# CLOSING THE WATER CYCLE, RECOVERING ENERGY AND RESOURCES IN FUTURE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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#### **VLADIMIR NOVOTNY**

Professor Northeastern University, Boston, MA Professor Emeritus Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI Managing Partner AquaNova LLC, Newton, MA ©Vladimir Novotny

### **Outline**:

- I. The New (fifth) Paradigm for Sustainable Communities
- 2. Cities of the Future Ecocities
- 3. Urban Metabolism 4 Rs, 3 Ss and 2 Ts
- 4. Sustainability Footprints Present and Future Outlook
- Distributed Water, Used Water and Energy Management -Ecoblocks
- 6. Integrated Resource Recovery Facility
  - I. Syngas vs. Methane vs. Hydrogen towards Electricity
  - 2. Nutrients, Biomass, Fuel, Solids
  - 3. Incorporating Solar and Wind Energy, GHG Sequestering
- 7. Worldwide Developments and Trends

# Cities of the Future – Utopia or Unavoidable Reality



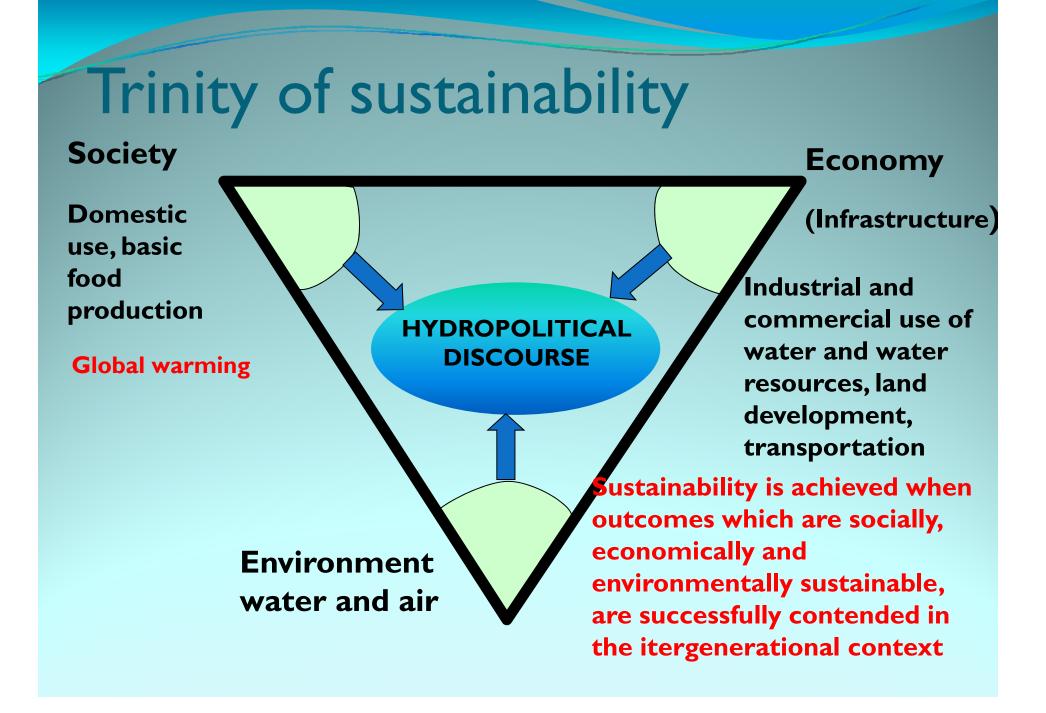
Model of Tianjin Ecocity, China

COF – an international movement towards urban water, energy and resources sustainability

- "Urbanites now outnumber their rural cousins – and that's surprisingly good news for the environment"
- "The average New Yorker produces just 30 per cent of the greenhouse emissions of the average US citizen"

Barley 2010, New Scientist 2785, 32-37

In the next 25-30 years China will build cities for 300 million people



## Historic Paradigms



Drainage in old market in Athens, cca 2500 BC



III IV

Milwaukee's deep tunnel for CSO storage – late 1990s





### **Historic Paradigms**

Water from springs and wells Surface drainage by gravity

Industrial Period: Dramatic increase of pollution, Rivers caught on fire, epidemics Streams converted to sewers Later mostly primary treatment some biological treatment. Long distance water transport by aqueducts and lead and baked clay pipes Sewers were invented Rainwater harvesting Primitive treatment

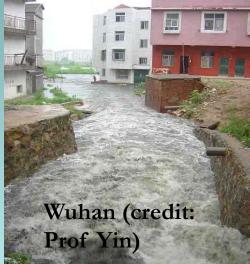
Post Clean Water Act (1972) period: Heavy investments in infrastructure Deep tunnel storage and CSO controls. Nonpoint pollution recognized as a serious problem.
Use water, collect it by fast conveyance , end of pipe treatment and dumping

### **PROBLEMS WITH THE 4th PARADIGM**

Natural hydrologic status of urban water bodies and watersheds has been modified by imperviousness, building sewers and stream modifications with the impacts on

#### **Streams**

- Increased high flows (more flooding).
- Peak flows increase by a factor of 4 to 10
- Less base flow not enough base flow to sustain viable fish population
- Increased variability (flow, temperature, DO)
- Increased stream bank erosion
- **Groundwater recharge is diminished** 
  - Effect on foundations (Boston, Venice, Mexico City, Philadelphia)
  - Diminishing groundwater supply
  - > Diminish base flow in river
- The goals of the Clean Water Act and sustainability goals cannot be attained using the IVth paradigraphing infrastructure heavy and energy demanding concepts





#### Mexico City subsidence

### **Damages to Water Bodies**

#### **Wastewater disposal**

- Effluent dominated flow deprived streams
- **Urbanization effects other than wastewater** 
  - Substrate degradation
    - Embeddedness
    - Habitat loss and fragmentation
  - o Increases peak flow
    - Channel lining and cutting trees along the water body
  - Decreased base flow
    - Decreases water quality
    - Restricting channel by dikes and levees
    - Increases bank erosion

Loss of streams –conversion into sewers

#### New Threats to Water Supplies and Ecology





- Hyper-trophic water bodies (too much nutrient discharge causing extreme algal infestation –
   Harmful algal blooms)
  - Toxins
  - Loss of oxygen and biota
  - Loss of recreation
- New chemicals accumulate in the environment
  - Endocrine disruptors
  - Pharmaceutical
    - Antibiotics
  - Nanoparticles

# Vision of the Cities of the Future The 5<sup>th</sup> (Sustainable) Paradigm

#### Definition/Vision of an Ecocity:

An ecocity is a city or a part thereof that balances social, economic and environmental factors (triple bottom line) to achieve sustainable development. A sustainable city or ecocity is a city designed with consideration of environmental impact, inhabited by people dedicated to minimization of required inputs of energy, water and food, and waste output of heat, air pollution - CO2, methane, and water pollution. Ideally, a sustainable city powers itself with renewable sources of energy, creates the smallest possible ecological footprint, and produces the lowest quantity of pollution possible. It also uses land efficiently; composts used materials, recycles or converts waste-to-energy. If such practices are adapted, overall contribution of the city to climate change will be none or minimal below the resiliency threshold. Urban (green) infrastructure, resilient and hydrologically and ecologically functioning landscape, and water resources will constitute one system.

