



Topic 3: Resource management: Energy, Water and Waste



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them. Project Number 2022-1-CY01-KA201-ADU-000082889

Content

01

Renewable energy
integration

02

Water
management

03

Waste
management



Co-funded by
the European Union



Renewable Energy Integration



1. Renewable energy integration

- 1.1 Wind energy
- 1.2 Hydroelectric energy
- 1.3 Biomass energy
- 1.4 Solar energy
- 1.5 Geothermal energy
- 1.6 Energy storage solutions
- 1.7 Energy efficiency



Co-funded by
the European Union



Renewable energy integration

Renewable energy sources are crucial in developing gardens and greenhouses, providing sustainable power solutions that enhance functionality, efficiency and environmental friendliness, and reduce the carbon footprint associated with traditional gardening practices.



Co-funded by
the European Union

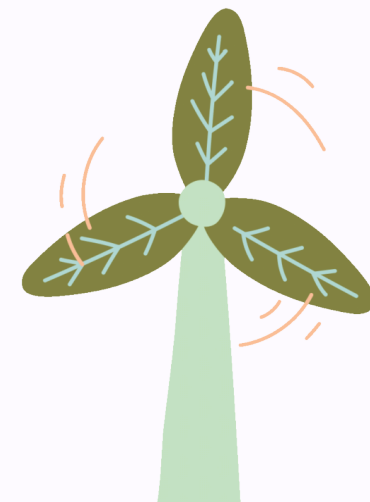
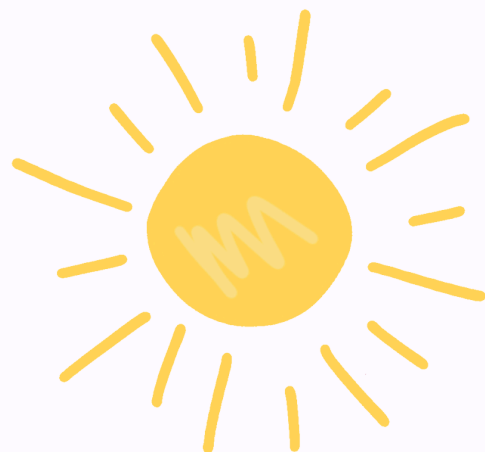


Renewable energy integration

Major advantages of incorporating renewable energy sources into greenhouses and gardens:

Environment:

- **Carbon Footprint Reduction:** Producing clean, renewable electricity and installing solar panels, small wind turbines, or hydro systems in gardens helps to mitigate climate change by lowering greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Resource Conservation:** Using renewable energy sources in gardens and greenhouses contributes to the conservation of natural resources by decreasing reliance on non-renewable fossil fuels and the environmental effect of traditional energy generation.
- **Biodiversity Support:** Incorporating renewable energy sources into gardens with thoughtful landscape design supports biodiversity by reducing environmental disturbances and creating homes for pollinators and wildlife.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Renewable energy integration

Society:

- Education and Awareness: Small garden settings that incorporate renewable energy are useful instructional instruments that spread knowledge about the advantages of renewable energy technology, sustainable living, and local communities.
- Empowerment: Giving people the tools to produce their own renewable energy on a modest scale encourages self-sufficiency and enables gardeners to actively lower their carbon footprint.
- Community Involvement: By showcasing how renewable energy may be integrated into gardens, you can inspire communities to embrace more sustainable habits by promoting a feeling of environmental responsibility and community involvement.

Economy:

- Local Economic Growth: Promote the use of renewable energy in gardens and greenhouses to boost local economies by giving small businesses that specialize in renewable energy goods, installation, and maintenance a chance to grow.
- Cost reductions: By producing energy on-site and lowering reliance on grid electricity, small-scale renewable energy systems in gardens and greenhouses can reduce electricity costs and perhaps result in long-term cost savings for garden owners.
- Property Value: Integration of renewable energy elements, such as solar panels or wind turbines, may boost property values of homes or properties with gardens by delivering enhanced sustainability and energy-efficient features.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Wind Energy



Compact wind turbines may be a good fit in smaller residential areas, gardens, and greenhouses with restricted space. Compared to bigger industrial turbines, these turbines are typically made to produce power on a smaller scale.

Before you build a tiny wind turbine in your yard, make sure your location is suitable for the installation. You can also consider consulting with experts or specialists in the industry. Understanding whether a small wind turbine is feasible and appropriate for your backyard or residential area will involve understanding.



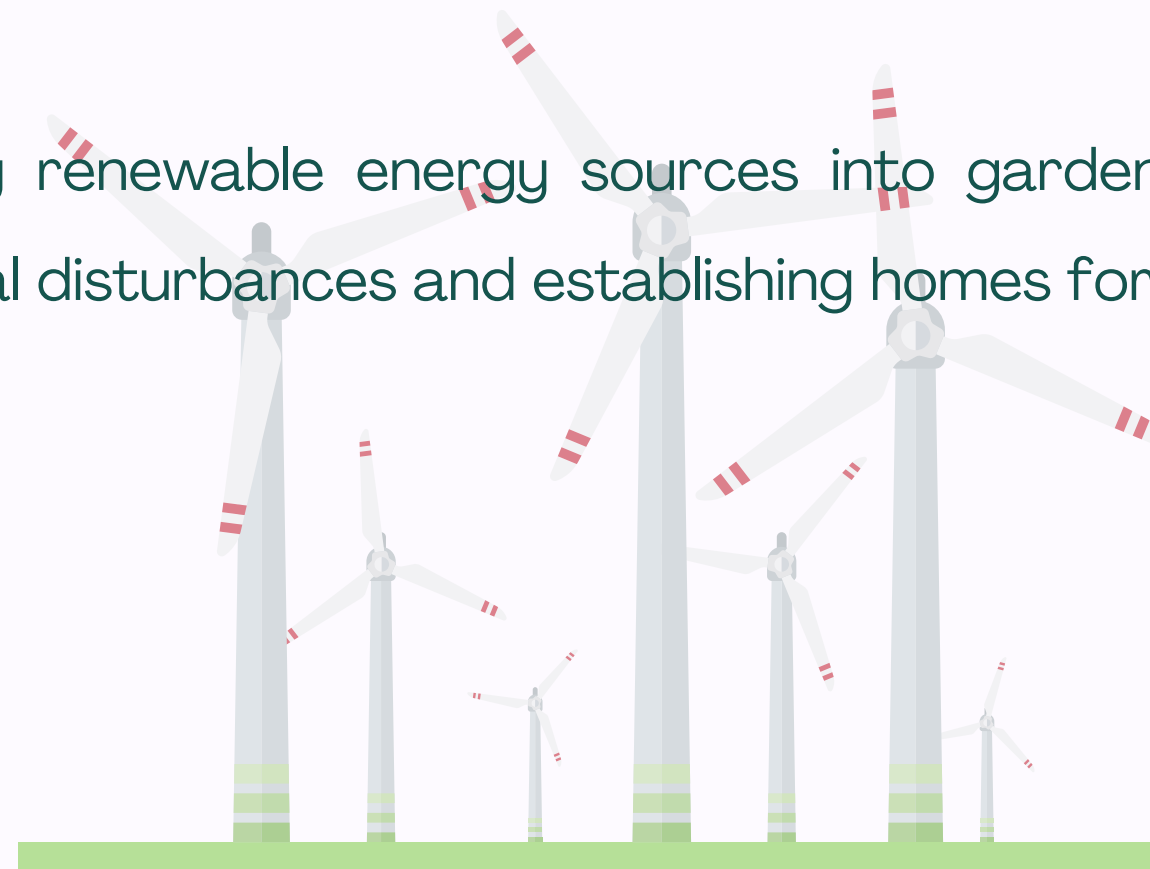
Co-funded by
the European Union



Wind Energy

The primary considerations regarding small wind turbines in gardens and greenhouses are (1/2):

- **Wind Conditions:** Before establishing a little wind generator, evaluate the wind conditions in your location.
- **Dimensions and Design:** Small wind turbines are usually lightweight and suitable for home use. Because they are frequently smaller than commercial turbines, they are more suitable for placement in gardens or other smaller spaces.
- **Area Requirements:** Even though they are smaller than their commercial counterparts, these turbines still need a certain amount of space to operate at their best. They must be positioned so that adequate wind can blow through them without being hindered by surrounding structures, trees, or other obstructions.
- **Carbon Footprint Reduction:** Installing solar panels, small wind turbines, or hydro systems in gardens and greenhouses helps to combat climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions. These systems also produce clean, renewable electricity.
- **Biodiversity Support:** Incorporating renewable energy sources into gardens with smart landscape design fosters biodiversity by lowering environmental disturbances and establishing homes for pollinators and wildlife.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Wind Energy

The primary considerations regarding small wind turbines in gardens and greenhouses are (2/2):

- **Resource conservation:** Resource conservation is aided by using renewable energy sources in gardens, which reduces the need for non-renewable fossil fuels and the negative environmental effects of traditional energy generation.
- **Noise Level:** Smaller wind turbines often make less noise than larger turbines. However, noise can still be an issue, particularly in neighbourhoods. Think about how much noise the turbine produces and how it might affect your neighbours.
- **Permits and Regulations:** Check local regulations, zoning laws, and homeowner association rules regarding installing small wind turbines. Permits might be required, and there might be restrictions on height, noise levels, and installation locations.
- **Aesthetics:** Small wind turbines can be less visually intrusive than larger ones, but their appearance may still be a consideration. Some people might find them unappealing or distracting in a garden setting.
- **Wind velocity:** For the turbine to operate as efficiently as possible, there must be consistent and adequate wind speed. Certain regions might not have reliable or powerful enough winds to support small wind generators.
- **Maintenance:** Even small wind turbines require regular maintenance to ensure proper functioning. Maintenance tasks might include cleaning, lubrication, and occasional inspections. Consider the ongoing maintenance needs and associated costs.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Hydroelectric Energy

Micro-hydroelectric systems can be used to generate hydroelectric power in gardens or near greenhouses with water features or flowing water sources. These systems produce energy by using flowing water, such as streams or tiny watercourses. They can power water pumps, lights, and other electrical garden equipment.

It's crucial to remember that installing hydroelectric systems in gardens, particularly on a smaller scale, calls for careful planning, knowledge, and consideration of nearby laws and environmental effects. Hydroelectric energy may not seem like a natural fit for traditional garden design, but incorporating such systems can give garden landscapes a distinctive and sustainable quality.



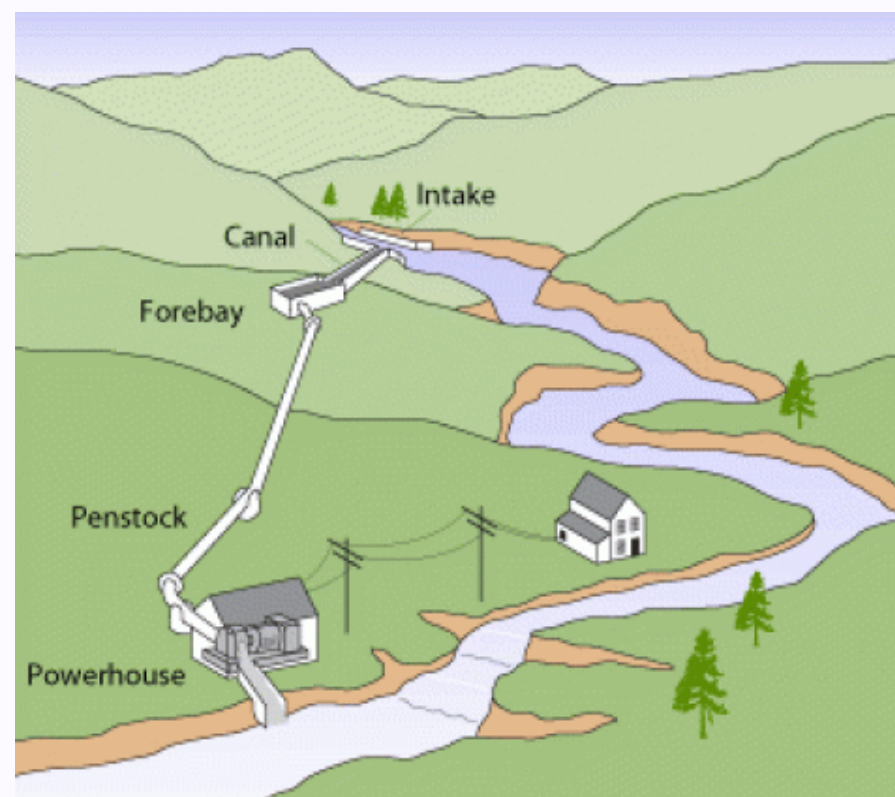
Co-funded by
the European Union



Hydroelectric Energy

The key characteristics and considerations for small hydroelectric stations are:

- Capacity Range
- Run-of-River Design
- Water Source
- Turbine Types
- Local Energy Generation
- Environmental Impact
- Economic Viability
- Regulatory Requirements
- Site Selection
- Renewable Energy Contribution



Co-funded by
the European Union



Biomass Energy



Biomass energy involves utilizing organic materials, such as wood chips, crop residues, or organic waste, to generate heat or power. Utilizing biomass for energy in gardens and near greenhouses may offer some advantages and disadvantages.



Advantages of Biomass Energy:

- **Utilization of Waste:** Organic waste from small gardens, such as leaves, clipped branches, and grass clippings, is common. Sustainability is promoted by biomass energy, which makes it possible to use this organic material for energy production rather than throwing it away.
- **Space Efficiency:** Because biomass energy systems can be rather modest, they work well. Small-scale biomass stoves, heaters, or composting systems can efficiently utilize garden waste to produce heat or energy.
- **Carbon Neutrality:** When organic resources are sourced and maintained properly, biomass energy is regarded as carbon-neutral. This indicates that the carbon absorbed during the biomass's growth balances the carbon dioxide released during combustion.
- **Versatility:** There are many different types of biomass energy systems, including boilers, composting systems, and wood-burning stoves. Because of its adaptability, gardeners can select systems that best meet their unique demands for cooking, heating, and electricity generation.
- **Local Energy Production:** Generating energy on-site from garden trash promotes self-sufficiency in energy production and lessens reliance on outside energy sources, particularly for tiny garden spaces where heating is needed.



