



### Closed-Loop Urban Farming: Recycling Water & Reclaiming Nutrients

With Erwin Nolde (Nolde & Partner | innovative water concepts) and Martin Regelsberger (Transition Network)

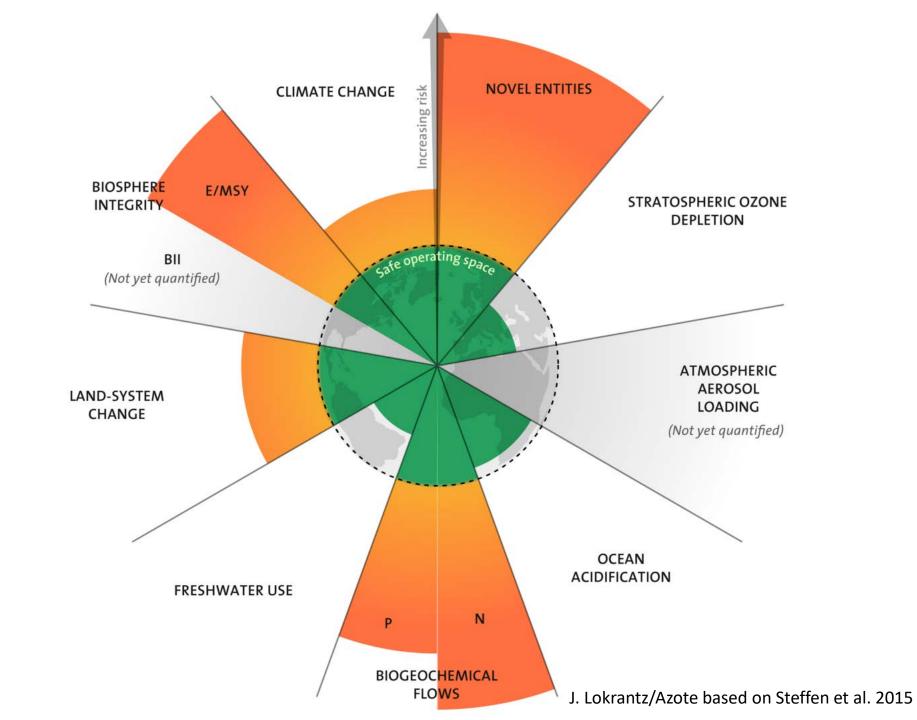
7th July 2022 | 12.00-13.00 CEST

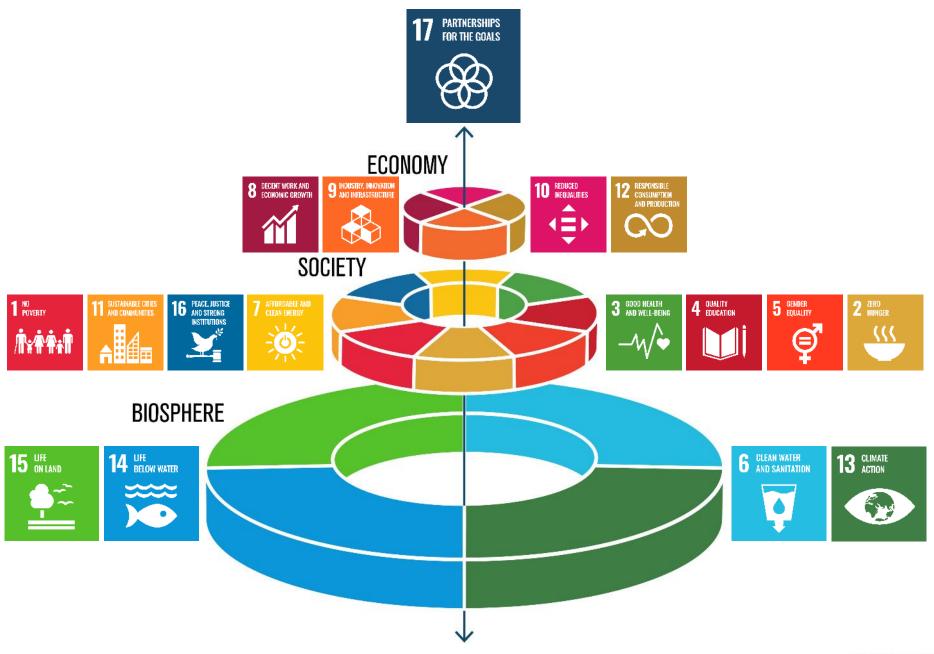
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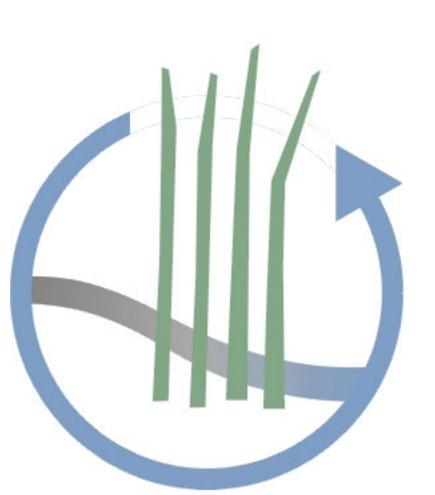