Adapted from R. Register UC-Berkeley

# Microscale Assessment

#### Micro-scale goals (buildings, neighborhoods, subdivision)

- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-LEED
  - Sustainability of the site smart location
  - Green design
  - Energy efficiency
  - Indoor environmental quality
  - Innovation and design
  - Neighborhood patterns, etc.
- Low Impact Development (LID)
  - Capture, storage and infiltration of precipitation, mimicking predevelopment hydrology

**Cities of the Future incorporates both LEED and LID principles and concepts but they are not traditional LID communities** 





### CITY OF THE FUTURE

IS IT BUILDINGS AND "NEIGHBORHOODS" CONFORMING TO LEED CRITERIA CONNECTED TO SUSTAINABLE LID SURFACE DRAINAGE ?





Courtesy AquaTex Consulting, Victoria, BC

### CITY OF THE FUTURE

**MING TO** 

#### PROBLEM

IS IT BUILDING

I EEC

LEED water (reclamation, conservation and stormwater management) criteria represent less than 15 % of the Total LEED index

Some carbon emission controls are implicitly considered

LIDs do not consider carbon emission reduction; they are strictly focused on water and pollution

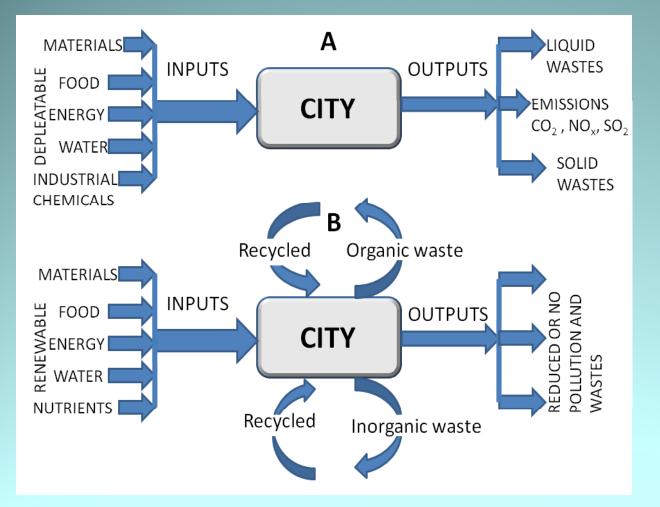
LEED and LID are microscale measures

Courtesy AquaTex Consulting, Victoria, BC

# One Planet Living (WWF)

- zero net carbon emissions- 100% of the energy from renewable resources;
- zero solid waste
- sustainable transportation with zero carbon emission in the city;
- Iocal and sustainable materials used throughout the construction;
- sustainable foods, outlets providing organic and or fair trade products;
- 50% reduction in water use from the national average;
- natural habitat and wildlife protection and preservation;
- preservation of local culture and heritage ;
- equity and fair trade with wages and working conditions; and
- health and happiness for every demographic group.

### Urban Metabolism



#### A Linear

# needs to be changed to

B Cyclic or Hybrid

### Macroscale (Giant) Footprints

- A "footprint" is a quantitative measure showing the appropriation of natural resources by human beings
  - Ecological a measure of the use of bio-productive space (e.g., hectares (acres) of productive land needed to support life in the cities)
  - Water measures the total water use on site and also virtual water (usually expressed per capita)
  - Carbon is a measure of the impact that human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of GHG emissions measured in units of carbon dioxide

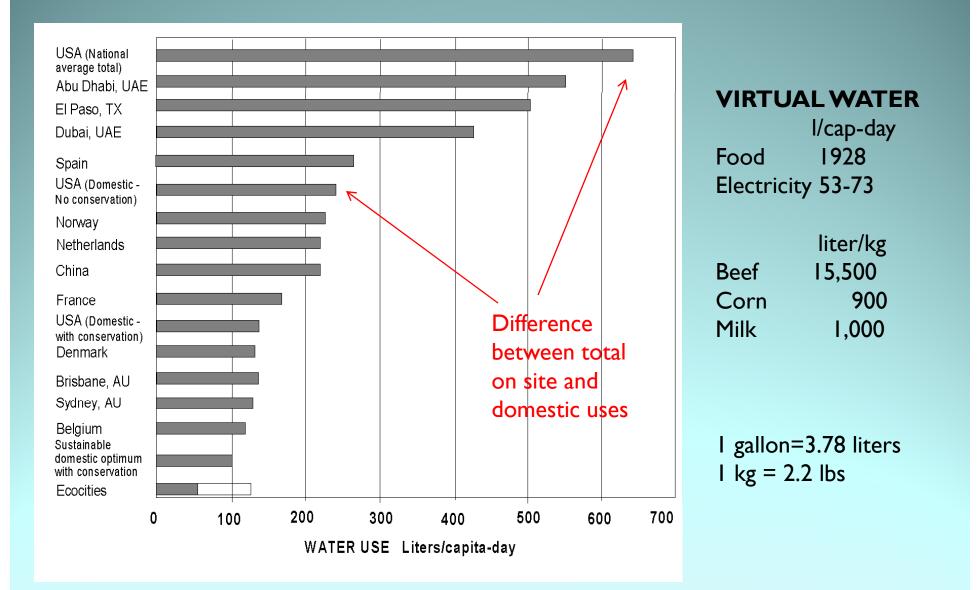
# **Ecological footprint**

| Year                               | World       | Available productive land  |           |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|
|                                    | Population  | Ha/person  | Ac/person |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995                               | < 6 billion | 1.5 3.6  |           |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2040                               | 10 billion  | <<   | 2         |  |  |  |  |  |
| Current ecological footprint       |             |  |           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Countries with I ha/person or less |             | Most cities in undeveloped countries   |           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Countries with 2-3 ha/person       |             | Japan and Republic of Korea<br>(democratic)  |           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Countries with 3-4 ha/person       |             | Austria, Belgium, United Kingdom,<br>Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands,<br>Switzerland |           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Countries with 4-5 h               | na/person   | Australia, Canada and USA  |           |  |  |  |  |  |

mbalan

If the cities in the currently rapidly developing countries (China, India, Brazil) try to reach the same resource use as that in developed countries, conflicts may ensue

## Water use in some cities



#### Indoor and outdoor water use in a single family home in 12 monitored cities in North America

| Water use                  | Without v<br>conservat |         | With water conservation |         |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|--|--|--|
|                            | Liter/cap-day          | Percent | Liter/cap-day           | Percent |  |  |  |
| Faucets                    | 35                     | 14.7    | 35                      | 25.8    |  |  |  |
| Drinking water and cooling | 3.6                    | 1.2     | 2.0                     | 1.5     |  |  |  |
| Showers                    | 42                     | 17.8    | 21                      | 15.4    |  |  |  |
| Bath and Hot Tubs          | 6.8                    | 2.0     | 6.0                     | 4.4     |  |  |  |
| Laundry                    | 54                     | 22.6    | 40                      | 29.4    |  |  |  |
| Dish washers               | 3.0                    | 1.4     | 3.0                     | 2.2     |  |  |  |
| Toilets                    | 63                     | 26.4    | 14                      | 10.3    |  |  |  |
| Leaks                      | 30                     | 12.6    | 15                      | 11.0    |  |  |  |
| Total Indoor               | (238)                  | 100     | 136                     | 100     |  |  |  |
| Outdoor                    | 313                    | 132     | 60**                    | 44      |  |  |  |
| Total                      | 551                    | 232     | 196                     | 144     |  |  |  |

AWWA RF (1999); Heaney, Wright and Sample (2000) and Asano et al. (2007) \*\* Converting from lawn to xeriscape.