Co-funded by
the European Union

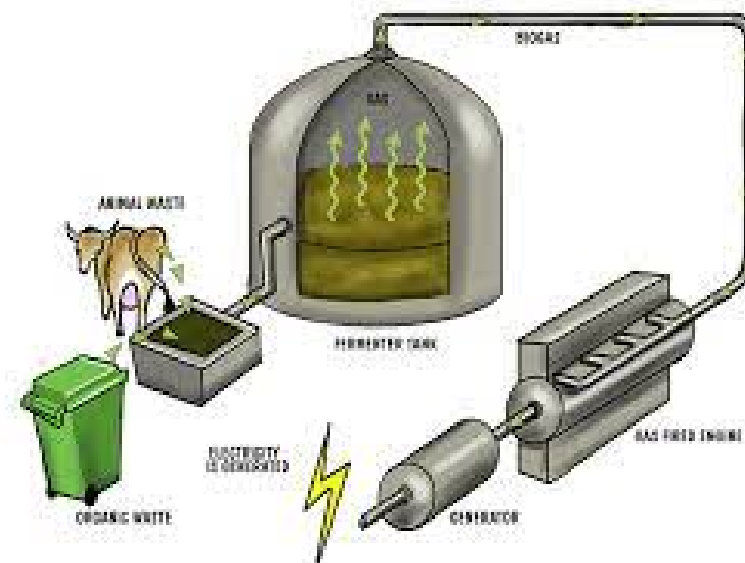
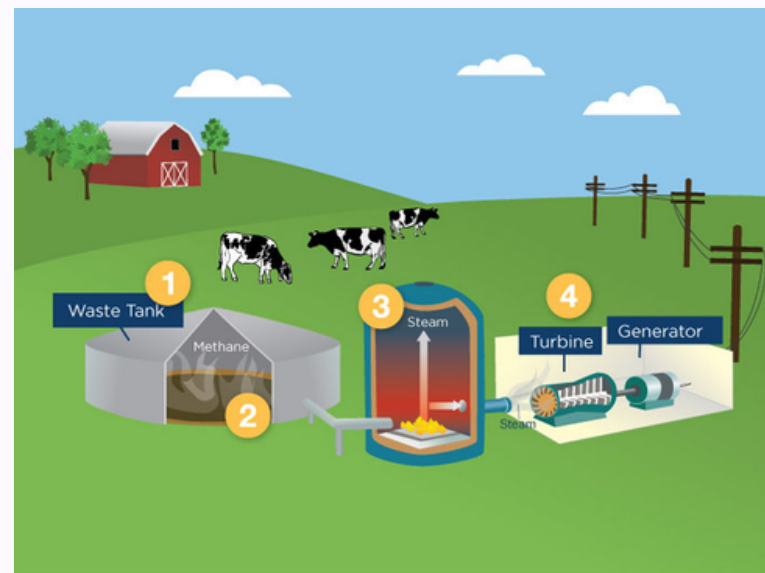


Biomass Energy



Challenges and Considerations:

- **Maintenance Needs:** Regular maintenance for biomass systems includes cleaning, ash disposal, and equipment upkeep. Making sure the garden is properly maintained in a tiny space could be difficult.
- **Efficiency and Energy Production:** Small-scale biomass systems may have a lower energy output than bigger installations. The kind of biomass utilized and the system's architecture can impact efficiency.
- **Emissions and Air Quality:** When biomass systems burn incompletely, pollutants and particulate matter can be released, affecting local air quality. Effective ventilation and selecting clean-burning, efficient biomass systems are essential to lessen this problem.
- **Rules and Safety:** Local laws and safety requirements must be followed when installing biomass systems. This covers adhering to emission regulations and taking preventative measures against fires, particularly in urban or residential areas.
- **Storage Space:** Extra space may be needed to store biomass resources like wood chips or pellets. Appropriate storage facilities must be considered to maintain dry and usable biomass resources.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Geothermal Energy

Geothermal energy can play a fascinating and beneficial role in gardens, especially in terms of utilizing this renewable energy source for heating, cooling, and greenhouse operations.

Integration into gardens and greenhouses:

1. Greenhouse Heating and Cooling:

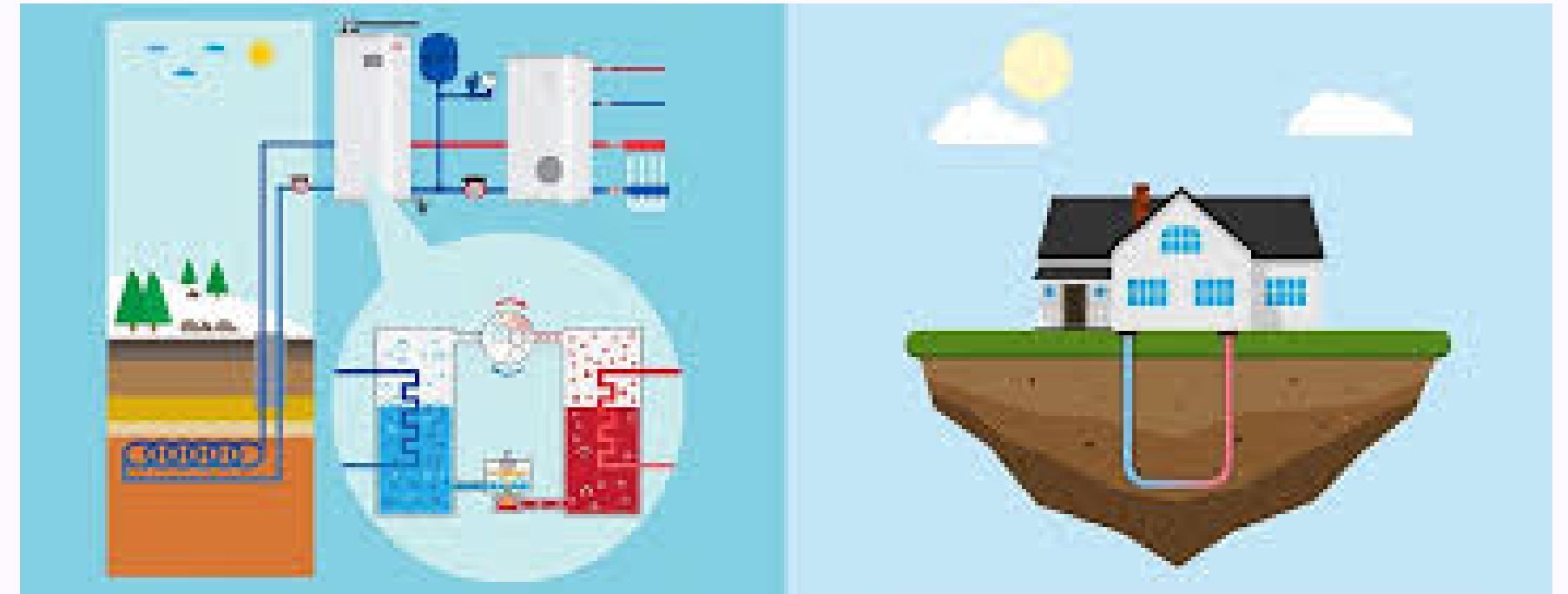
- Heating: Geothermal heat pumps can be used to provide consistent and efficient heating for greenhouses during colder months. The heat pump extracts heat from the ground and transfers it into the greenhouse to maintain optimal temperatures for plant growth.
- Cooling: In warmer climates, geothermal systems can also assist in cooling greenhouses by transferring excess heat from the greenhouse into the ground, thereby moderating temperatures and reducing the need for traditional air conditioning.

2. Soil Heating for Season Extension:

- Geothermal heating can be used to warm the soil in garden beds or raised beds, extending the growing season in colder regions. This can help promote earlier planting in spring and prolong harvests into the fall.

3. Geothermal Greenhouses:

- Design and build specialized geothermal greenhouses that incorporate earth-sheltered or partially submerged designs to take advantage of stable ground temperatures for year-round gardening.



Co-funded by
the European Union





Solar Energy

Photovoltaic (PV) systems harness solar energy and are a valuable addition to smart gardens, enhancing their functionality, sustainability, and eco-friendliness.

Benefits of Photovoltaic Systems:

- **Energy Efficiency:** Solar panels produce electricity during the day, allowing garden features and equipment to be run without relying on the grid.
- **Sustainable Energy Production:** PV systems use sunshine to generate electricity, a reliable and renewable energy source for different garden equipment.
- **Cost savings:** Over time, gardens and greenhouses that use solar energy may see a decrease in their electricity costs. This is especially true when using solar energy to power irrigation systems, lighting, and other electrical appliances.
- **Environmental friendliness:** PV systems help reduce carbon footprints by utilizing clean electricity, which is consistent with eco-friendly gardening techniques.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Solar Energy

Integration of PV Systems:

- **Lighting Solutions:** Adding nighttime illumination to outdoor areas, garden features, and pathways with solar-powered LED lights improves both safety and appearance.
- **Garden Tool Power:** Photovoltaic (PV) solar energy systems can directly power a range of garden equipment, including electric lawnmowers, trimmers, and irrigation systems, eliminating the need for conventional electrical sources.
- **Automated Systems:** By integrating PV-powered systems with smart controllers, they can run automatically in response to sunshine levels or predetermined time slots, which maximizes energy use in the garden.
- **Charging Stations:** Electric gardening tool charging stations can be powered by solar energy, offering a practical and environmentally friendly means of maintaining equipment readiness.
- **Water Features and Pumps:** Solar-powered water pumps ensure effective water circulation without using electricity for irrigation systems, ponds, and fountains.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Solar Energy

Considerations for implementing PV systems:

- **System Sizing:** Evaluating the energy needs of garden equipment and features makes it easier to determine the proper size and capacity of the PV system needed to fulfil those needs effectively.
- **Placement and Orientation:** Solar panels must be positioned and oriented correctly to optimise sunshine exposure and energy output. Installing them where they will receive the most daily solar exposure is recommended.
- **Maintenance:** Regular cleaning and maintenance of solar panels ensure their best performance by clearing away dirt, debris, or other impediments that could impede their ability to absorb sunlight.
- **Storage Options:** Consider adding battery storage devices to store extra energy produced during the day for use at night or during periods of low sunlight.



Future Prospects:

Advancements in solar technology, such as more efficient panels and innovative designs, continue to make PV systems more accessible, cost-effective, and efficient. As smart gardening practices evolve, the integration of PV systems will likely become even more streamlined and essential in creating sustainable and energy-independent gardens and greenhouses.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Solar Energy

Photovoltaic panels integration (1/2):

When PV integration is integrated into a garden, solar panels are placed strategically and thoughtfully to maximize energy output while enhancing the garden's aesthetics. There are various places in a garden where PV integration might take place, including:

- **Roofs:** Installing solar panels on the roofs of sheds, garden buildings, or any other structures inside the garden area maximizes sunlight and efficiently uses space. It also reduces the amount of ground space needed to generate electricity.
- **Pergolas and Arbors:** Solar panels integrated into pergolas, arbors, or canopy structures offer dual functionality by providing shade and producing electricity. Panels can be installed on top of the structures or used as components that provide shade while producing electricity.
- **Ground-Mounted Arrays:** Setting aside a specific section of the garden to house ground-mounted solar panels might be a useful strategy for obtaining sunlight. Solar panels can be installed on a rack or support structure in an open area with good sun exposure. This enables positioning and changes to be made for the best possible solar orientation.
- **Vertical Surfaces:** Installing solar panels on vertical surfaces, such as walls or fences, might be a creative way to integrate PV. To maximize area and capture sunshine, solar panels can be mounted to garden fences or incorporated into vertical garden walls.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Solar Energy

Photovoltaic panels integration (2/2):

- **Water Features:** Solar panels can power the pumps for your garden's ponds, fountains, or other water features, lessening your need for grid electricity. Solar-powered water fountains use renewable energy and enhance aesthetic appeal.
- **Garden Pathway Lighting:** To help power outdoor lighting systems, garden pathway fixtures or ground lights can be equipped with tiny solar panels. These solar-powered lights improve safety and the atmosphere in the garden while also improving visibility.
- **Portable Solar Devices:** Garden tools, accent lighting, and small devices can all benefit from the flexibility and ease of use that come with using portable solar chargers or panels. As needed, these movable gadgets can be positioned in areas with plenty of sunlight.
- **Garden Shelters and Gazebos:** Solar panel integration can be installed on the roofs or sides of garden shelters, gazebos, or seating spaces. These shady areas with strategically placed panels offer comfort and energy generation.
- **Conservatory or greenhouse:** Mounting solar panels on a greenhouse or conservatory's roof enables energy-efficient plant cultivation while producing electricity. This integration ensures maximum exposure to sunlight, which benefits plant development and energy production.
- **Educational Displays:** Educational displays with tiny solar panels can be set up as part of garden tours or other educational events so that visitors can learn about solar energy and renewable technology.



Co-funded by
the European Union

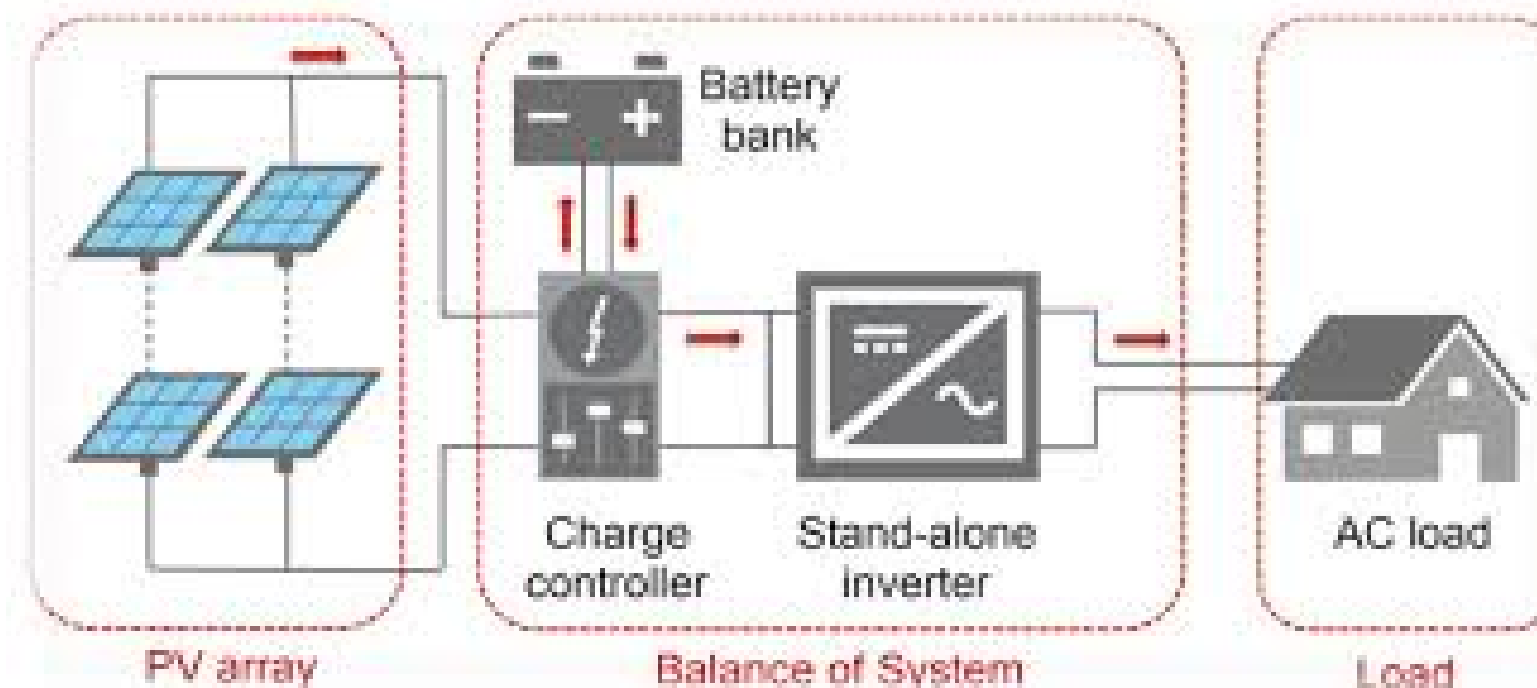
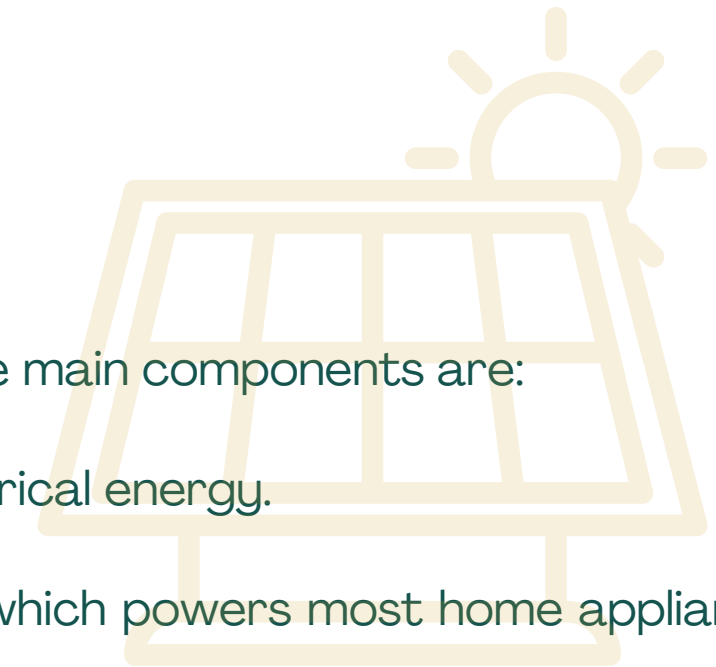