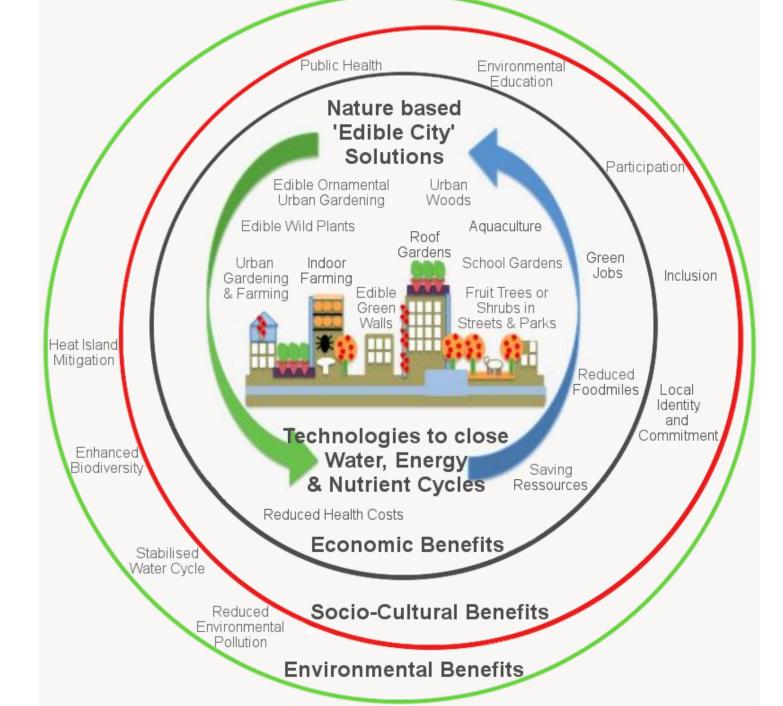
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 776665