# GHG (carbon) Emission by Cities

| Top ten countries in the $CO_2$ emissions in tons/person-year in 2006 <sup>1</sup>   |  |               |                    |               |                           |            |      |            |                      |            |          |   |                    |
|--|--|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|------------|------|------------|----------------------|------------|----------|---|--------------------|
| Qatar  | UAE  | Kuwait        | Bahrain            | Aruba         | Luxe                      | mbourg     | 1    | USA        | Aus                  | tralia     | Canada   | S | audi Arabia        |
| 56.2   | 32.8   | 31.8          | 28.8               | 23.3          | 22.4                      |            |      | 19.1       | 18.8                 |            | 17.4     |   | 15.8               |
| Selected world cities total emissions of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent in tons/person-year <sup>2</sup>   |  |               |                    |               |                           |            |      |            |                      |            |          |   |                    |
| Washington<br>DC   | Glasgow<br>UK  | Toronto<br>CA | Shanghai,<br>China | New Yo        | ork City Beijing<br>China |            | U    | Lond<br>UK | ndon Toky<br>UK Japa |            |          |   | Barcelona<br>Spain |
| 19.7   | 8.4  | 8.2           | 8.1                | 7.            | 1                         | 6.9        | 9    | 6.2        | ļ                    | 4.8        | 3.8      | 3 | 3.4                |
|  | Selected US cities domestic emissions of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent in tons/person-year <sup>3</sup> |               |                    |               |                           |            |      |            |                      |            |          |   |                    |
| San Diego CA   | A San<br>Francisco   | Bosto<br>MA   | n Portland<br>OR   | d Chica<br>IL | -                         | ampa<br>FL | Atla | nta GA     |                      | ulsa<br>OK | Austin T | X | Memphis<br>TN      |
| 7.2  | 4.5  | 8.7           | 8.9                | 9.3           | 3                         | 9.3        | 1    | 10.4       | Ç                    | 9.9        | 12.6     |   | 11.06              |
| <sup>1</sup> Wikipedia (2009), <sup>2</sup> Dodman (2009); <sup>3</sup> Gleaser and Kahn (2008)<br><sup>2,3</sup> Values include transportation (private and public), heating, and electricity |  |               |                    |               |                           |            |      |            |                      |            |          |   |                    |

GHG = Green House Gases ( $CO_{2}$ , methane, nitrogen oxides and other gases)

#### Current urban systems are mostly linear

- Excessive water volumes are withdrawn from mostly distant surface and groundwater sources
  - Inside the community water is used only once and wastefully, e.g., treated drinking water is used in landscape irrigation for growing grass
  - Great losses of water by leaks and evapotranspiration
- Water is transferred underground to distant large wastewater treatment plants
  - The WTP use excessively energy and emit carbon and often methane which are green house gases
  - The receiving water bodies become effluent dominated after discharge

"Conventional system based on activated sludge wastewater treatment (ASWT)- the wrong road-towards-sustainability!" (Willy Verstraete Professor at the University of Ghent )

- Drinking water is primarily used as a transport vector and irrigation; only a minor part (less than 3%) for nutritional purposes
- Total carbon footprint of Activated Sludge Wastewater Treatment is not sustainable and represents in Belgium/France 125 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/cap-year which could be about 340 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/cap-year in the US
- Conventional removal of nutrients and potential reuse/recycle would require additional energy and emit more GHGs
- Heat and nutrients are generally not recovered
- Energy recovered from sludge digestion is rarely practiced and represents only a minor portion of the energy potential
- Residual pollution load is still significant

# **Closing the Cycle**

### Reduce, Reclaim, Reuse and Restore - 4 Rs

- 1. <u>Reduce</u> Water and energy conservation
- 2. <u>Reclaim</u>
  - 1. Treat for safe discharge into environment TMDL
  - 2. Reclaim energy (heat), nutrients
- 3. <u>Reuse</u> after additional treatment
- 4. 4<sup>th</sup> R <u>Restore</u> water bodies as a resource

#### Separate, Sequester and Store- 3 Ss

- 1. Separate Blue, White, Gray, Yellow, and Black Water
- 2. <u>Sequester</u> GHGs and remove/detoxify toxics
- 3. <u>Store</u> reclaimed water on the surface and/or underground

### □ Toilet to Tap – 2 Ts (is it needed?)

• Reclamation with or without 3S for potable reuse

### NEW CONCEPTS

### **Green and Sustainable**

#### **Eco-mimicry for the landscape**

- Develop urban landscape that would mimic but not necessarily reproduce the predevelopment natural system
  - Xeriscape
- Minimize imperviousness
- Drainage service mostly on the surface
- Reduction of energy consumption
  - Public transportation, nonpolluting fuels, electric buses and light rail
  - Green buildings, passive energy savings, water saving appliances
- Green space for recreation along the rivers
  - Interconnected riparian buffers and wetlands
- Urban brown-field remediation and development
- Ecologically sound stream restoration and daylighting including base flow
- Resiliency to Extreme Meteorological Events

#### There is no waste – new sustainability terms

#### Waste water → **Used water**

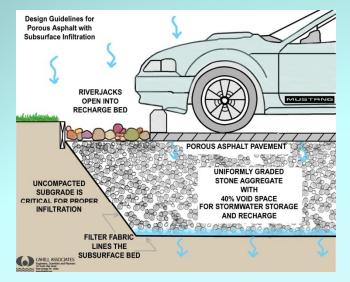
- Treated wastewater that meets standards for discharge into receiving waters and other nonpotable uses  $\rightarrow$  Reclaimed water
- Reclaimed water treated to potable water quality for reuse in buildings→ NEWater (Singapore terminology)
- Treatment plant with recovery of biogas, energy, nutrients, etc.
   → Integrated resource recovery facility

#### • Water colors of use and reuse

- Blue clean natural water
- White surface runoff
- Black water containing urine, feces and kitchen solids
- **Gray** domestic used water without black water contribution
- Vellow urine contains most of nutrients in 1% volume
- Green water used for irrigation and not available for reuse

### Urban Best Management Practices with LID Concepts are an Integral Part of the COFs





#### **Green Roofs**

Save energy and store water

Rain gardens

Infiltrate and treat runoff

Porous pavement

Infiltrate, store and treat runoff

Ponds and wetlands

Store, treat and infiltrate runoff



Courtesy City of Seattle



Courtesy of AquaTex Sci. Consulting

# Urban Water Body Restoration and Daylighting are Important





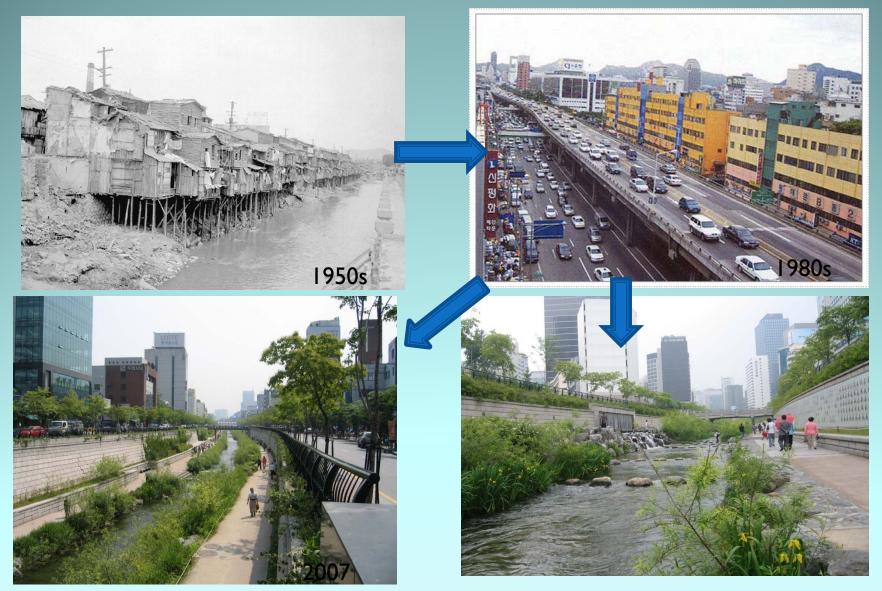
Courtesy PUB Singapore

Lincoln Creek in Milwaukee

Dayligthted Zhuan River in Beijing

Kallong River in Singapore

### Seoul, Korea Cheonggye River



Photos public domain files of the City of Seoul (top) and V. Novotny (bottom)

#### Creating ephemeral surface drainage Green roof Pervious pavement insulation, water side roads storage **Green Building** Water & Energy Conservation ain gardens with torage , e.g. , dry Pervious pavement parking How big is the flow and pollution load?