Solar Energy

Autonomous photovoltaic systems

Autonomous photovoltaic systems are made to produce power from sunshine independently of the grid. The main components are:

- **Solar panels:** These devices use semiconductor-based photovoltaic cells to transform sunlight into electrical energy.
- **Inverters:** Direct current (DC) generated by solar panels is transformed into alternating current (AC), which powers most home appliances and the electrical grid. This process is accomplished by solar inverters.
- **Batteries:** For autonomous systems to generate power when sunshine isn't present, energy storage is essential. Batteries are devices that store extra energy produced on bright days so that it can be used at night or on overcast days.
- **Charge controllers:** They control the solar panels' voltage and current to avoid overcharging the batteries.
- **Backup Generators:** To augment energy output during prolonged times of low sunlight or high energy demand, certain autonomous systems have backup generators that run on conventional fuels.



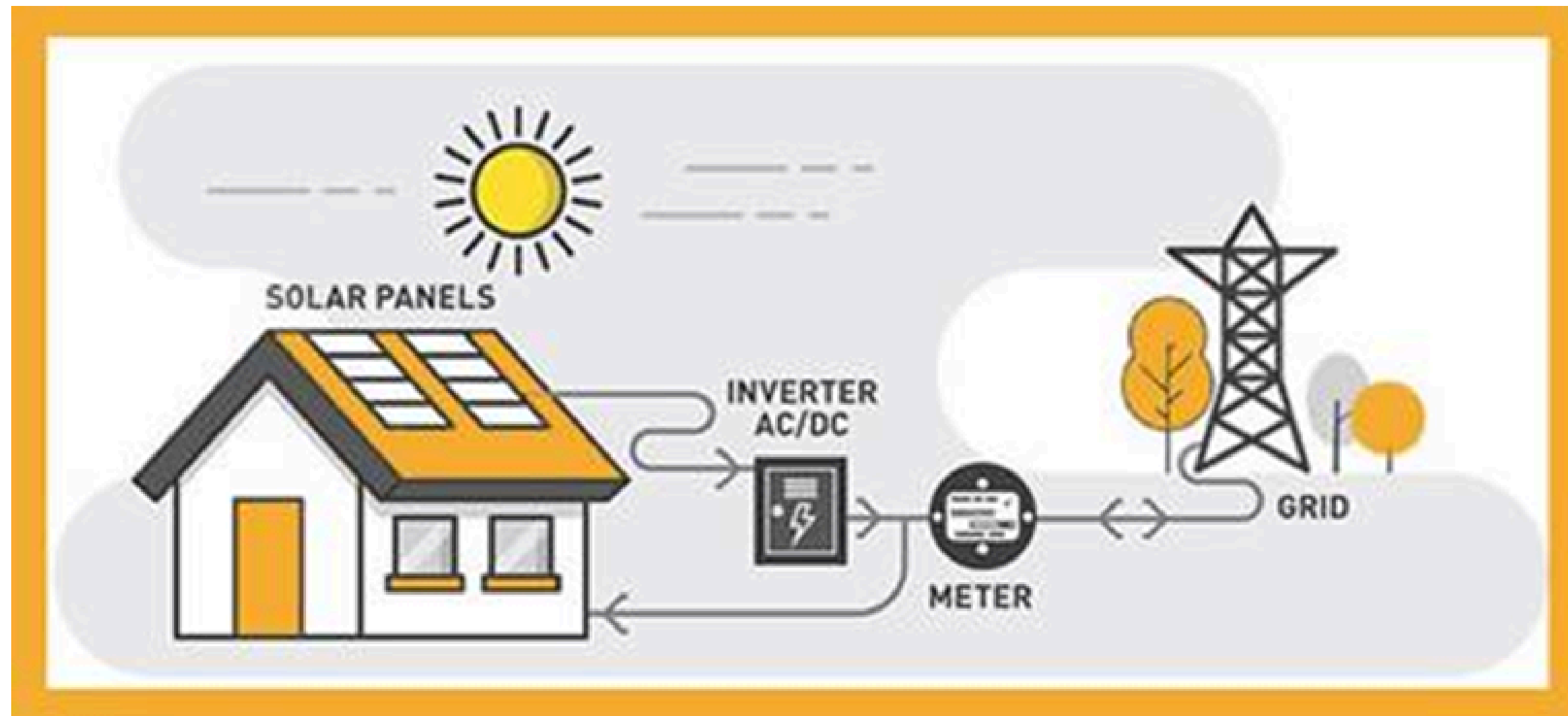
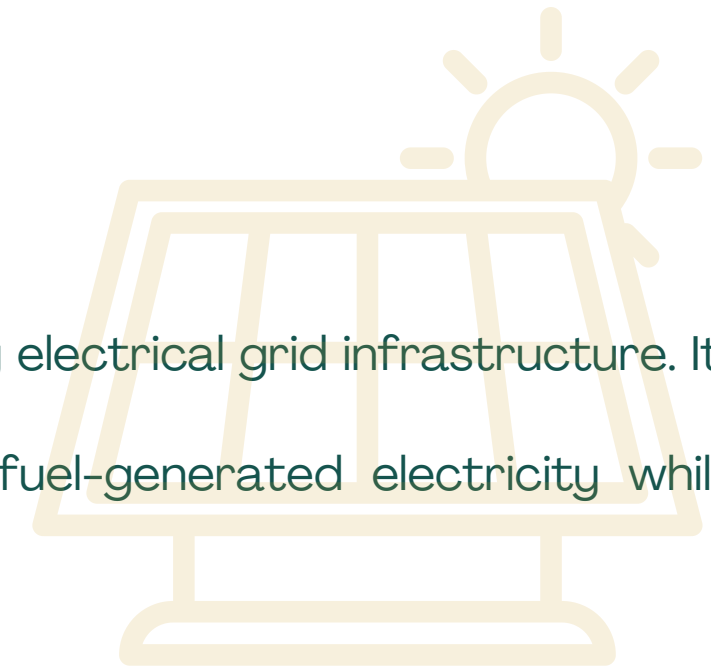
Co-funded by
the European Union



Solar Energy

Net-metering photovoltaic systems

Net metering facilitates the seamless integration of renewable energy sources like solar PV into the existing electrical grid infrastructure. It encourages property owners to invest in clean energy systems, reducing their dependence on traditional fossil fuel-generated electricity while promoting sustainability and a more decentralized energy production model.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Solar Energy

Net-metering photovoltaic systems - Main advantages (1/2):

- **Energy Self-Sufficiency:** Allow property owners to generate their electricity, promoting energy self-sufficiency within the garden space. This self-generation of clean energy reduces reliance on the conventional grid and supports a more independent energy supply.
- **Reduced Electricity Bills:** By generating their electricity from solar energy, garden owners can potentially reduce or even eliminate their electricity bills. The excess energy produced by the PV system and fed back into the grid earns credits, which can offset future energy costs.
- **Enhanced Sustainability:** It reduces the garden's carbon footprint, mitigates environmental impact, and promotes a more eco-friendly and sustainable lifestyle.
- **Utilization of Space:** Gardens and greenhouses often offer ample space with good sun exposure, making them suitable locations for installing solar panels. Integrating net-metering PV systems optimizes the use of available space, maximizing energy generation potential.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Solar Energy

Net-metering photovoltaic systems - Main advantages (2/2):

- **Educational Value:** They provide an opportunity for learning about renewable energy, solar technology, and sustainable practices, offering valuable insights to garden owners, visitors, and educational institutions.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Generating clean energy from solar panels contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, thereby improving local air quality and supporting environmental conservation efforts within the garden and surrounding areas.
- **Aesthetic Integration:** Solar panels can be harmoniously integrated into garden designs, either as ground-mounted arrays or into structures like pergolas or trellises. This integration can enhance the garden's aesthetics while also serving a functional purpose.
- **Support for Green Initiatives:** It demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. It showcases an active participation in green initiatives and supports the adoption of renewable energy in residential spaces.
- **Resilience and Grid Support:** In times of power outages or emergencies, it can provide a source of electricity, contributing to increased resilience for the property. Additionally, excess energy generated by these systems contributes to grid stability and supports the broader electrical infrastructure.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Solar Energy

Agrivoltaics

Agrivoltaics is a new technique that maximizes energy production and land utilization by fusing solar systems and agriculture. By putting solar panels over agricultural fields, it is possible to produce solar energy and food crops or other vegetation at the same time. Using agrivoltaics in smaller-scale applications such as smart gardening offers several advantages and prospects.



Co-funded by
the European Union

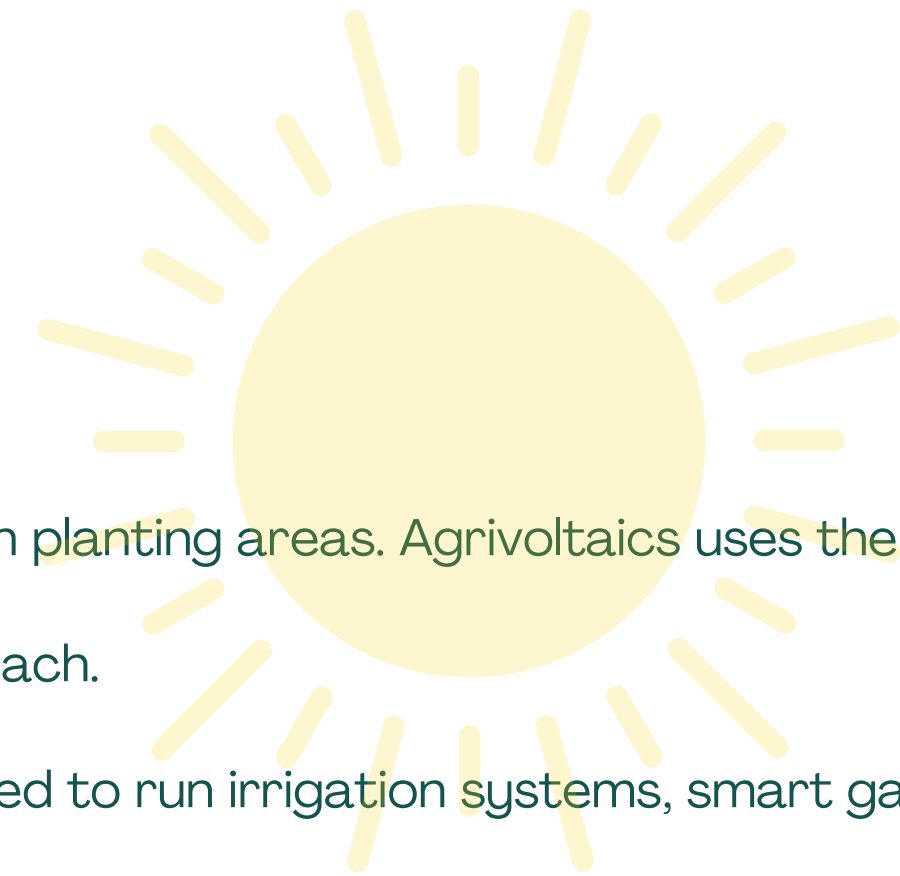


Solar Energy

Agrivoltaics

Advantages of Smart Gardening with Agrivoltaics:

- **Land Optimization:** The best land use is achieved when solar panels are integrated with planting areas. Agrivoltaics uses the same land for farming and solar energy generation rather than allocating separate spaces for each.
- **Energy Generation:** The solar panels produce clean, renewable energy that may be used to run irrigation systems, smart gardening tools, lights, and other electronics in the garden.
- **Environmental Benefits:** By integrating renewable energy production with agricultural practices, agrivoltaics reduces the environmental impact of farming and gardening and supports sustainable practices.
- **Enhanced Crop Growth:** The shade produced by the solar panels above helps create a microclimate that benefits some plant species by lowering excessive heat and evaporation. This may lead to better water retention and less water the plants below prospects need.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Solar Energy

Agrivoltaics

Integration of Agrivoltaics in Smart Gardening:

- **System Design:** Careful planning is needed when integrating solar panels or buildings with integrated photovoltaic cells into smart gardening configurations. Appropriate design maximizes solar panel energy generation while guaranteeing plants receive the best possible exposure to sunshine.
- **Intelligent Watering and Tracking:** Effective water management makes it possible to use intelligent irrigation systems fueled by solar energy, minimize waste, and guarantee crop health.
- **Crop Selection:** It's important to select plant types that do well in semi-shade or beneath solar panels. Certain plants, like flowers or herbs, might be more suited to the solar panels' less sunlight.
- **Maintenance and Monitoring:** For maximum performance, the solar panels and vegetation underneath must be regularly maintained. Systems for tracking crop growth and energy output can help make necessary modifications.
- **Using Solar-Powered Instruments:** From garden lights to controlled irrigation systems and electronic garden tools, harnessing solar energy to power these components promotes sustainability and decreases reliance on grid electricity.