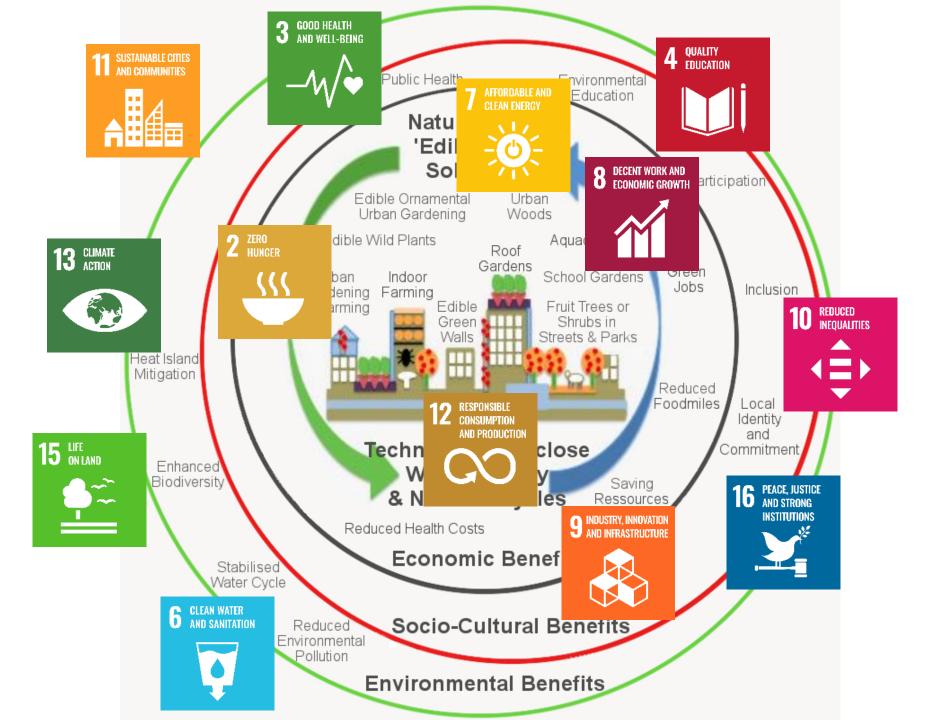


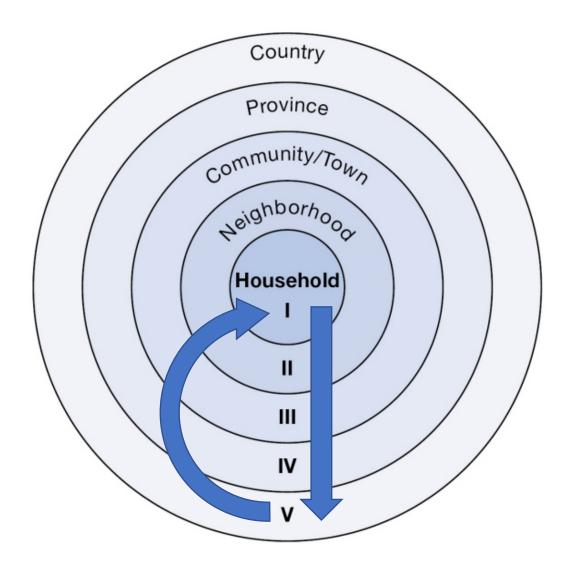






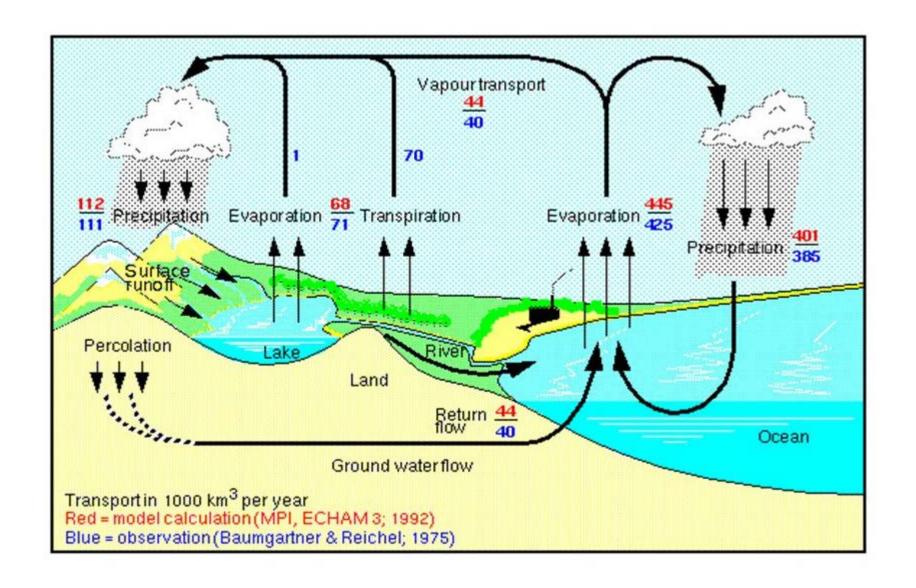




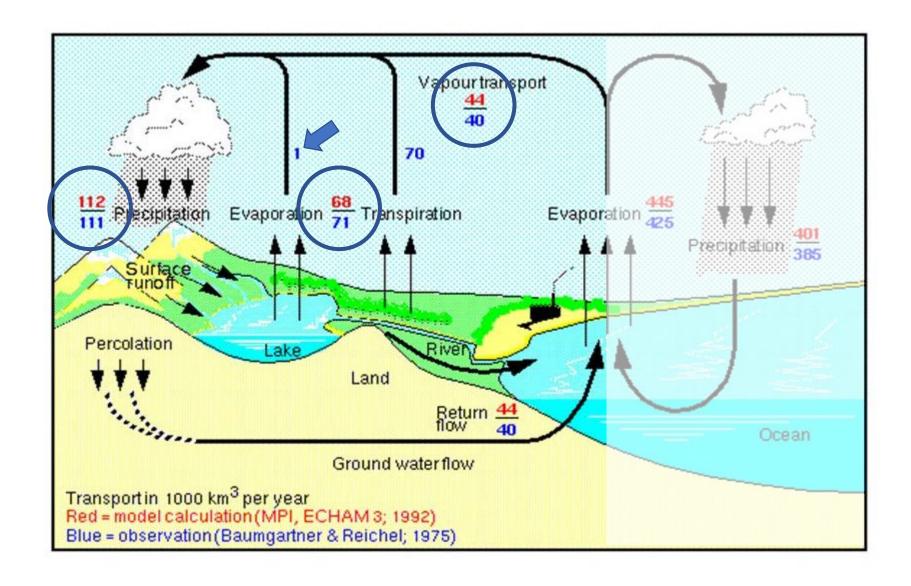


Trust = f(1/Distance)

# The Water Cycle, Flows



# The Water Cycle, Flows



### Urban Rainwater Balance

recharge