# Urban perennial streams need base flow

- Water reclamation plants providing clean effluent for ecological flow do not have to be far from the city
  - Base flow can also be provided by
  - Groundwater inflows
  - Sump pumps in basements
  - Upstream streams
  - Cooling water

- Condensate from AC
- Stored urban runoff in ponds
- Irrigation return flow
   None of the above should enter underground sanitary sewers



Dockside Greens Ecocity, Victoria, BC photo provided by AquaTex Sci. Consulting, Victoria, BC

### Water centric (LID) drainage in ecocities' 1st order streams



Berlin, Landseberger Tor. Credit Jack Ahern, U.Mass



Hammarby Sjöstad Credit Malena Karlsson



Dockside Greens, Credit AquaTex Sci. Consult.



Zhiangjiawo, PRC. Credit Herbert Dreiseitl,

#### Centralized or decentralized water management

#### systems

Centralized – once through system is appropriate if only water conservation is considered with no reuse

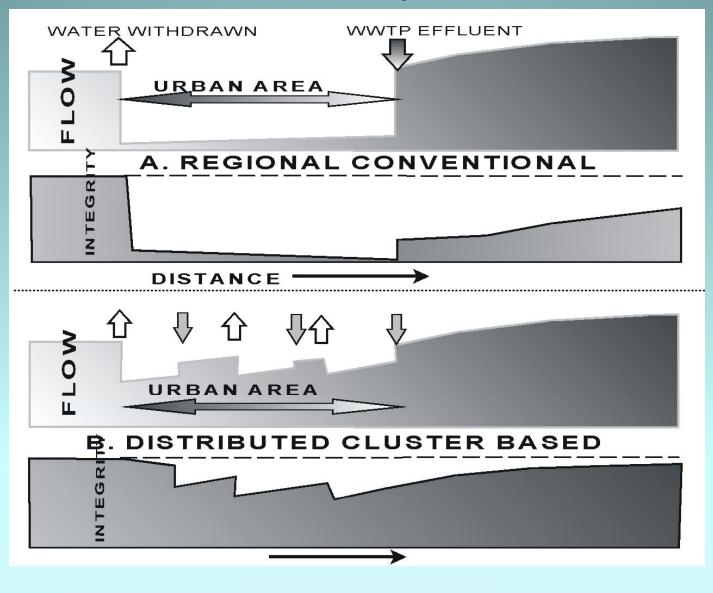
- Heat energy recovery may not be feasible
- Water reuse for toilet flushing and irrigation may not be economical or efficient – system wide dual piping and long transfers are needed
- Nutrient and biogas recovery and conversion to electricity are less than moderately efficient (Milorganite, heating of digesters)
- Difficult or impossible to restore urban streams
- Fully decentralized into small clusters
  - Most efficient for heat and water reclamation
  - Energy and labor demanding but savings on transporting used water reclaimed water is used on site
  - Biogas production, use and conversion to energy may be efficient in developing countries
- Hybrid system retains advantages of both systems

### Closing the Cycle Necessitates Decentralized Management - Clusters and Ecoblocks

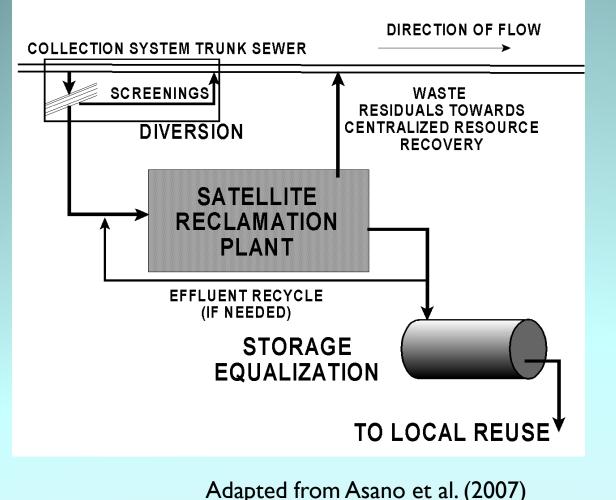
- A cluster (Ecoblock) is a semiautonomous part of the city that, for the most part, has its own water/stormwater/used water management
  - Cluster may range in size from a high-rise building to a subdivision or a section of the city with thousands of inhabitants
  - Cluster infrastructure
    - Distributes water and practices water conservation and reuse
    - Implements energy saving in buildings (e.g., green roofs, solar energy)
    - Provides stormwater conveyance (mostly surface), storage and infiltration (groundwater recharge) and nature mimicking BMPs
    - Water reclamation units (high efficiency package WWTs)
    - Energy recovery from wastewater
  - Centralized or distributed biogas/energy/nutrients recovery
  - Ecologically and hydrologically functioning landscape
- Clusters are interconnected for increased resiliency

### Ecological and Hydrological Effects of Distributed

#### vs. Linear Systems



### If water is needed for local reuse, sewers can also be a source



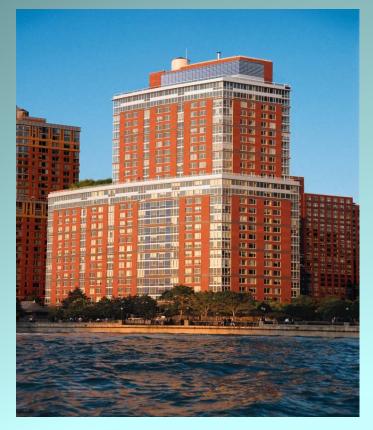
Package and small high efficiency treatment units can be installed to provide locally water for:

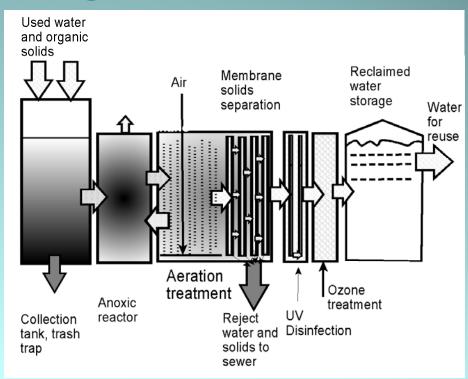
- •Ecological flow of restored streams
- •Toilet flushing
- Landscape irrigation

•Street flushing

Idea: Concentrate used water for centralized resource recovery

# Water reclamation and reuse for toilet flushing and possibly irrigation





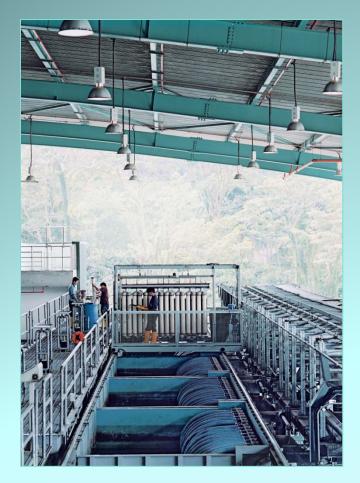
Rainwater harvesting and reuse for irrigation is also practiced