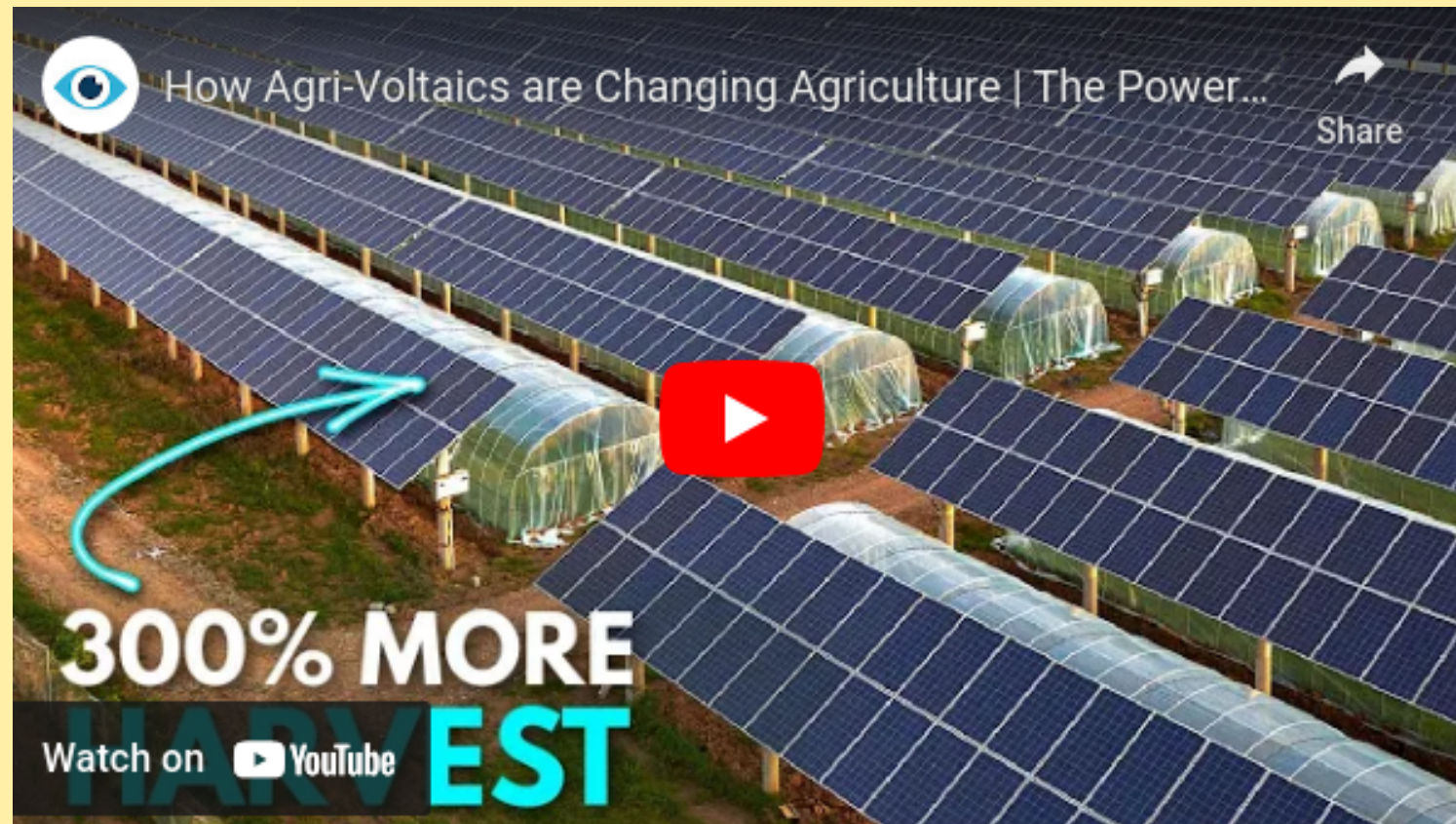
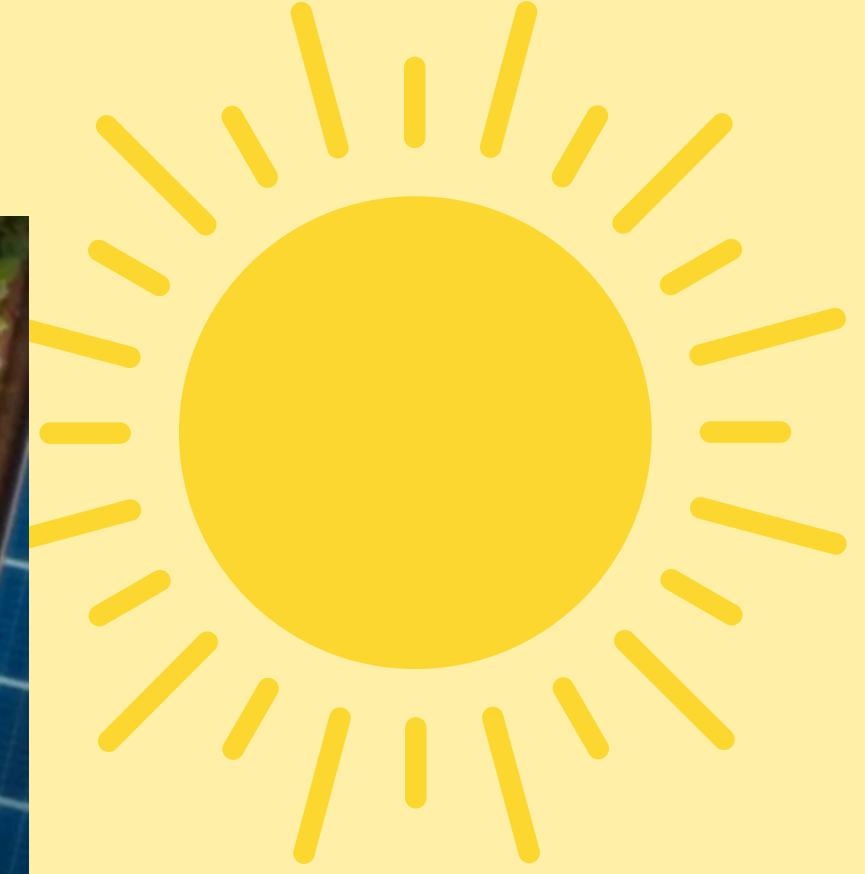


Co-funded by
the European Union



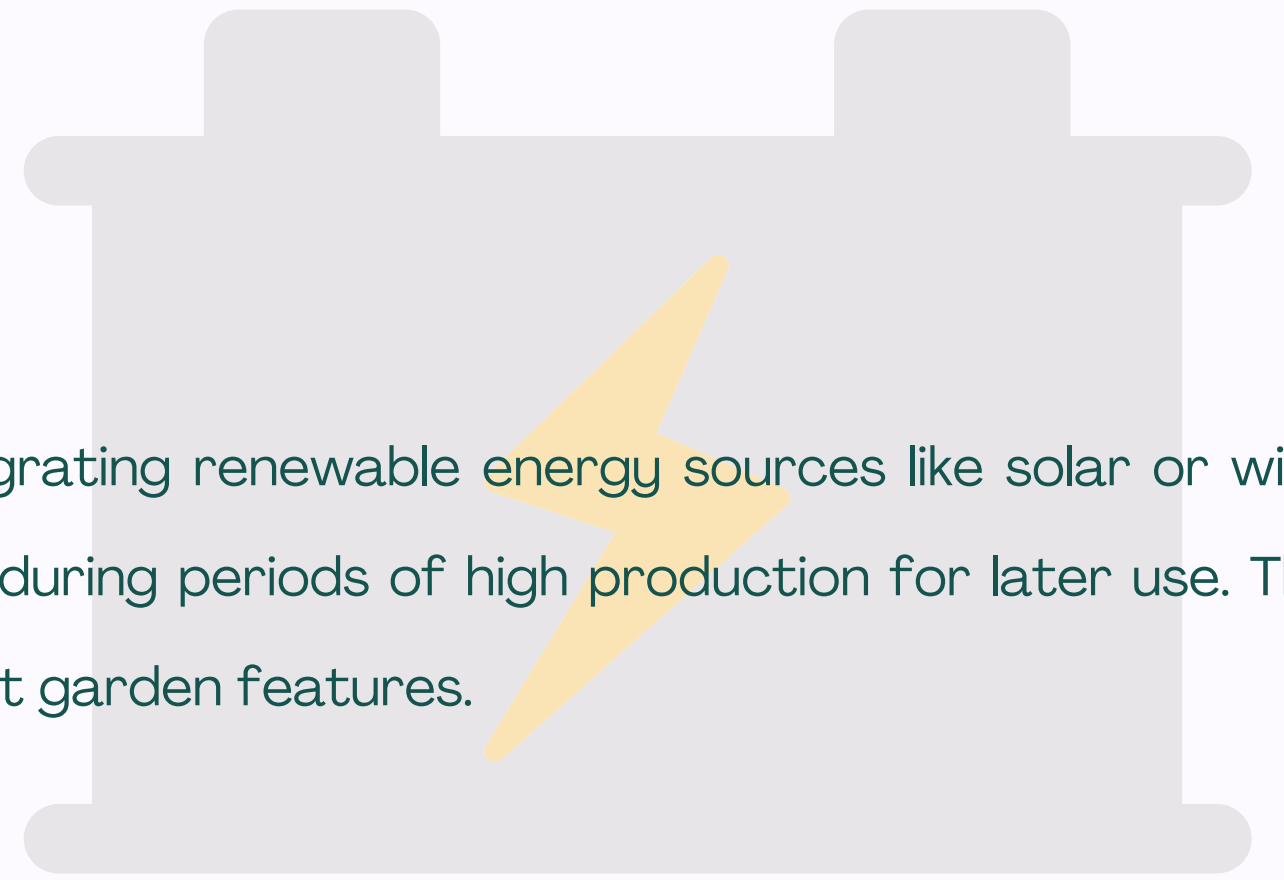
Solar Energy

Agrivoltaics



Energy storage

Solutions for storing energy in a garden are essential, particularly when integrating renewable energy sources like solar or wind power. These technologies allow the garden to store extra energy produced during periods of high production for later use. This improves overall efficiency and guarantees a steady power supply for different garden features.



Implementation of Energy Storage Solutions:

- **Sizing and Capacity Planning:** Determine how much energy the electrical fixtures in the garden, such as the lights, irrigation, and smart controllers, require. Ascertain the suitable storage capacity to fulfil these requirements effectively.
- **Intelligent Energy Utilization:** Optimize the cycles of charging and discharging energy storage devices with smart controllers or energy management systems to ensure effective use of stored energy.
- **Combining Renewable Energy Systems with Integration:** In order to store surplus energy produced during periods of peak production, combine energy storage technologies with solar panels, wind turbines, or other renewable energy sources.
- **Safety and Maintenance:** Storage systems must undergo routine maintenance and monitoring to guarantee the best possible performance and safety. Seek advice from the manufacturer regarding maintenance and safety procedures.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Energy storage

Battery storage systems

An essential part of harvesting and controlling energy from renewable sources, such as solar or wind turbines, is the installation of battery storage devices in gardens and greenhouses. When there is an excess of energy produced, these systems store it and make it usable when there is a spike in demand or when power is not drawn from renewable sources.

Lithium-Ion Batteries

Advantages: Lithium-ion batteries are a popular option for garden energy storage due to their high energy density, longer lifespan, compact size, and rapid charging capabilities.

Suitability: Because of their effectiveness and capacity to store significant amounts of energy in a comparatively small area, they are perfect for small to medium-sized gardens and greenhouses

Lead-Acid Batteries

Advantages: They are an affordable and accessible solution for energy storage.

Suitability: Frequently utilized in wider garden environments or places where more costly battery types may be restricted due to financial constraints.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Energy storage

Benefits of Battery Storage Systems:

- **Energy Independence:** The garden can function without the grid thanks to battery storage, which guarantees a steady supply of electricity even in the event of a blackout or when renewable energy sources aren't actively generating it.
- **Cost savings:** Battery storage systems can help lower electricity expenses related to grid-supplied power by storing extra energy and using it at peak hours.
- **Optimal Energy Use:** To make the most of the green energy produced, stored energy can be used in high demand or when renewable sources are not producing energy.
- **Environmental Impact:** By lowering dependency on fossil fuels, storing renewable energy encourages sustainable and environmentally beneficial gardening techniques.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Energy storage

Pumped hydro storage systems

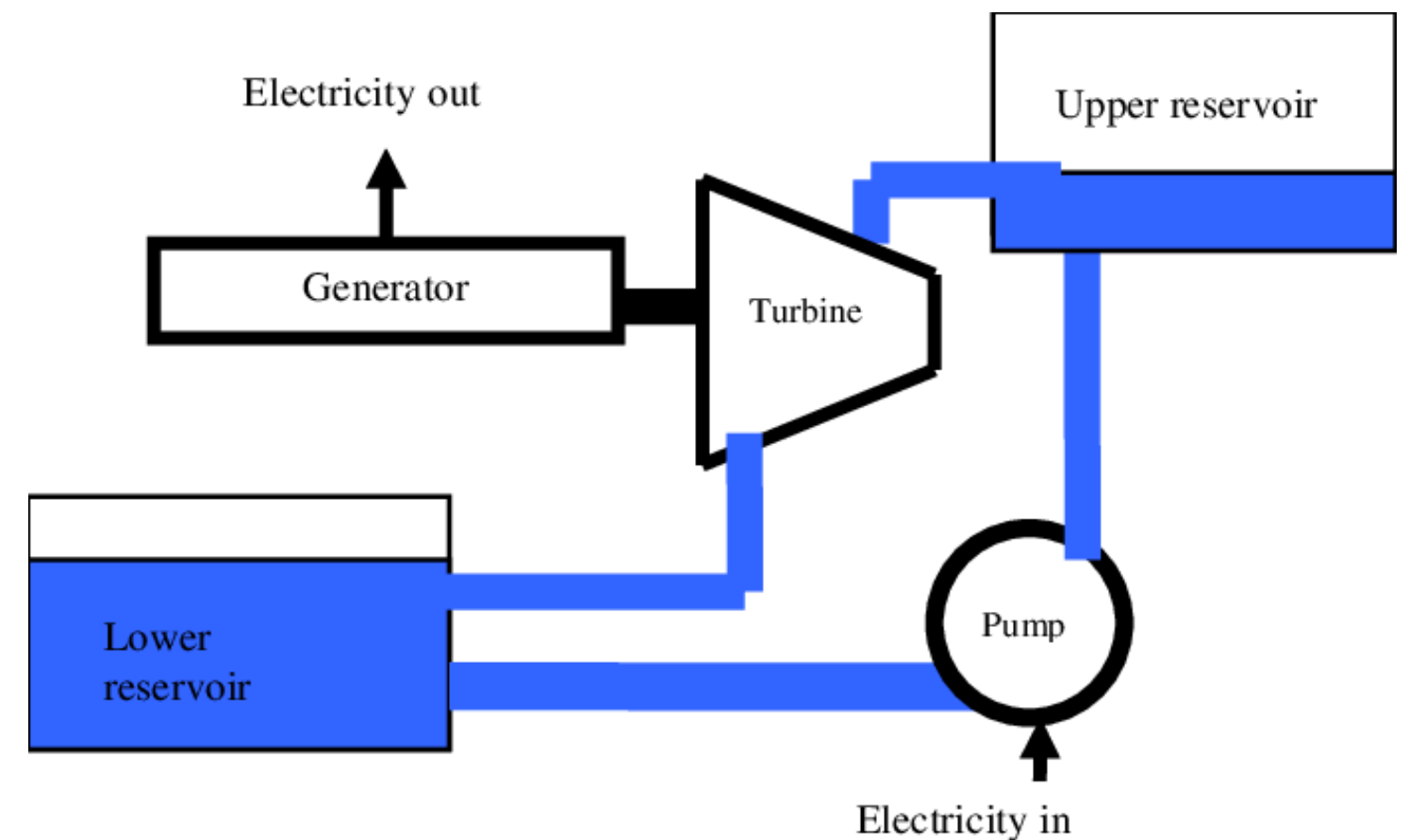
Pumped hydro storage is a method of energy storage that involves using water and gravity to store and generate electricity. While typically implemented on a larger scale, the principles of pumped hydro storage can be adapted for certain garden settings, especially those with water features or elevation differences.