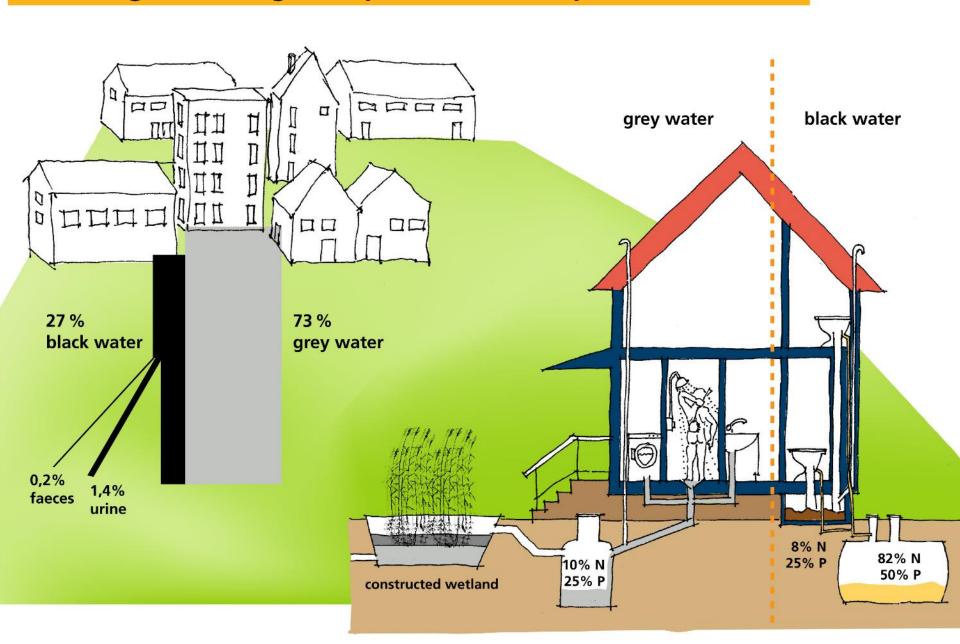
Present urban water balance Future urban water balance Precipitation Precipitation high evapolow evapotranspiration from ration from soil plants and soil high and fast run-off low run-off © Universität Freiburg Professur f. Hydrologie high groundwater low groundwater