Battery Park Solaire development in New York - a semiautonomous water/used water management cluster

**Designer Alliance Environmental** 

# Need for reuse

It could be energy demanding



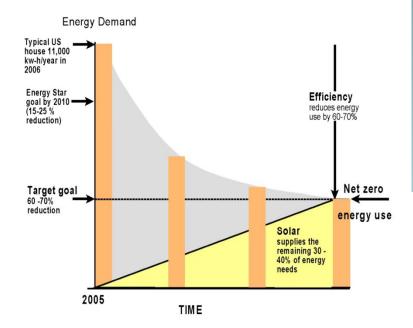
Microfiltration, courtesy Siemens



**Reverse** osmosis



UV radiation



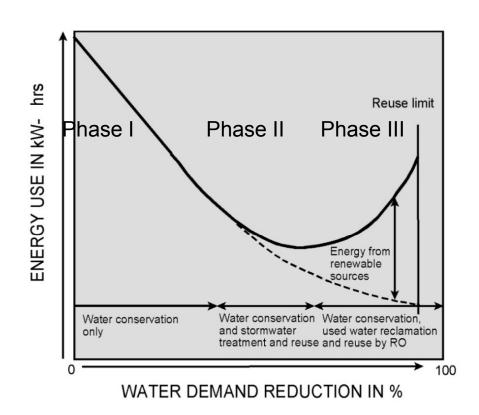
#### **Energy delivered from the grid**

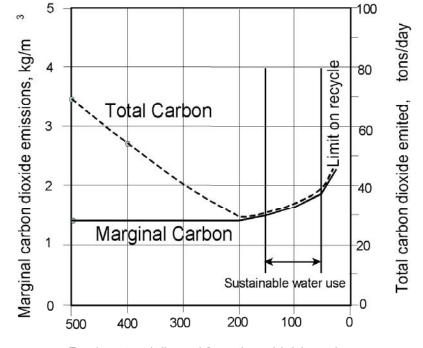
In the US 1 kW-hr =  $0.6 \text{ kg CO}_2$ emissions

In France 1 kW-hr =  $0.22 \text{ kg CO}_2$ 

# Water Energy Nexus

Implement water conservation first; it also concentrates used water for better energy recovery





Fresh water delivered from the grid, L/cap-day

| Total population            | 100,000           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Original water demand       | 500 L/cap-day     |
| Sustainable water available |                   |
| from freshwater source      | 100 L/ cap-day    |
| Sustainable rainwater and   |                   |
| stormwater reclamation      | 20 L/cap-day      |
| Sustainable brackish        |                   |
| groundwater (TDS 1500 m     | g/l) 30 L/cap-day |
| Maximum water conservati    | ion               |
| limit                       | 200 L/cap-day     |

Because sustainable water is available only to satisfy 150 L/cap-day demand, water use must be reduced by water conservation and reuse..

Wastewater treatment includes the activated sludge process with nitrification. Reuse will be done by filtration of the effluent, followed by reverse osmosis and ozonization. Reused water will not be available for potable use.

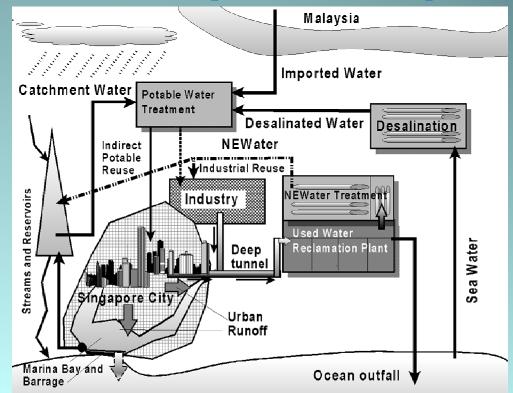
# Water Quality Management in Singapore Ultimate Infrastructure-heavy Closed Cycle



Singapore and Kallang Rivers, Marina Bay

 Before 1980 – Heavily polluted estuary (sewage, pig wastes, heavily polluted urban runoff, oil spills, unsewered premises)

 1977-1987 A complete clean-up and sewerage, polluting industries and activities removed, street and household refuse collected daily



A small island republic at the equator Area ~ 710 km<sup>2</sup> Population ~ 5 million One of the highest per capita GNP and living standard in the world Specific water use 157 L/cap-day

# Marina Barrage and Bay





1995 – 2005 Marina Barrage
 changed the estuary into a fresh
 water non tidal reservoir from which
 some water will be reused

 $\odot$  Marina Bay is a tourist attraction and center of the republic

Photos by V. Novotny

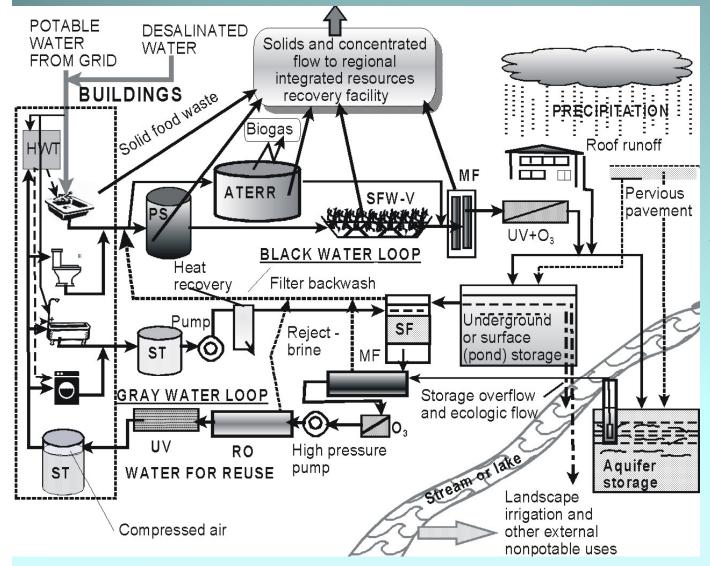
# Switch from aerobic treatment in linear systems to water, energy and other resource recovery

- 3 Ss- Separate, Store and Sequester (Gray and Black water, CO<sub>2</sub>)
- 3 R-s, Reclaim, Reuse, Recycle (Blue and White water,)
- No 2 Ts
- Distributed water and energy reclamation/recovery (Gray, Blue, White and some Black water, heat, methane)
- Concentrate Black water and with sludge send it to the regional Integrated Resource Recovery Facility

# Anaerobic Processes are Key

### Distributed recycle needs urban runoff

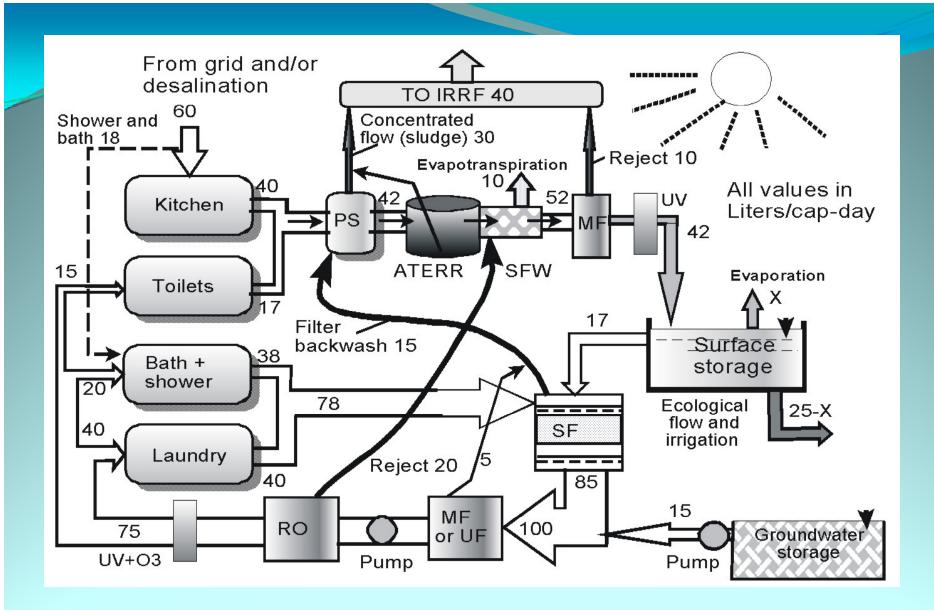
Losses by evapotranspiration, ecological flow and reject water



The number of cycles without make up water is very limited.