Working Principle:

Two distinct altitudes of water reservoirs are used in pumped hydro storage. Water is pumped from the lower reservoir to the higher reservoir during times of surplus energy output, thereby storing potential energy. Water is released back into the lower reservoir and runs through turbines to produce electricity as needed.

Components:

- Upper Reservoir: Located at a higher altitude, frequently a garden feature or raised pond.
- Lower Reservoir: Usually another pond or basin, situated at a lower altitude.



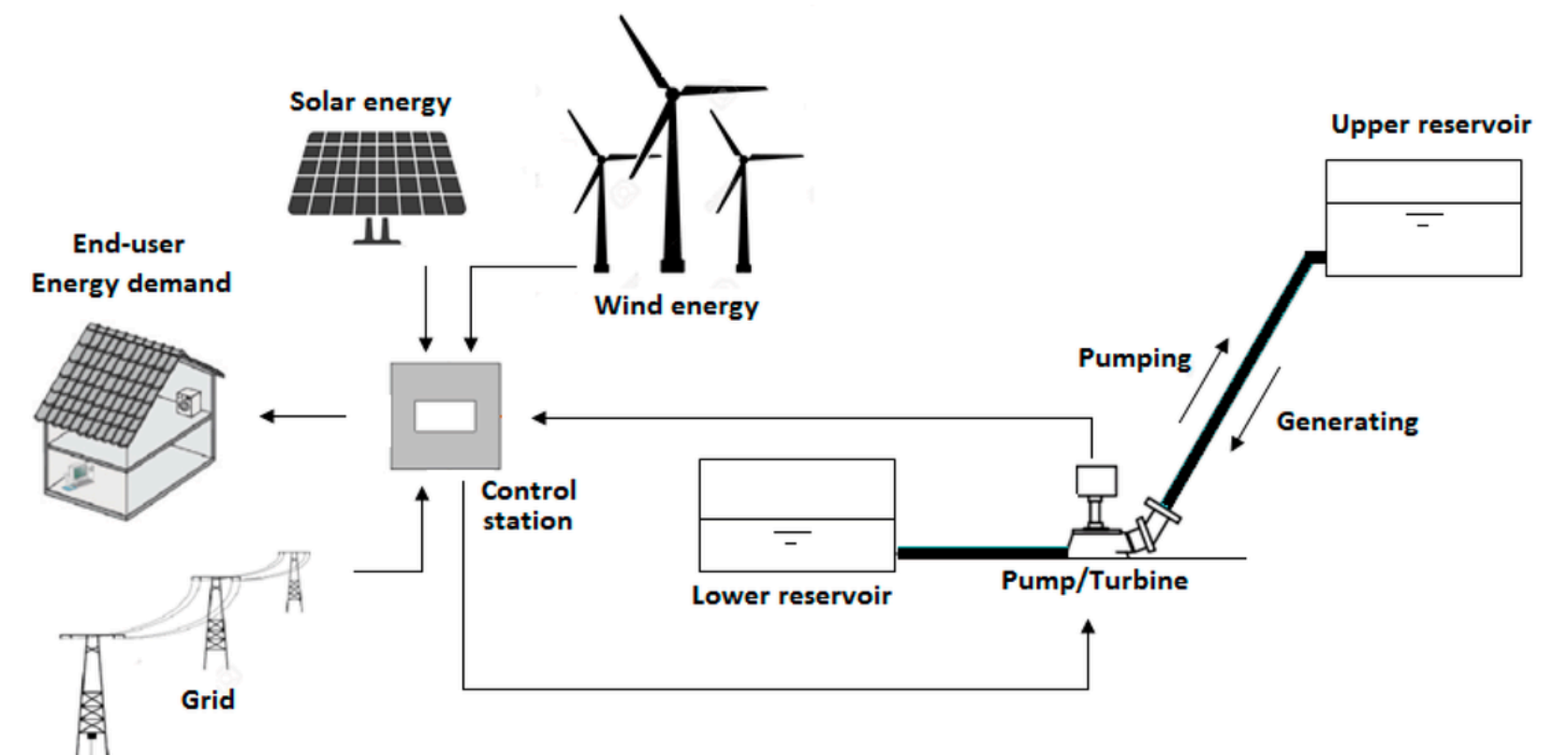
Co-funded by
the European Union



Energy storage

Pumped hydro storage systems - Benefits and Considerations:

- **Energy Storage:** Excess energy produced by renewable sources can be stored using pumped hydro storage, offering a dependable backup power source for lights and garden equipment.
- **Environmental Impact:** This method encourages sustainability by reducing dependency on electricity from the grid and utilizing renewable energy.
- **Efficiency:** Pumped hydro storage systems are a dependable choice for energy storage in garden settings because to their high energy conversion efficiency.
- **Requirements for Space and Location:** Not all garden settings will be able to accommodate the potential need for pumped hydro storage, which could involve sufficient space and appropriate elevation differences within the garden.



Energy efficiency

Energy-efficient equipment and methods are essential in sustainable gardens and greenhouses to decrease energy use, lessen environmental effects, and encourage an eco-friendly gardening style.

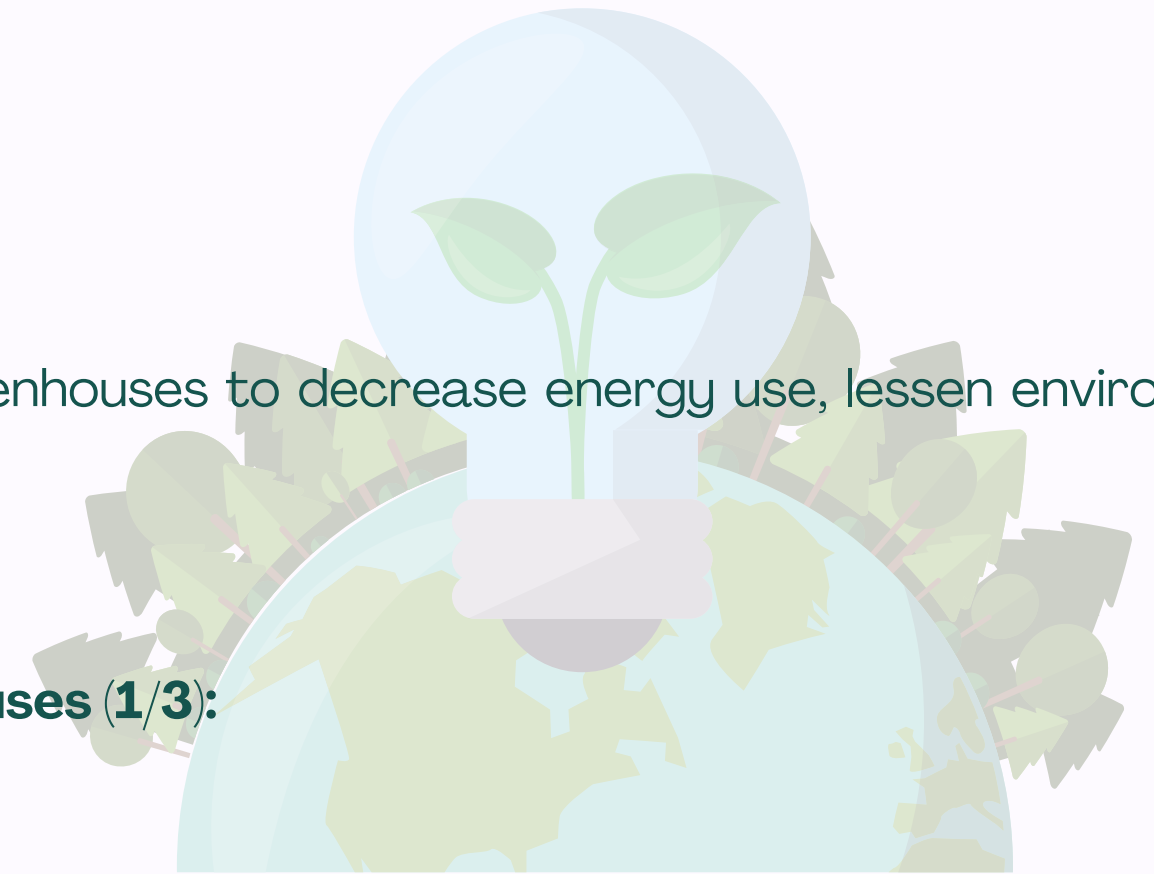
Methods for incorporating energy efficiency into sustainable gardens and greenhouses (1/3):

1. Renewable Energy Sources:

- Solar Panels: Install photovoltaic panels to harness solar energy for powering tools, irrigation systems, garden lighting, and other electrical appliances.
- Wind Turbines: Small-scale wind turbines should be installed in locations with regular wind patterns to produce electricity from wind power.
- Hydroelectric Systems: Use tiny hydroelectric systems to generate energy = that have running water sources.

2. Energy-Efficient Equipment:

- LED Lighting: Compared to conventional bulbs, LED lights require less energy when used for landscape lighting.
- Solar-Powered Equipment: Use solar-powered water pumps, garden tools, and accessories to lessen your need for electricity from the grid.
- Drought irrigation or smart controllers can be used to optimize water and energy use by adjusting watering schedules in response to plant requirements and weather conditions.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Energy efficiency

Methods for incorporating energy efficiency into sustainable gardens and greenhouses (2/3):

3. Sustainable Water Management:

- Drought irrigation or smart controllers can be used to optimize water and energy use by adjusting watering schedules in response to plant requirements and weather conditions.
- Solar-Powered Equipment: Use solar-powered water pumps, garden tools, and accessories to lessen your need for electricity from the grid.

4. Energy-Efficient Building Materials and Design:

- Green roofing: Install living or green roofs to reduce energy usage for temperature management by providing insulation and natural cooling.
- By optimizing natural light and heat, passive solar design helps build garden buildings and greenhouses that require less artificial lighting and heating.

5. Energy Monitoring and Control Systems:

- Installing energy monitoring devices can help you monitor energy usage and make well-informed decisions about how best to use energy in your garden.
- Automated and Smart Systems: Use smart controllers and automated systems to effectively control lights, irrigation, and other electrical devices.



Co-funded by
the European Union



s.m.a.r.t.
greenhouse

Energy efficiency

Methods for incorporating energy efficiency into sustainable gardens and greenhouses (3/3):

6. Composting and Organic Practices:

- Composting: Use composting techniques to recycle organic waste, which will reduce the energy required to make synthetic fertilizers and the demand for chemical fertilizers.
- Adopting organic gardening techniques can reduce the amount of energy-intensive chemicals used and encourage the development of healthier, more sustainable soil and plants.

7. Education and Community Involvement:

- Programs for Education: Inform communities and gardeners about the value of renewable energy sources, sustainable gardening techniques, and energy efficiency.
- Community: Promote and assist communities that use sustainable methods to create a group effort to reduce energy use and raise environmental awareness.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water Management



2. Water Management

- 2.1 Threats
- 2.2 Strategies
- 2.3 Rainwater harvesting
- 2.4 Smart watering systems
- 2.5 Water efficient plants