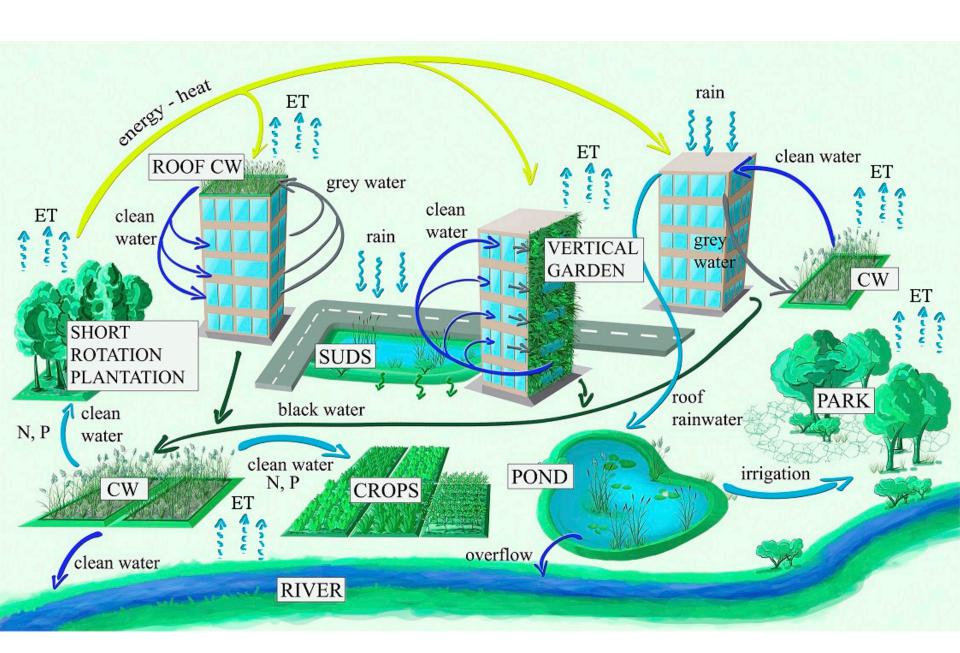
recharge

### Urban Rainwater Balance

Present urban water balance Future urban water balance Precipitation Precipitation high evapolow evapotranspiration from ration from soil plants and soil high and fast run-off low run-off © Universität Freiburg Professur f. Hydrologie low groundwater high groundwater recharge recharge

#### Percentage of sewage components of European households





### Conventional wastewater management

#### The sewer:

A good rat breeding station



#### The treatment plant:

High electric energy demand and wasted N-resources, phosphorus and potassium





#### The output:

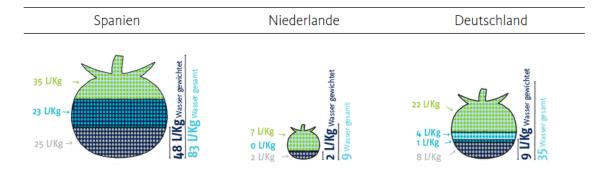
Hygienically unsafe; not suitable for irrigation and bathing



What do we need for urban farming?

# Water







# Energy

Sunlight: 1000 Watt/m<sup>2</sup>

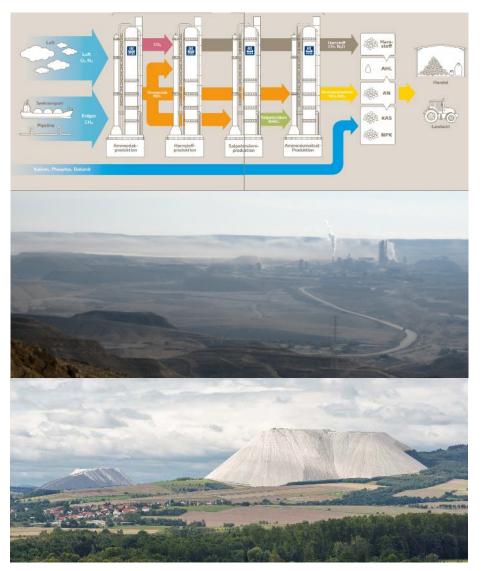
LED light: 300 Watt/m<sup>2</sup>



Thermal energy



# Nutrients - nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium



Production, transport and application of N-fertiliser is energy intensive

Phosphorus reserves are limited; Peak phosphorus 2030

Potassium:

Salt water intrusion from mine dumping

For all of these nutrients there is no return back from the ocean!