Make up water comes mainly from treated (and stored) storm water PS – primary settler MF microfiltration UV ultraviolet disinfection ST storage RO reverse osmosis SFW – subsurface flow wetland SF – sand filter ATERR –anaerobic treatment and energy recovery reactor -

concentrator



ATERR – Anaerobic treatment and energy recovery reactor

PS – primary settler MF microfiltration UV ultraviolet ST storage F NF nanofiltration

RO reverse osmosi

# **Review of Seven Ecocities**







ing the paradigm for fast-paced Urban Development in China.



Hammarby Sjőstad
 Dongtan
 Qingdao
 Tianjin
 Masdar
 Treasure Island

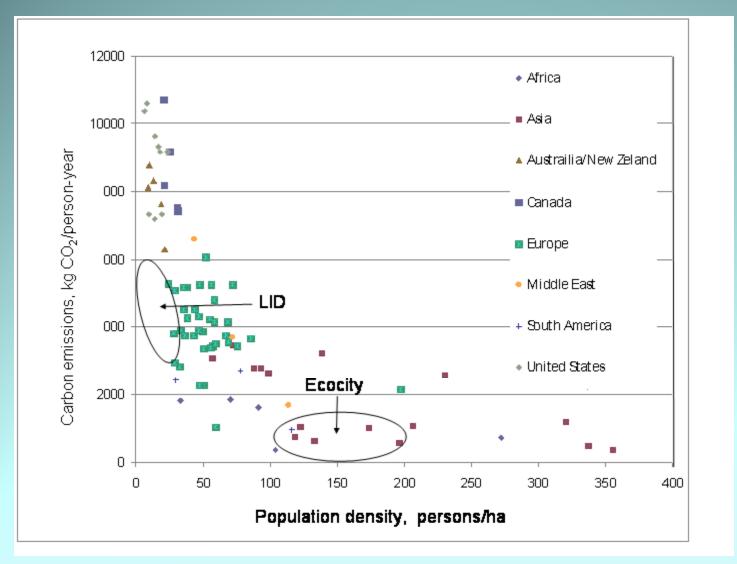




| City                | Population<br>Total               | Population<br>Density<br>#/ha | Water use<br>L/cap-day | % water<br>recycle | Water<br>System     | % Energy<br>savings<br>renewable | Green area<br>m²/cap | Cost<br>US\$/unit* |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Hammarby<br>Sjőstad | 30,000                            | 133                           | 100                    | 0                  | Linear              | 50                               | 40                   | 200,000            |
| Dongtan             | 500,000<br>(80,000) <sup>++</sup> | 160                           | 200                    | 43                 | Linear              | 100                              | 100                  | ~40,000            |
| Qingdao             | 1500+                             | 430 - 515                     | 160                    | 85                 | Closed<br>Ipop      | 100                              | ~15                  | ?                  |
| Tianjin             | 350,000<br>(50,000)++             | 117                           | 160                    | 60                 | Partially<br>closed | 15                               | 15                   | 60,000 –<br>70,000 |
| Masdar              | 50,000                            | 135                           | 160                    | 80                 | Closed<br>oop       | 100                              | <10                  | 1 million          |
| Treasure<br>Island  | 13,500                            | 170                           | 264                    | 25                 | Mostly<br>Linear    | 60                               | 75                   | 550,000            |
| Sonoma<br>Valley    | 5,000                             | 62                            | 185                    | 22                 | Linear              | 100                              | 20                   | 525,000            |

+ ecoblock only, an ecocity may consist of many interconnected ecoblocks

# **Population Density Matters**



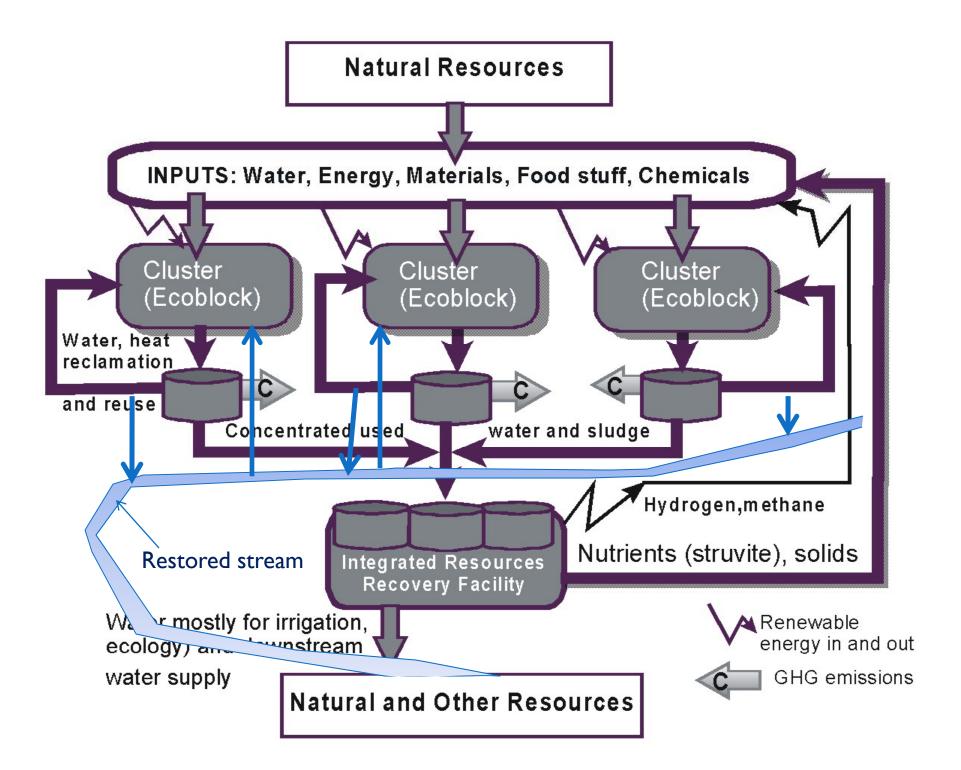
Difficult to compare US cities with Asian countries with different economic levels

Based on Newman and various other sources



# More centralized resource recovery

- Characteristics of integrated resource recovery facility
- More concentrated influent (COD > 3000 mg/L desirable)
- O Urine may be separated (contains 50% of P and >75% N) in 1% of flow
- Inflow and input contains sludge and other solids (shredded food and other organic solids). Other organic biodegradable solid waste may be trucked in (co-digestion)
- Because of high COD, conventional (energy demanding) activated sludge treatment is not feasible and should be replaced by anaerobic processes
  - Conventional sludge digester requires large detention and high concentrations of solids and COD
  - Use Upflow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket (UASB) reactor



#### Energy use of treated volume of municipal used (waste) water and corresponding $CO_2$ emissions. Raw data from Asano et al. (2007) and from Novotny et al. (2010)

10,000

Daily flow volume of treated used water m<sup>3</sup>/day)