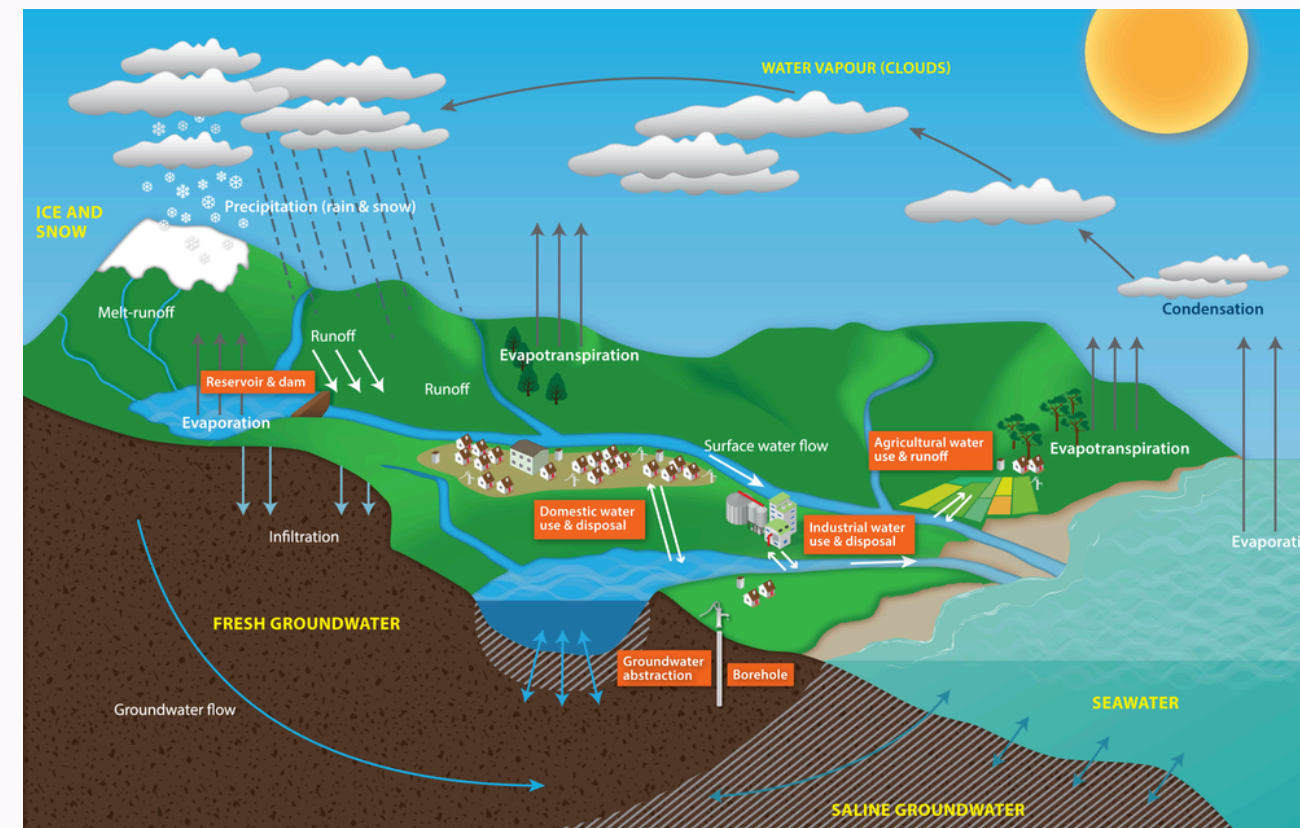


Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Effective water management in gardens is crucial for promoting plant health and conserving resources. By adopting sustainable practices, such as deep watering to encourage strong root systems, mulching to retain moisture, and using drip irrigation systems to deliver water directly to plants' roots, gardeners can optimize water usage and minimize waste. Selecting drought-tolerant and native plant species, improving soil health with organic matter, and incorporating rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling techniques further enhance water efficiency. Monitoring weather conditions and adjusting watering schedules accordingly, along with regular maintenance of irrigation systems, ensures that gardens receive the right amount of water at the right time. Through education and community involvement, gardeners can contribute to water conservation efforts and create environmentally friendly landscapes that thrive with responsible water management practices.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Irrigation

Irrigation is the provision of water to help crops grow when rainfall is not sufficient. While new farming methods and technologies allow some types of crops to be grown without soil, a certain amount of water is needed to grow any kind of crop. In today's economy, agriculture is one of the sectors that consumes the most water resources.

Irrigation is the major cause of water consumption in agriculture. It contributes to increasing crop productivity, but it is also a threat to the preservation of water resources. Therefore, the issue of water scarcity requires careful reflection on the trade-off between higher agricultural productivity and the deterioration of water resources.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management



Threats

- The low-lying areas of Europe are under threat from **tidal and inland flooding** and are dependent on land drainage to sustain land use.
- **Scarcity** caused by overexploitation of water resources.
- **Droughts** that have cost Europe over 100 billion through the last 30 years and are increasing in frequency and impact.
- Southern Europe faces severe **water stress problems**, which occur throughout the year in many river basins, with water consumed by agriculture, public water supply and tourism being the key pressure on water resource availability. The pressures from these economic sectors reach a significant seasonal peak in summer.
- **Climate change** is projected to cause seasonal reductions in water availability in most parts of Europe, except in north-eastern areas. The strongest impact is expected in southern and south-western Europe, with river discharge reductions in summer of up to 40 % in some basins, under a 3 °C temperature rise scenario. Large parts of western and central Europe will also be affected, albeit to a lesser degree. Changes in aquifer recharge follow roughly the same pattern.
- Continued **urbanization** and growth in coastal tourism will further concentrate water demand geographically. A warmer and drier climate could increase irrigation requirements by 20%, adding to a stronger concentration of water demand in already drought-prone regions of Europe.



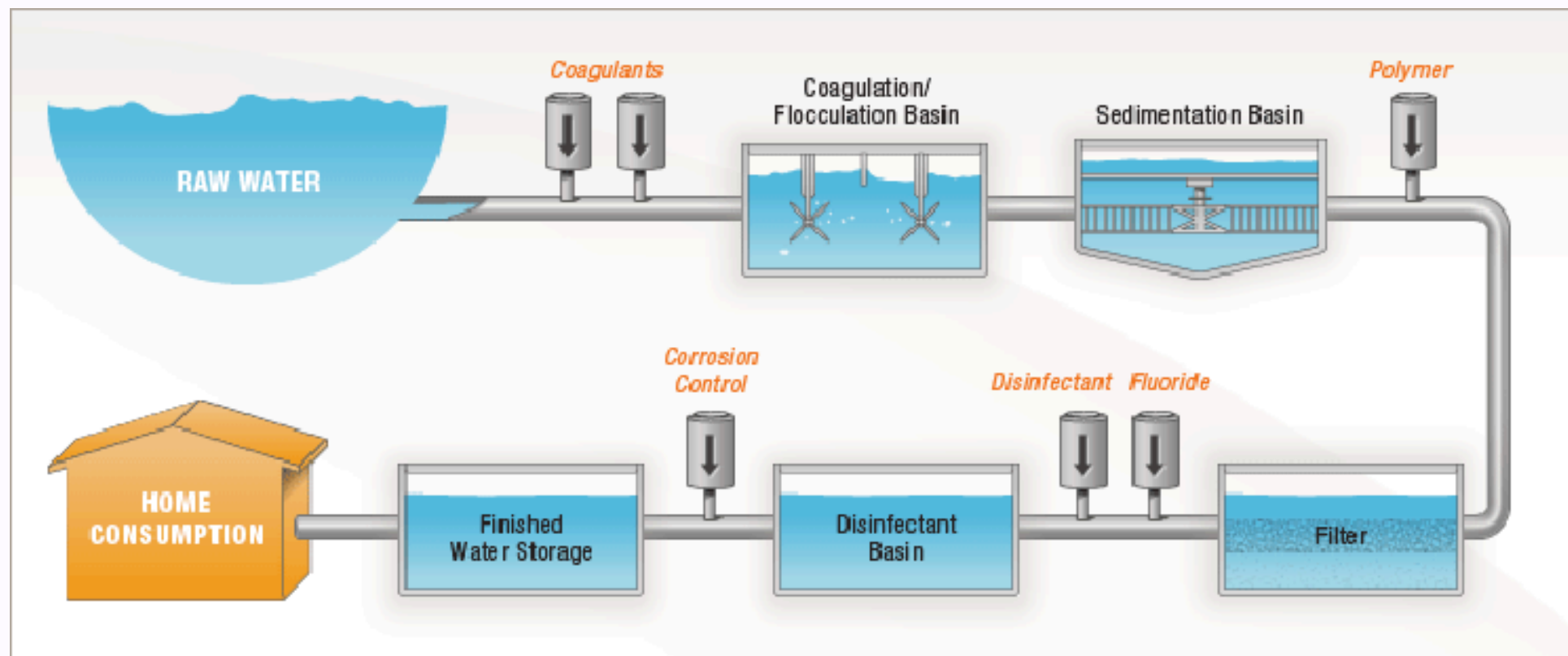
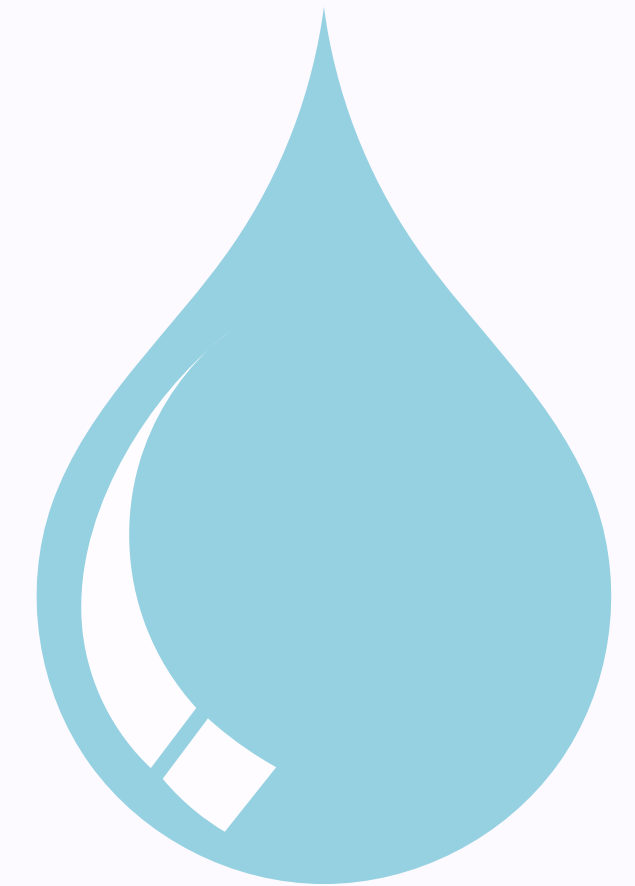
Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Reusing Treated Wastewater

- Alleviate water scarcity.
- Reduce demand for potable water supplies and high-quality sources.
- Supplement conventional sources.
- A valuable buffer against drought and water shortage, especially for industry and irrigation.
- Improve operational efficiency; reduce energy costs.
- Reduce nutrient discharge to the environment.
- Reduce water stress on specific sectors.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Water management in gardens is essential for maintaining healthy plants while conserving this precious resource.

Effective strategies and tips for managing water in your garden (1/3):

1. **Mulching:** Apply a layer of organic mulch such as wood chips, straw, or shredded leaves around plants. Mulch helps retain soil moisture by reducing evaporation and suppressing weed growth.

2. Watering Techniques:

- Deep Watering: Water deeply and less frequently rather than shallowly and frequently. This encourages plant roots to grow deeper into the soil where moisture is more consistent.
- Water at the Right Time: Water early in the morning or late in the evening to minimize evaporation losses.
- Use Drip Irrigation: Install drip irrigation systems that deliver water directly to the base of plants, minimizing water wastage.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Effective strategies and tips for managing water in your garden (2/3):

3. Choose Water-Wise Plants: Opt for native or drought-tolerant plants that require less water once established. These plants are adapted to local conditions and typically need less supplemental watering.

4. Improve Soil Quality:

- Amend soil with organic matter like compost to improve its water-holding capacity and drainage.
- Loosen compacted soil to allow water to penetrate deeper.

5. Rainwater Harvesting:

- Install rain barrels or cisterns to collect rainwater from roofs. Use this collected water for garden irrigation during dry periods.
- Direct downspouts towards garden areas to capture rainwater naturally.

6. Group Plants by Water Needs: Group plants with similar water requirements together. This allows you to water more efficiently and avoid overwatering certain plants.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Effective strategies and tips for managing water in your garden (3/3):

7. **Monitor Soil Moisture:** Use a moisture meter or simply check soil moisture by hand to determine when watering is necessary. Avoid watering on a fixed schedule.

8. **Control Weeds:** Weeds compete with garden plants for water. Regularly remove weeds to conserve moisture for desirable plants.

9. Use Water-Efficient Techniques:

- Consider hydrozoning, where plants with similar water needs are grouped together.
- Employ xeriscaping principles, which involve designing landscapes to reduce or eliminate the need for irrigation.

10. Regular Maintenance:

- Regularly inspect for leaks in irrigation systems and fix them promptly.
- Prune plants appropriately to reduce water stress and promote healthy growth.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Rainwater harvesting (1/3)

Rainwater harvesting in gardens is an excellent way to conserve water and reduce reliance on municipal water supplies.

1. Install Rain Barrels or Cisterns:

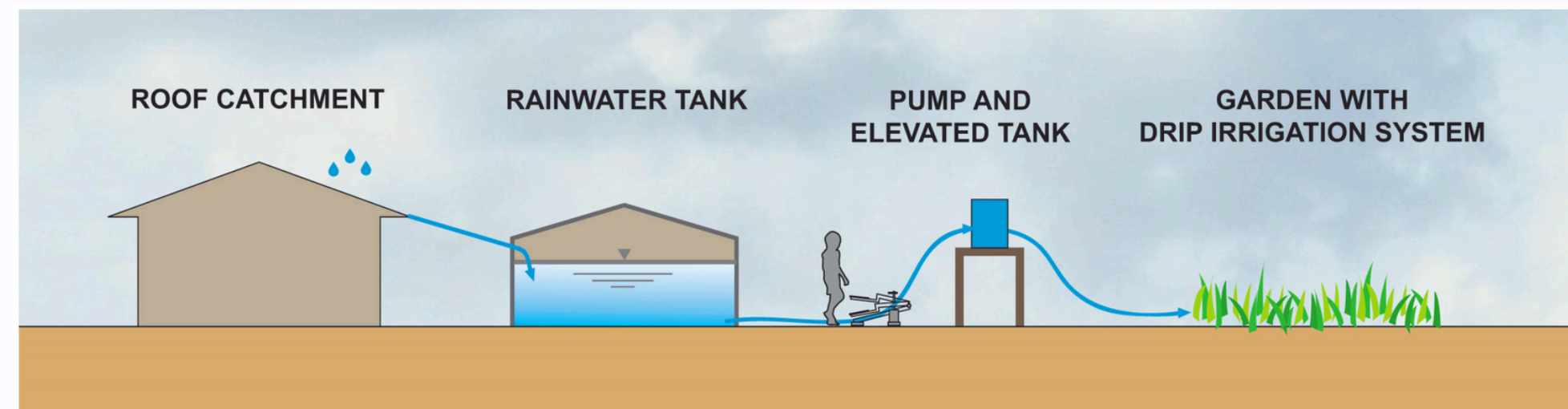
- Place rain barrels or larger cisterns beneath downspouts to collect rainwater from your roof.
- Ensure the containers have tight-fitting lids to prevent mosquito breeding and debris from entering.

2. Direct Gutters and Downspouts Towards Garden Areas:

- Redirect gutter downspouts to flow directly into rain barrels or cisterns.
- Use flexible downspout extensions to reach containers placed at a convenient location.

3. Choose Suitable Containers:

- Select rain barrels or cisterns of appropriate size based on your garden's water needs and available space.
- Ensure containers are made from food-grade materials and are sturdy enough to withstand outdoor conditions.