# Wastewater: a resource for water, energy and nutrients



|                |       | blackwater |        | greywater |        | total |
|----------------|-------|------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Quantity       | l/p/d | 35,0       | 31,3 % | 77,0      | 68,7 % | 112,0 |
| COD            | g/p/d | 70,0       | 59,3 % | 47,0      | 40,2 % | 117,0 |
| Nitrogen (N)   | g/p/d | 11,9       | 92,2 % | 1,0       | 7,8 %  | 12,9  |
| Phosphorus (P) | g/p/d | 1,5        | 75,0 % | 0,5       | 25,0 % | 2,0   |
| Potassium (K)  | g/p/d | 3,2        | 76,2 % | 1,0       | 23,8 % | 4,2   |
| Sulphur (S)    | g/p/d | 0,9        | 23,7 % | 2,9       | 76,3 % | 3,8   |

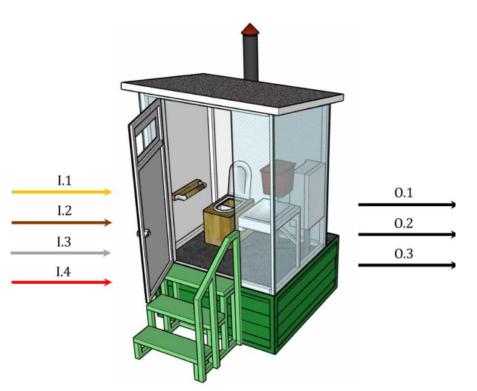
| energy review |              | greywater | total |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| warmth        | Cooling in K | 20        | 2     |
| potential     | Wh/p/d       | 1768      | 243   |
| biogas        | Wh/p/d       |           | 118   |

Decentralised energy recovery potential is 15-fold higher than with the centralised option.

#### **Dilution** is no solution

- Don't mix black and grey water
- Never put rainwater in the wastewater sewer
- Wastewater is a source of new water, nutrients and energy

#### Die Luxuriöse: Model Verena





#### Legend:

- I. Material flows input
- I.1 urine
- I.2 faeces
- I.3 additives
- I.3 contaminants



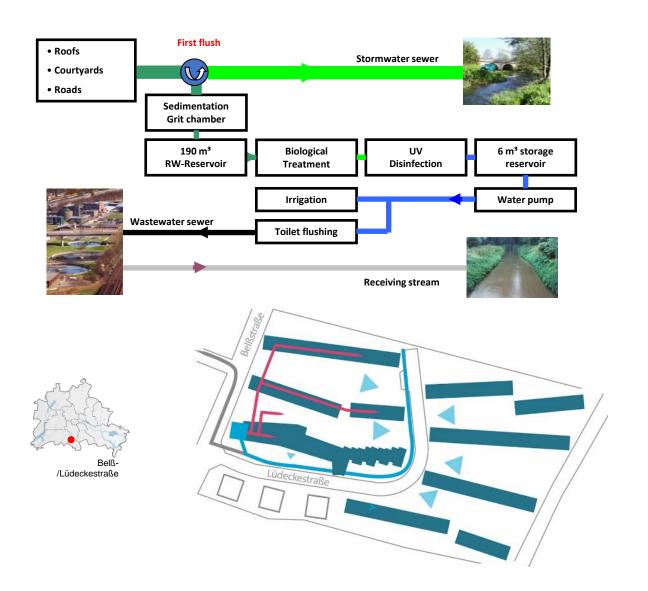




What have we done?