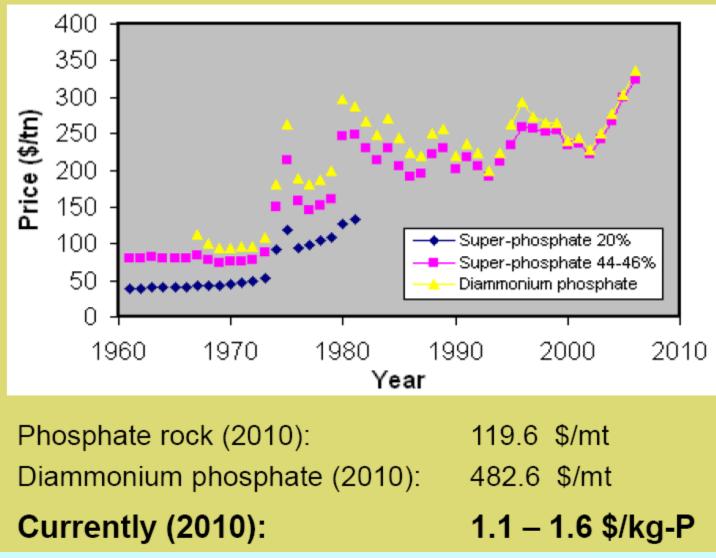
25,000

>50,000

**Treatment process** 

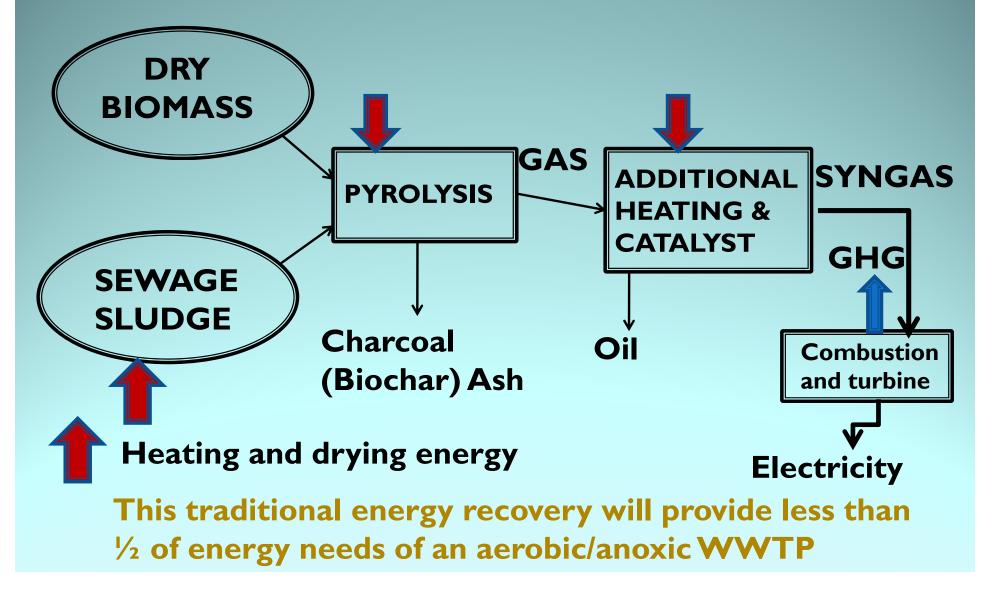
|   | Energy use kw-hr/m <sup>3</sup> (CO <sub>2</sub> emissions kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) |             |             |  |
|---|--|-------------|-------------|--|
| Activated sludge without nitrification and filtration | 0.55 (0.33)  | 0.38(0.23)  | 0.28 (0.17) |  |
| Membrane bioreactor with nitrification                | 0.83 (0.51)  | 0.72 (0.44) | 0.64 (0.37) |  |
| Reverse osmosis desalination                          |  |             |             |  |
| Brackish water (TDS 1 – 2.5                           | 1.5 (0.91) – 2.5 (1.52)  |             |             |  |
| Sea water   | 5 (3.05) - 15 (9.15)   |             |             |  |
| Ozonization (ozone produced from air)                 |  |             |             |  |
| Filtered nitrified effluent                           | 0.24 (0.15) - 0.4 (0.24)   |             |             |  |
| Desalination by evaporation (using was                | ~ 25 (15.25)   |             |             |  |

### We are running out of phosphorus (by 2040)



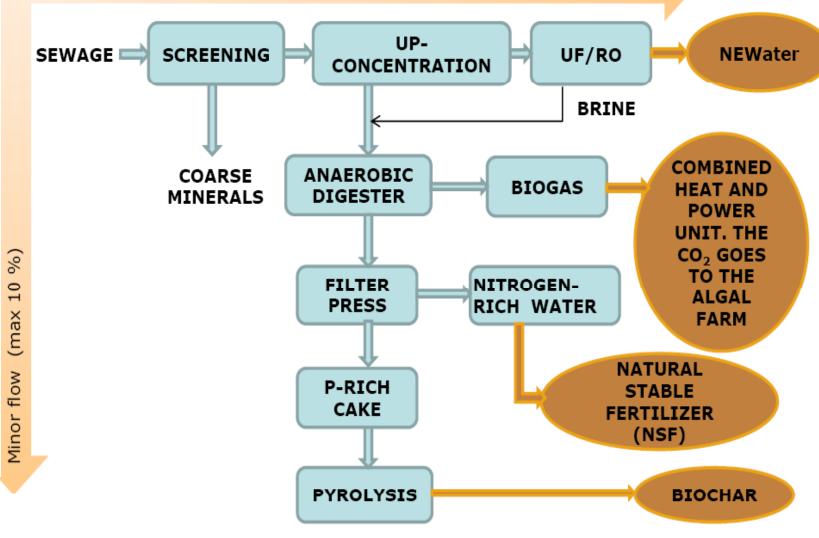
Sources: US Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook 2006 and the World Bank commodity data 2010, graph from Verstraete 2010

# Energy from Used Water and Solids via Syngas (H<sub>2</sub> + CO) and Oil Production



### The "Zero-Waste" Water Technology

Major flow



(Verstraete et al. 2009; Bioresource Techn. 100, 5537-5545; LabMET)

### Verstraete (U. of Ghent) system for GHG reduction

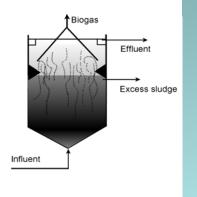
|                       | Energy gain (kWł | Avoided CO2 emission |                                      |         |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
|                       | Electricity      | Heat                 | (kg CO <sub>2</sub> IE <sup>-1</sup> | year-1) |
| Kitchen grinder       | -1.4             |                      | -0.9                                 |         |
| Advanced concentrator | -6.0             |                      | -3.6                                 |         |
| OLAND                 | 12.8             |                      | 6.6                                  |         |
| Heat recovery         | -179             | 496                  | 41.7                                 |         |
| Anaerobic digestion   | 38.9             |                      | 23.3                                 |         |
| Sludge dewatering     | 1.8              |                      | 1.1                                  |         |
| N recovery            | -9.6             | 40.8                 | 4.5                                  |         |
| P recovery            | 1.2              |                      | 2.0                                  |         |
| Biochar               |                  |                      | 13.3                                 |         |
| sum                   | -141             | 537                  | 88                                   | (237)*  |

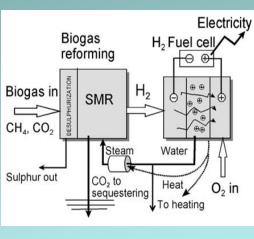
Zero WasteWater prevents 4.4% of the global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions!!