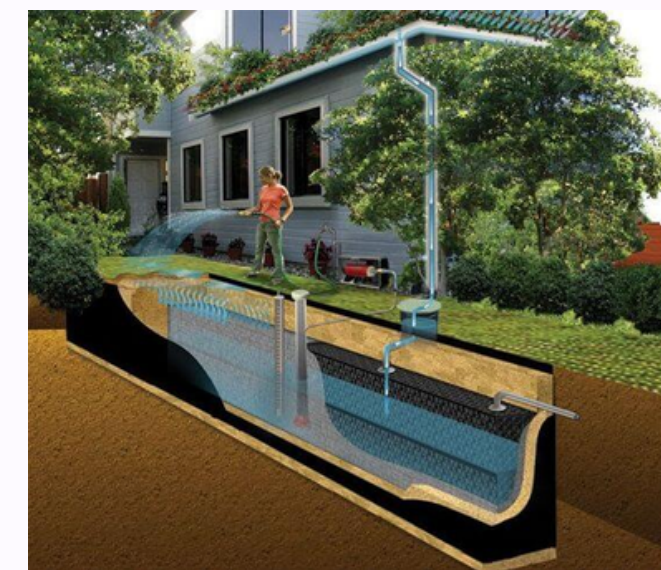


Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Rainwater harvesting (2/3)



4. Maintain Water Quality:

- Use the harvested rainwater within a reasonable timeframe to prevent stagnation and microbial growth.
- Regularly inspect and clean rain barrels or cisterns to ensure water quality and prevent contamination.

5. Educate Yourself on Local Regulations:

- Check local regulations and guidelines related to rainwater harvesting to ensure compliance with legal requirements.
- Some areas may have specific rules governing rainwater collection and use.

6. Optimize Garden Design for Rainwater Capture:

- Design your garden layout to maximize rainwater capture and infiltration.
- Incorporate swales, rain gardens, or permeable surfaces that allow rainwater to percolate into the soil naturally.

7. Monitor and Evaluate Performance:

- Monitor the effectiveness of your rainwater harvesting system by tracking water usage and garden health.
- Make adjustments to optimize performance based on seasonal variations and changing weather patterns.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Rainwater harvesting (3/3)

8. Use Filter Systems:

- Install mesh screens or filters at the inlet to prevent leaves, debris, and insects from entering the rainwater harvesting system.
- Regularly clean and maintain these filters to ensure optimal water quality.

9. Integrate with Irrigation Systems:

- Connect rain barrels or cisterns to drip irrigation systems or soaker hoses using gravity-fed or small electric pumps.
- Use a timer or manual control valve to regulate the flow of harvested rainwater to irrigate your garden.

10. Overflow and Drainage Considerations:

- Install overflow outlets or pipes on rain barrels or cisterns to divert excess water away from the foundation of your home.
- Direct overflow towards permeable areas of your garden to recharge groundwater or stormwater management systems.

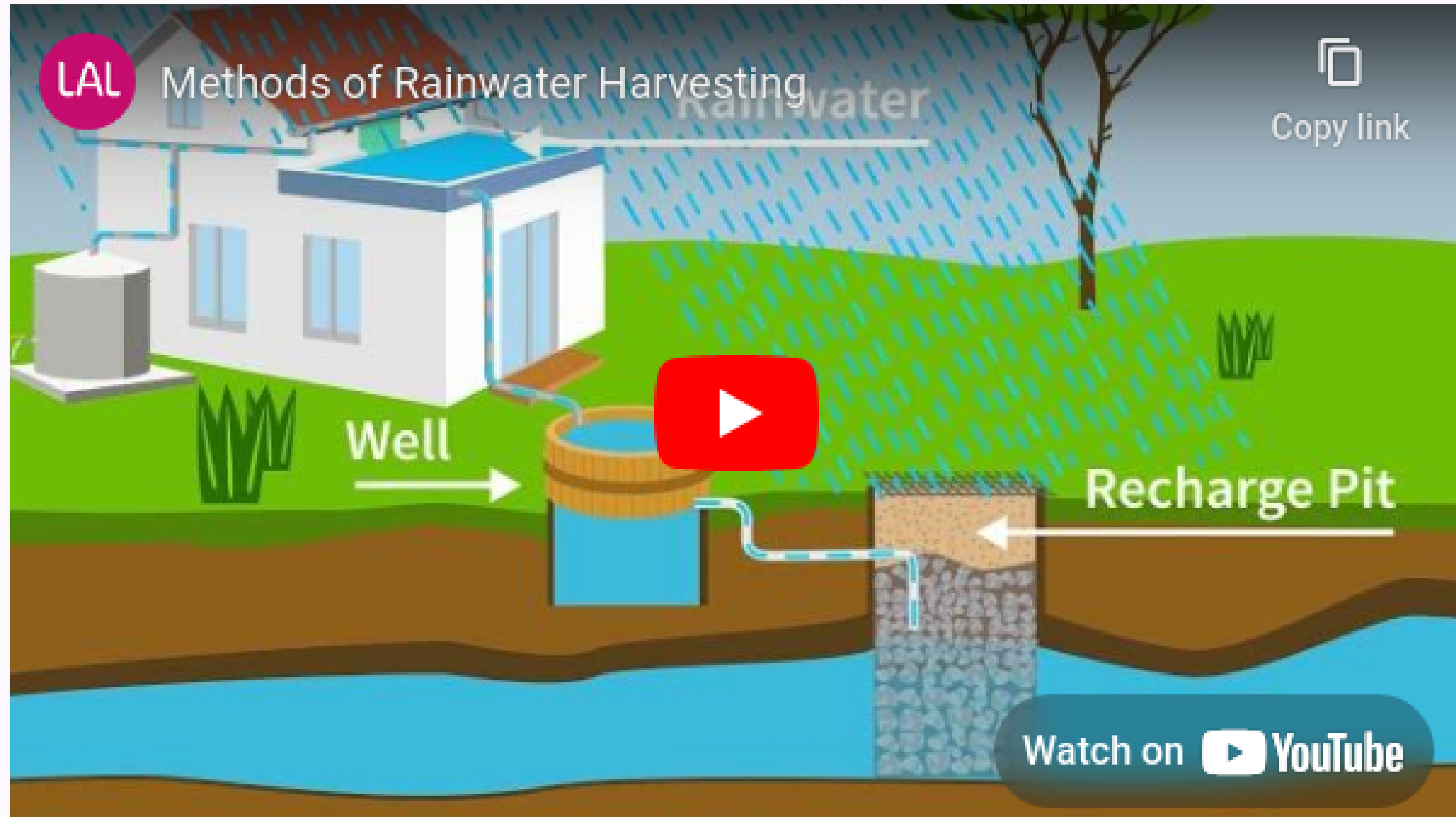


Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Methods of Rainwater Harvesting



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Smart watering systems

Smart watering systems offer an efficient and convenient way to manage garden irrigation while conserving water. These systems utilize technology to monitor environmental conditions and plant needs, enabling precise and optimized watering schedules.

Components of Smart Watering Systems:

1. Weather Sensors:

- Smart watering systems often include weather sensors that measure environmental conditions like temperature, humidity, and rainfall.
- These sensors provide real-time data to the system, allowing it to adjust watering schedules based on current weather patterns.

2. Soil Moisture Sensors:

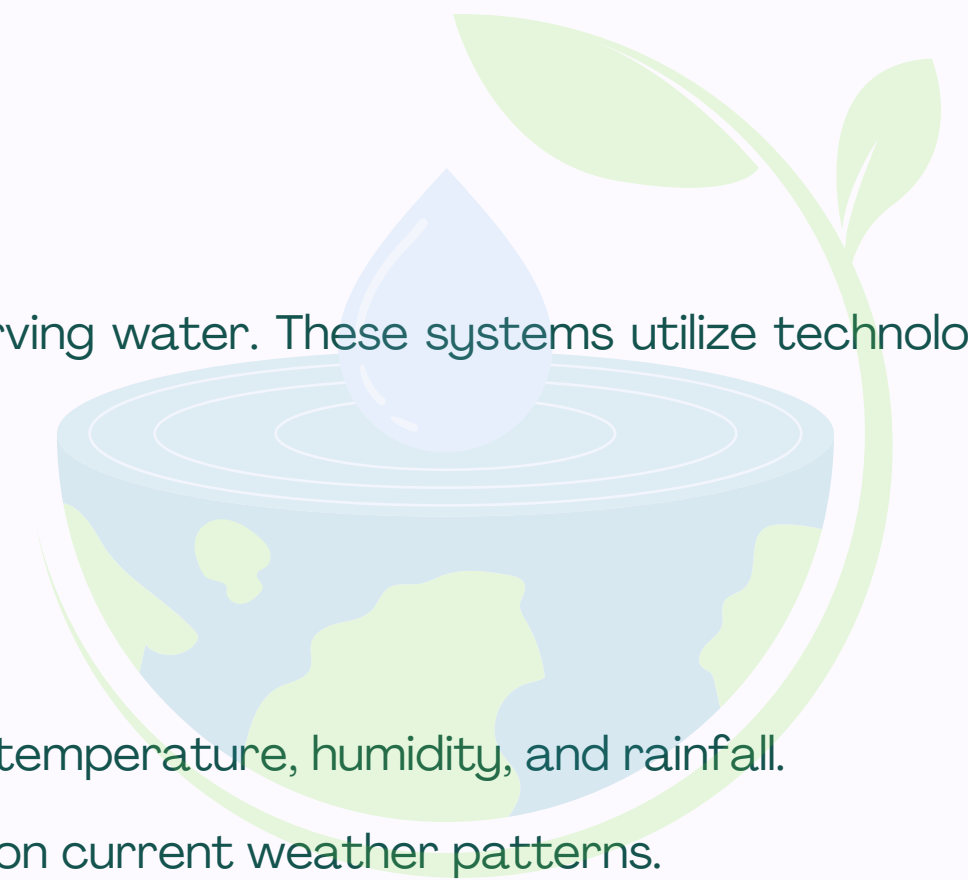
- Soil moisture sensors measure the moisture content of the soil.
- They help prevent overwatering by signaling when the soil is adequately moist, triggering the irrigation system only when necessary.

3. Smart Controllers:

- Smart controllers or timers are the brains of the system, integrating data from weather and soil sensors to automatically adjust watering schedules.
- Controllers can be programmed with specific plant types, soil types, and sun exposure levels to customize watering requirements.

4. Mobile Apps and Connectivity:

- Many smart watering systems offer mobile apps or web interfaces for remote monitoring and control.
- Gardeners can access their system from anywhere, adjusting settings and receiving alerts or recommendations based on real-time data.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Benefits of Smart Watering Systems:

1. Water Conservation:

- Smart systems reduce water waste by watering only when needed, based on current environmental conditions and plant moisture requirements.
- They prevent overwatering, which can lead to water runoff and nutrient leaching.

2. Convenience:

- Automated scheduling and remote control via mobile apps make garden watering more convenient and less labor-intensive.
- Users can set customized watering schedules and make adjustments on the go.

3. Optimized Plant Health:

- By delivering water based on plant needs and soil conditions, smart watering systems promote healthier plant growth and reduce stress.
- Plants receive the right amount of water at the right time, leading to stronger root systems and improved overall health.

4. Cost Savings:

- Efficient water usage translates into lower water bills over time.
- Smart watering systems help maximize water resources, reducing the need for supplemental irrigation.

5. Environmental Sustainability:

- By conserving water and minimizing runoff, smart watering systems contribute to environmental sustainability and responsible water management practices.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Tips for Using Smart Watering Systems Effectively:

- **Calibrate Sensors:** Ensure sensors are properly calibrated and positioned for accurate data collection.
- **Monitor Regularly:** Check system performance periodically, especially after installation or during changing weather conditions.
- **Customize Settings:** Adjust system settings based on plant types, soil types, and local climate factors.
- **Combine with Drip Irrigation:** Integrate smart systems with drip irrigation for precise water delivery to individual plants.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Choosing water-efficient plants is a key strategy for creating a sustainable and low-maintenance garden that thrives with minimal irrigation. Water-efficient plants are typically native species or drought-tolerant varieties that have adapted to survive with less water.

Water-efficient plants for your garden (1/3):

1. Native Plants:

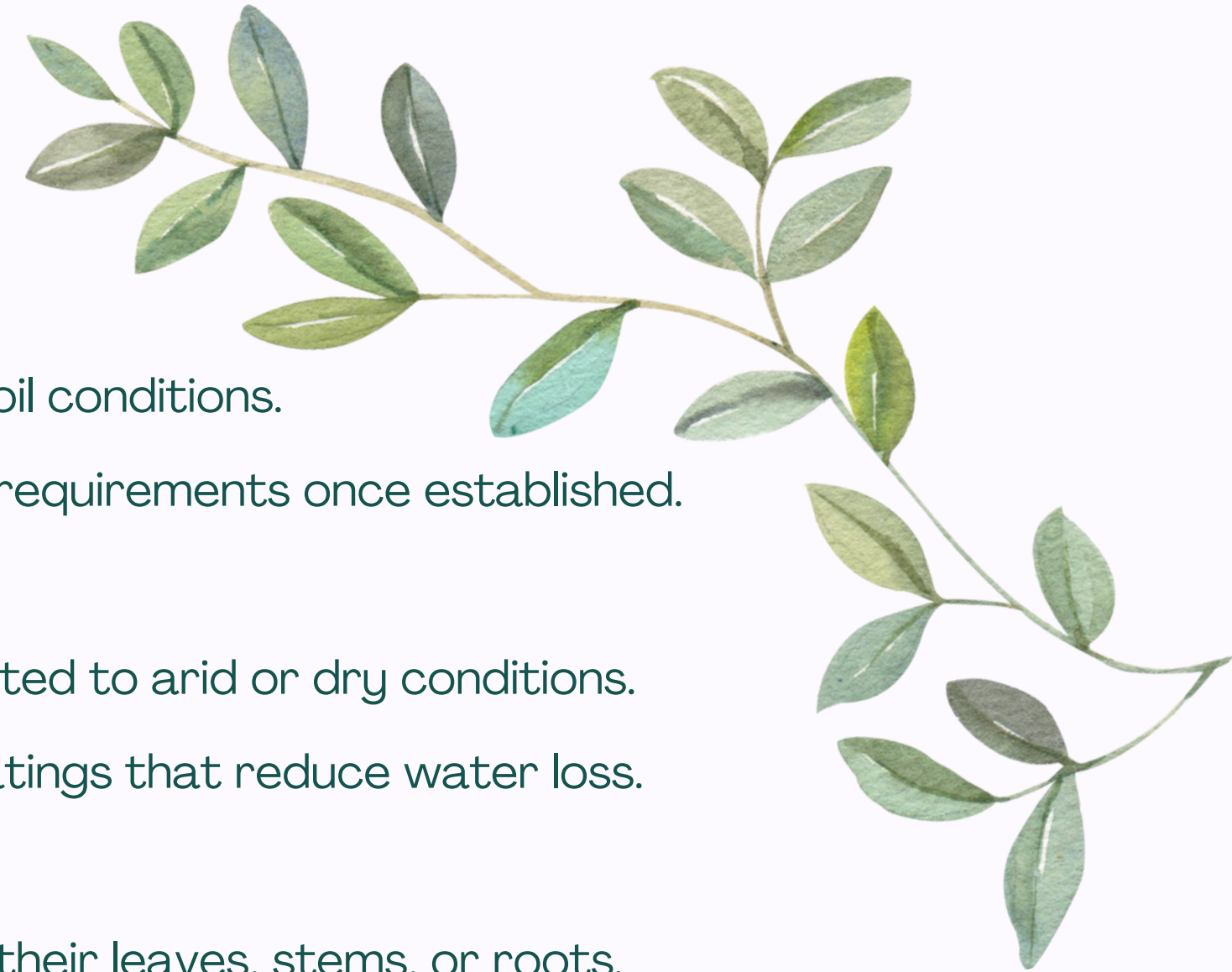
- Choose native plants that are naturally adapted to the local climate and soil conditions.
- Native plants have evolved to thrive in specific regions with minimal water requirements once established.

