ANGELES' UNHOUSED COMMUNITIES

In Los Angeles, guerrilla gardeners have been using the concept of "nomadic food jungles" to provide food in areas where traditional land access is transient or difficult.

By using urban lots or even vacant public spaces, activists plant and maintain high-yield, low-maintenance crops that provide fresh, nutritious food to local homeless communities. These food systems are designed to be easily re-installed and moved, as the gardeners work to reclaim space for the people who need it most.



# Natural Farming

**Natural Farming:** a holistic approach to agriculture that draws on **regionally adapted practices** rooted in **Indigenous agricultural knowledge** to help gardeners and farmers develop low-cost or free recipes for DIY organic inputs, thus reducing their dependence on consumer inputs purchased from corporations.

## Key Principles

**NATURAL FERTILIZERS:** COMPOST, MULCH, AND HOME-BREWED NUTRIENTS TO NOURISH THE SOIL AND SUSTAIN HEALTHY NUTRIENT CYCLES.

**MICROBIAL INOCULANTS:** HOMEMADE PREPARATIONS TO INTRODUCE BENEFICIAL MICROBES AND FUNGI THAT ENHANCE SOIL HEALTH, IMPROVE PLANT IMMUNITY, AND OPTIMIZE NUTRIENT UPTAKE.

**NATURAL PLANT MEDICATIONS:** NON-TOXIC, OFTEN PLANT-DERIVED SUBSTANCES TO PROTECT PLANTS FROM PESTS AND DISEASES, REDUCING RELIANCE ON SYNTHETIC PESTICIDES.

**CLOSED-LOOP SYSTEMS:** SELF-SUSTAINING, LOW-WASTE ECOSYSTEMS THAT RECYCLE RESOURCES (COMPOST, WATER, NUTRIENTS) BACK INTO THE SYSTEM.

*Overall, a low-cost, high-impact way to reclaim food sovereignty!*



# *Further readings/ resources*

## *Essential Texts on Solarpunk*

**"SUNSHINE AND SEEDLINGS"** – A SOLARPUNK SUBSTACK INCLUDING DIY GUIDES, SHORT SOLARPUNK STORIES, AND ARTICLES ABOUT BUILDING DUAL POWER AND PREFIGURING A BETTER FUTURE.

**"MULTISPECIES CITIES: SOLARPUNK URBAN FUTURES"** - EDITED BY PRIYA SARUKKAI CHABRIA AND TAIYO FUJII AND SHWETA TANEJA (WHICH INCLUDES A STORY BY ANDREW DANA HUDSON)

**"ON THE POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF SOLARPUNK"** - BY SPECULATIVE FICTION WRITER, SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCHER, AND FUTURIST ANDREW DANA HUDSON HAS ALSO HELPED DEFINE AND GROW THE SOLARPUNK SUBGENRE.



## *Podcasts & Audiovisual Resources*

**THE FIRE THESE TIMES** - IN PARTICULAR THE EPISODE ON THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF SOLARPUNK (WITH ANDREW DANA HUDSON)!

**ANDREWISM** - A YOUTUBE CHANNEL THAT FOCUSES ON THE INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN ANARCHISM, ANTHROPOLOGY, HISTORY, ECOLOGY, ECONOMY, BLACKNESS, AND MORE, WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON REAL WORLD SOLUTIONS AND THE PRACTICAL POTENTIAL OF SOLARPUNK.

**OUR CHANGING CLIMATE** - A YOUTUBE CHANNEL THAT INVESTIGATES

HUMANITY'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATURAL WORLD AND ALL THAT ENTAILS.

**THINK THAT THROUGH** - A YOUTUBE CHANNEL THAT EXPLORES VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, THE CAPITALOCENE, GREENWASHING, AND MORE.

**ANDREW MILLISON** - A YOUTUBE CHANNEL THAT PROVIDES EXCELLENT RESOURCES ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, PERMACULTURE, AND ONGOING PROJECTS IN THE FIELD.

## *Organizations & Toolkits*

**THE OPEN SOURCE ECOLOGY PROJECT** - A PLATFORM FOR COLLABORATIVE, DIY, AND OPEN-SOURCE TOOLS FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

**THE LIBRARY OF THINGS** - A GROWING NETWORK OF TOOL LIBRARIES AND

LENDING SPACES REDUCING CONSUMPTION AND WASTE.

**MICROGRID KNOWLEDGE** - A HUB FOR COMMUNITY-OWNED MICROGRID SOLUTIONS AND DECENTRALIZED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.



# Definitions

**SOLARPUNK** – A MOVEMENT THAT ENVISIONS A FUTURE WHERE SOCIAL, ECOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS ARE COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED AND BUILT UPON PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY, AUTONOMY, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WITH COMMUNITIES LIVING IN HARMONY WITH LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS.

**AGROECOLOGY** – A CONCEPTUAL AND PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK THAT ALIGNS FOOD PRODUCTION WITH THE RHYTHMS AND NEEDS OF THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEM, FOSTERING COMMUNITY-DRIVEN, SUSTAINABLE, AND REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.

**GRAYWATER RECYCLING** – TECHNIQUES FOR CAPTURING AND REUSING WASTEWATER (FROM SINKS, SHOWERS, ETC.) THAT IS FREE FROM HARMFUL CHEMICALS AND SEWAGE, REDIRECTING IT INTO FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS AND IRRIGATION SETUPS.

**NOMADIC FOOD JUNGLE** – ULTRA-DENSE, LAYERED PERENNIAL FOOD PRODUCTION

SYSTEMS DESIGNED FOR URBAN AND TRANSIENT SPACES.

**NATURAL FARMING** – A HOLISTIC AGRICULTURAL APPROACH THAT DRAWS ON REGIONALLY ADAPTED PRACTICES ROOTED IN INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE, HELPING GARDENERS AND FARMERS DEVELOP LOW-COST OR FREE RECIPES FOR DIY ORGANIC INPUTS, THUS REDUCING THEIR DEPENDENCE ON CONSUMER INPUTS PURCHASED FROM CORPORATIONS.

**FOOD SOVEREIGNTY** – THE RIGHT OF COMMUNITIES TO CONTROL THEIR OWN FOOD SYSTEMS, INCLUDING PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION, WITHOUT RELIANCE ON EXTERNAL CORPORATIONS OR GOVERNMENTS.

**MUTUAL AID** – A SOLIDARITY-BASED PRACTICE WHERE COMMUNITIES SUPPORT EACH OTHER THROUGH RESOURCE-SHARING, SKILL EXCHANGES, AND COLLECTIVE CARE TO MEET COMMUNAL NEEDS.