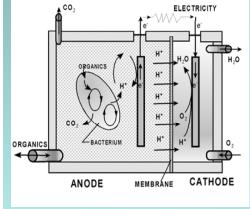
(Verstraete & Vlaeminck, 2010; Keynote Paper 2<sup>nd</sup> Xiamen Intern. Forum on Urban Environment; LabMET)

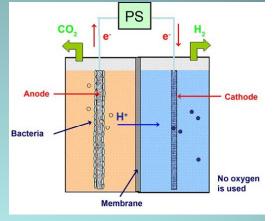
OLAND – Oxygen Limited Autotrophic Nitrification/Denitrification Process •US conditions (0.61 kg  $CO_2/kWh$  vs. 0.2 kg  $CO_2/kWh$  in France-Belgium )

# We can do better in the future Examples of new technologies









#### **UASB** Reactor

• 0.4 L CH4/g COD removed

9.2 kW-hr/m<sup>3</sup> of methane

#### Hydrogen fuel cell with biogas reforming

•Converts methane into hydrogen, electricity and water

• Greater efficiency than methane combustion

#### Microbial fuel cell

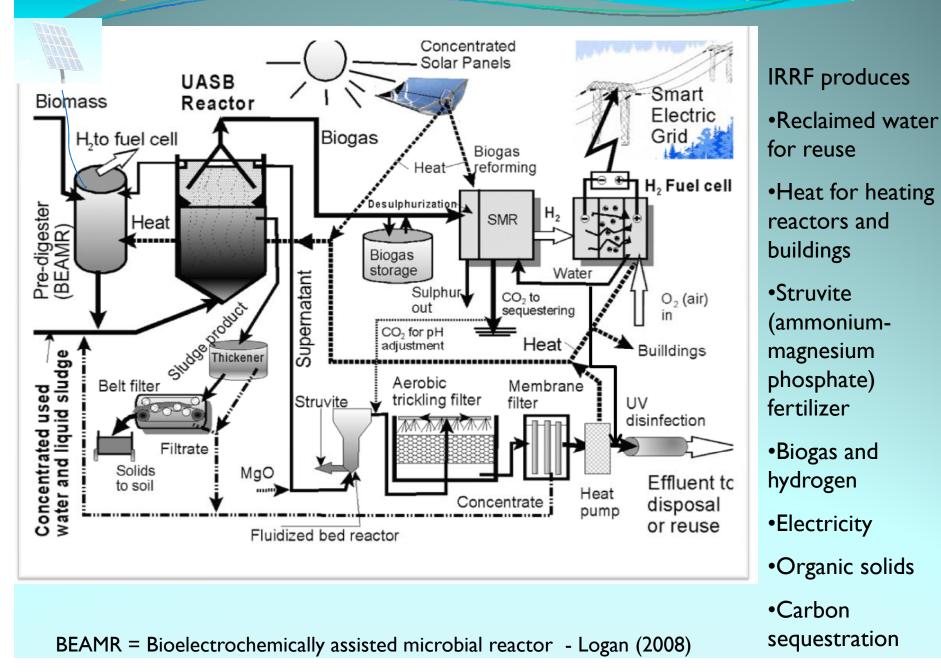
Converts organic biomass directly into electricity (from Rabaey and Verstraete, 2005 with a permission)

#### Bioelectrochemically Assisted Microbial Reactor (BEAMR)

Converts organic biomass directly into hydrogen by adding small electricity to the reactor (from Liu, Grot and Logan, 2005)

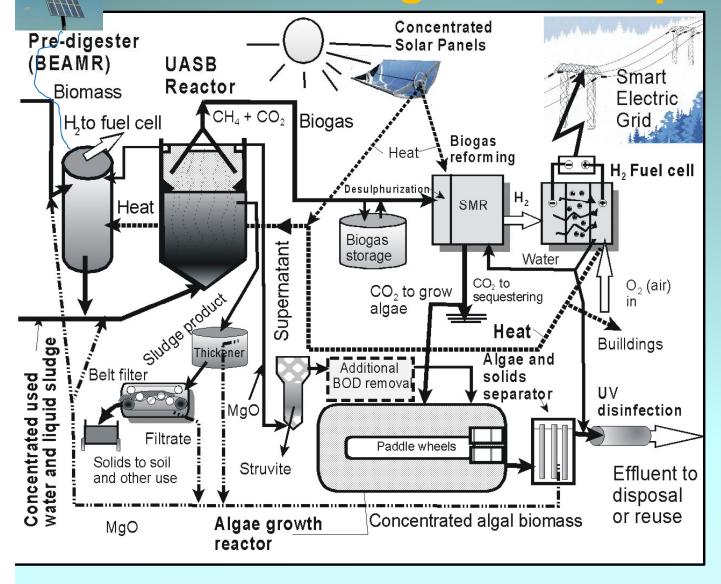
95 % energy recovery from produced acetate

#### Integrated Resource Recovery Facility - IRRF (Future)



### Integrated Resource Recovery Facility -

#### **IRRF** with algae biomass production



**IRRF** produces

•Reclaimed water for reuse

•Heat for heating reactors and buildings

•Struvite (ammoniummagnesium phosphate) fertilizer

•Biogas and hydrogen

•Electricity

•Organic solids rich with nutrients

Carbon
 sequestration

BEAMR = Bioelectrochemically assisted microbial reactor - Logan (2008)

# Other features of ecocity





Solar panels in Hammarby, courtesy Malena Karlsson

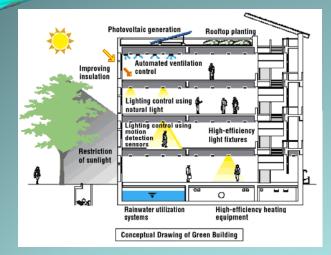


Czech SKODA streetcars in Portland, OR



Solid waste receptors in Hammarby, courtesy Malena Karlsson

# **Renewable Energy**



#### Passive energy sources



I.4. MW Voltaics array in Sonoma County (CA)



Household voltaics



Wind turbines in Dongtan, courtesy ARUP

### Summary and Conclusions

- Water conservation is the best alternative solution to a water availability problem. There is a direct relationship between water use and energy reductions.
- Combined sewers will become obsolete and no CSOs or SSOs
- Excess capacity of existing sanitary severs leased to cable
- Reuse with high efficiency solids and pollutant removals (e.g., microfiltration and reverse osmosis) in a closed cycle requires more energy because of the energy requirement in the treatment. This energy should and could be provided by renewable sources
- Reuse/recycle needs make-up water to offset losses by reject water and liquid content in sludge and possibly by evaporation
- A new paradigm of urban drainage and used water reuse with resource recovery needs to be developed and implemented. These new systems would be carbon neutral and greatly reduce water and GHG footprints.

# Summary and Conclusions - cont.

- Energy from separated and concentrated used water can be extracted by anaerobic processes in a form of methane and in COF as electricity or hydrogen and by heat pumps as heat (or cooling)
- Higher COD concentration and reducing used water volumes of separated black water is key for efficient anaerobic energy separation
- Co-digestion of concentrated used black water, sludge and other organic solids should be considered
- □ Nutrients, especially phosphorus, will be recovered
- Hybrid system with an integrated resource recovery facility will dramatically reduce water use, could achieve zero pollution, produce energy, heat, fertilizers, solids, and even produce energy biomass and sequester carbon
- Switch from methane and syngas energy recovery to hydrogen and/or direct electricity is on the horizon
- Energy and resources recovery could bring about significant economic benefits when compared to current costs of wastewater disposal and damages to the environment

# water centric SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

planning, retrofitting, and building the next urban environment

VLADIMIR NOVOTNY JACK AHERN PAUL BROWN



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