### Rainwater with street runoff







### Service water



#### blackwater



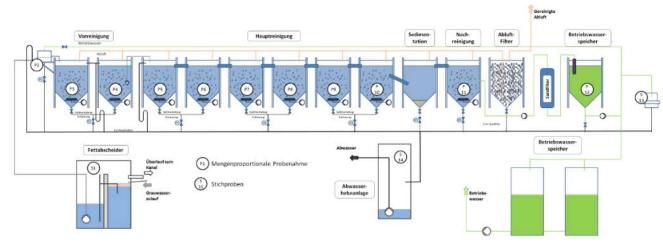


#### greywater





# Greywater incl. kitchen water

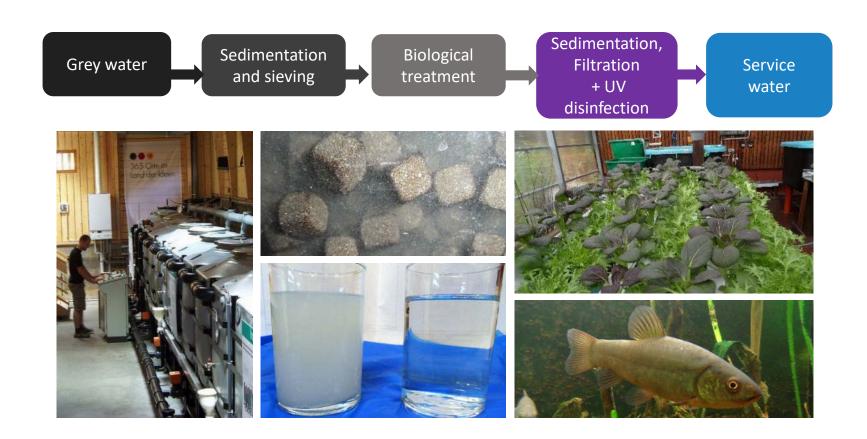








### Service water



# Blackwater for fertilizer









### **Nutrients**





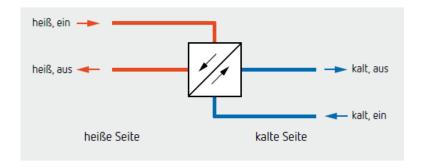


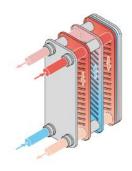




# Energy heating, electricity

| Energy analysis              |       |        |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| Cooling down grey water 20 K | 1,768 | Wh/p/d |  |  |  |  |
| Cooling down waste water 2 K | 243   | Wh/p/d |  |  |  |  |
| Biogas                       | 118   | Wh/p/d |  |  |  |  |









# Greywater with heat recovery

•  $450 \text{ beds} - 15 \text{ m}^3/\text{d}$ 









# Greywater with heat recovery

- 39 flats
- Greenhouse
- Beehives

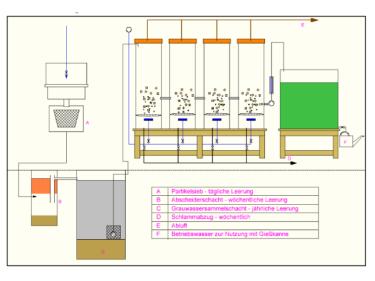


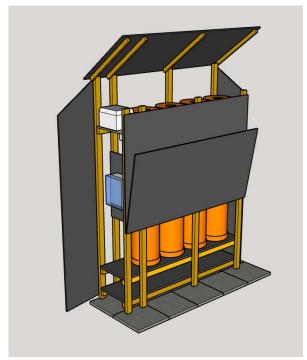




# Greywater incl. kitchen









# Greywater incl. kitchen











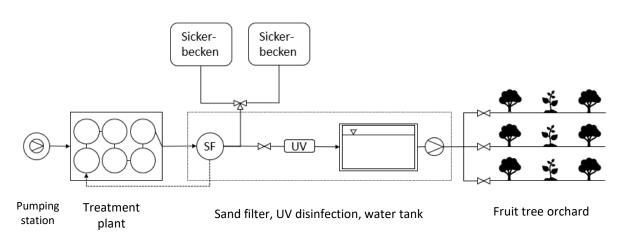






EdiCitNet: Gutsgarten, Berlin-Hellersdorf

# Treated wastewater for irrigation











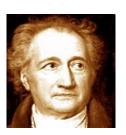
### Guidelines

- EU Directive for Bathing Water 2006/7/EC (under revision)
- REGULATION (EU) 2020/741 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 May 2020 on minimum requirements for water reuse
- Onsite non-potable water systems: DIN EN 16941-2:2021 (greywater) and DIN EN 16941-1:2018 (rainwater)
- Protection against pollution of potable water installations and general requirements of devices to prevent pollution by backflow: DIN EN 1717:2011

Berlin guidelines for service water use (1995)

- British Standards BS8525-1:2010 & BS 8525-2:2011 for greywater

### Thank you for your attention!



"Knowing is not enough, we must apply; Willing is not enough, we must do."

#### Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

(From: Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre)