2. Drought-Tolerant Species:

- Look for plants labeled as drought-tolerant or xerophytes, which are adapted to arid or dry conditions.
- These plants often have features like small leaves, deep roots, or waxy coatings that reduce water loss.

3. Succulents and Cacti:

- Incorporate succulents and cacti into your garden, as they store water in their leaves, stems, or roots.
- These plants require infrequent watering and are ideal for hot and dry climates.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Water-efficient plants for your garden (2/3):

4. Grasses and Groundcovers:

- Choose ornamental grasses and low-growing groundcovers that are well-suited to dry conditions.
- Grasses like fountain grass (*Pennisetum*) or blue fescue (*Festuca*) and groundcovers like creeping thyme or sedum are good options.

5. Herbs and Mediterranean Plants:

- Herbs such as lavender, rosemary, sage, and thyme are excellent choices for water-wise gardens.
- Mediterranean plants like olive trees, junipers, and yuccas also thrive in dry climates.

6. Perennials with Deep Roots:

- Select perennials with deep root systems that can access water from deeper soil layers.
- Plants like coneflowers (*Echinacea*), black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia*), and salvia have deep roots and are drought-tolerant once established.

7. Shrubs and Trees:

- Choose shrubs and trees that are well-adapted to your climate and require minimal watering once established.
- Examples include manzanita, ceanothus, agave, and certain varieties of oak and pine trees.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Water management

Water-efficient plants for your garden (3/3):

8. Avoid Water-Intensive Plants:

- Steer clear of water-intensive plants that demand frequent watering, such as turf grasses, water-loving annuals, and tropical plants.
- Instead, prioritize plants that can thrive with less supplemental irrigation.

9. Check Plant Labels:

- Read plant labels or consult with local nurseries to identify water-efficient varieties suitable for your specific growing conditions.
- Look for plants with low to moderate water needs based on the USDA hardiness zone and climate of your region.

10. Group Plants by Water Needs:

- Group plants with similar water requirements together in your garden to simplify irrigation management.
- This allows you to tailor watering schedules more efficiently, reducing overall water consumption.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Waste Management



3. Waste Management

3.1 Composting

3.2 Recycling

3.3 Reduction waste

3.4 Regenerative agriculture



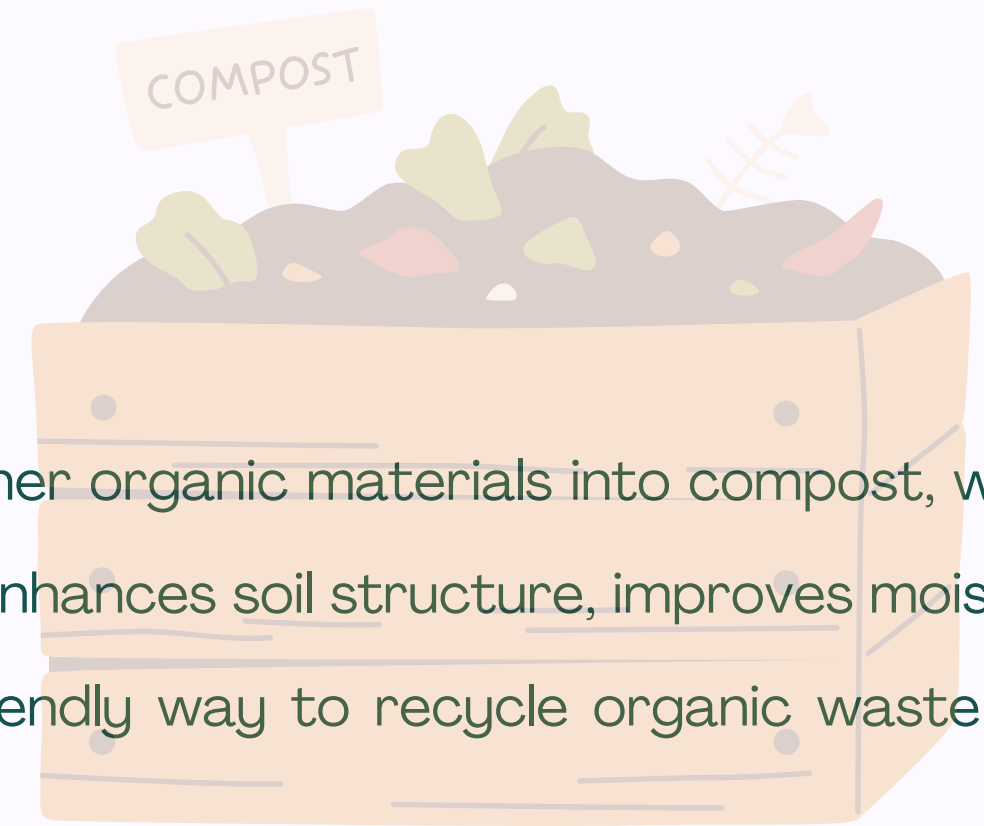
Co-funded by
the European Union



Waste management

Composting

Composting in gardens is the practice of converting kitchen scraps, yard waste, and other organic materials into compost, which is a dark, crumbly substance rich in nutrients. Compost is beneficial for garden soil as it enhances soil structure, improves moisture retention, and provides essential nutrients for plant growth. Composting is an eco-friendly way to recycle organic waste and reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers.



Steps to Compost in Gardens (1/2):

1. **Gather Organic Materials:** Collect a balanced mix of "greens" (nitrogen-rich materials) and "browns" (carbon-rich materials).

- Greens: Fruit and vegetable scraps, grass clippings, coffee grounds, and garden trimmings.
- Browns: Dry leaves, straws, shredded paper, cardboard, and wood chips.

2. **Choose a Composting Method:** Select a composting method that suits your space and needs:

- Compost Bin or Pile: Use a designated compost bin, pile, or tumbler to contain organic materials.
- Vermicomposting: Use worms (such as red wigglers) to break down organic waste in a specialized worm composting system.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Composting

Steps to Compost in Gardens (2/2):

3. **Layer Organic Materials:** Start by layering browns and greens to create a balanced compost pile:

- Alternate layers of greens and browns to maintain a good carbon-to-nitrogen ratio.

4. **Keep the Pile Moist:** Ensure the compost pile is moist like a damp sponge to support microbial activity:

- Water the pile as needed to maintain moisture levels, especially during dry periods.

5. **Turn and Aerate:** Regularly turn or aerate the compost pile to introduce oxygen and speed up decomposition:

- Use a pitchfork or compost turner to mix and aerate the materials every 1-2 weeks.

6. **Monitor Temperature:** Compost should heat up as organic matter decomposes:

- Aim for a temperature range of 120-160°F (49-71°C) to facilitate rapid decomposition and kill weed seeds and pathogens.

7. **Wait for Maturation:** Allow the compost pile to "cook" and mature over several weeks to months:

- The compost will gradually transform into a dark, crumbly material with an earthy smell.

8. **Harvest and Use Compost:** Once the compost is dark and crumbly, it's ready to use in the garden:

- Apply compost as a soil amendment, mulch, or top dressing around plants to enrich the soil and promote healthy growth.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Composting

Benefits of Composting in Gardens:

- **Improves Soil Fertility:** Compost enriches soil with organic matter, nutrients, and beneficial microorganisms.
- **Reduces Waste:** Composting diverts organic waste from landfills, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Saves Money:** Using compost reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and promotes sustainable gardening practices.
- **Promotes Healthy Plants:** Healthy soil enriched with compost supports vigorous plant growth and enhances disease resistance.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Composting

[Why composting is important?](#)



Co-funded by
the European Union



Composting

[How To Make Compost - Fast and Easy](#)



Co-funded by
the European Union



Recycling

Recycling in gardens involves reusing materials and resources to reduce waste, promote sustainability, and create a more environmentally friendly gardening practice. By incorporating recycling principles into garden management, gardeners can minimize their ecological footprint and contribute to a healthier ecosystem.

Ways to implement recycling in gardens (1/3):

1. Composting Organic Waste:

- Composting kitchen scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic materials creates nutrient-rich compost.
- Use compost as a natural soil amendment to improve soil fertility, texture, and moisture retention in the garden.

2. Mulching with Organic Materials:

- Use shredded leaves, grass clippings, or straw as mulch around plants to suppress weeds, retain moisture, and add organic matter to the soil.
- Mulching reduces the need for watering and helps maintain soil health.

3. Repurposing Garden Waste:

- Repurpose pruned branches, leaves, and other garden debris to create natural garden features like trellises, raised beds, or compost bins.
- Use fallen branches or logs as natural edging or borders in garden pathways.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Recycling

Ways to implement recycling in gardens (2/3):

4. Upcycling Containers and Materials:

- Repurpose containers, such as old buckets, cans, or plastic bottles, as planters for growing herbs, flowers, or small vegetables.
- Use broken ceramic pots or bricks creatively for garden decorations or as drainage materials in pots.

5. Reusing Rainwater:

- Collect rainwater in barrels or cisterns to use for garden irrigation instead of relying solely on tap water.
- Install a rainwater harvesting system to capture and store rainwater efficiently.

6. Implementing Sustainable Gardening Practices:

- Practice companion planting and crop rotation to naturally control pests and diseases, reducing the need for chemical pesticides.
- Choose native and drought-tolerant plants that require less water and maintenance.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Recycling

Ways to implement recycling in gardens (3/3):

7. Recycling Garden Tools and Equipment:

- Maintain and repair garden tools and equipment instead of discarding them.
- Donate or exchange unwanted tools with other gardeners to extend their useful life.

8. Creating DIY Garden Structures:

- Build garden structures, such as trellises, raised beds, or compost bins, using reclaimed wood, pallets, or salvaged materials.
- Use old furniture, such as chairs or tables, creatively as garden accents or plant stands.

9. Supporting Wildlife and Biodiversity:

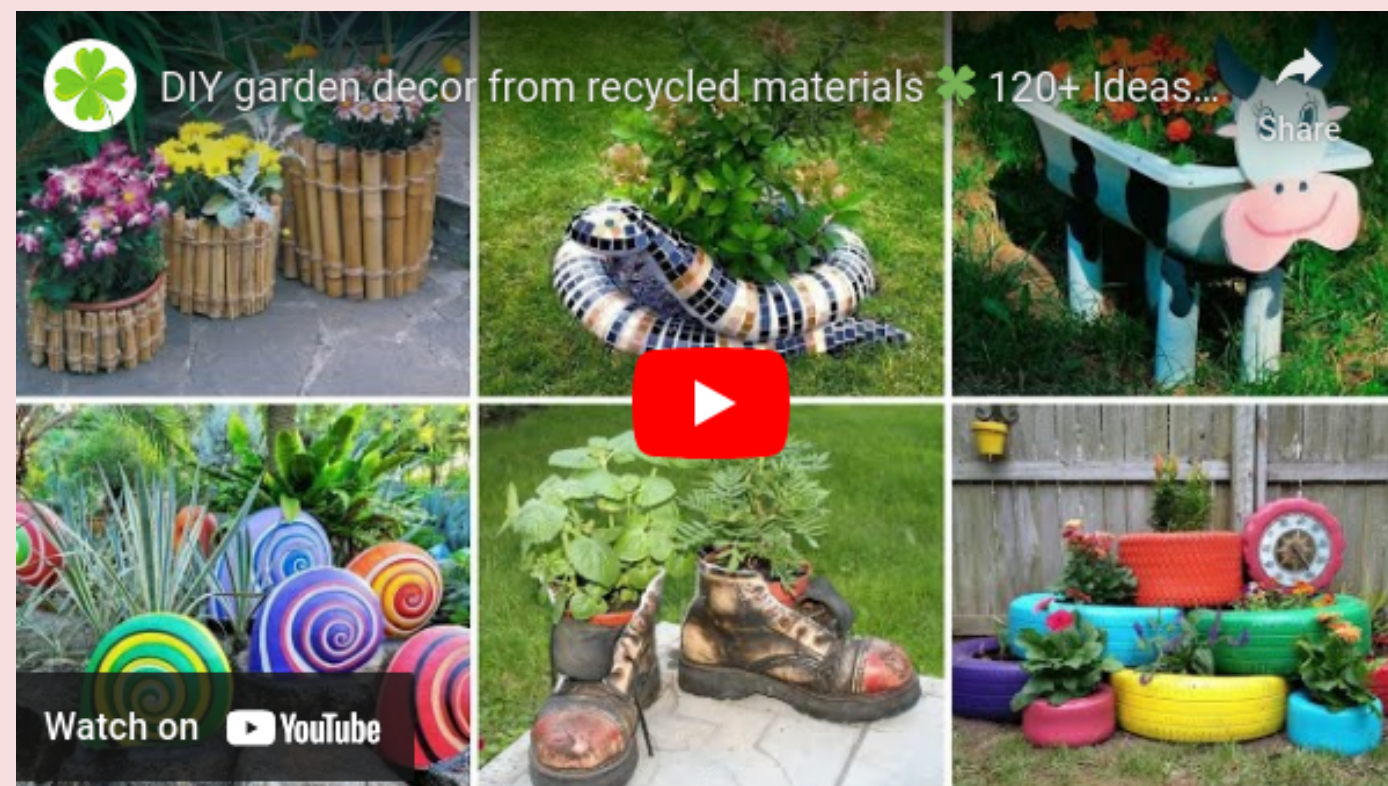
- Create habitats for beneficial insects, birds, and pollinators by incorporating native plants and providing shelter and water sources.
- Use fallen leaves and plant debris to create wildlife-friendly habitats like brush piles or insect hotels.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Recycling ideas



Reduction waste

Reducing waste in gardens is essential for promoting sustainability, conserving resources, and minimizing environmental impact. By adopting efficient practices and mindful techniques, gardeners can significantly reduce various types of waste generated in gardening activities.



Ways to reduce waste in gardens (1/3):

1. Minimizing Plastic Waste:

- Choose Sustainable Containers: Use biodegradable pots, planters made from natural materials (e.g., terracotta, wood), or reusable containers instead of single-use plastic pots.
- Avoid Plastic Mulch: Opt for organic mulching materials like straw, leaves, or grass clippings instead of plastic mulch films.
- Repurpose and Recycle: Reuse plastic containers, trays, and gardening tools for multiple seasons or repurpose them creatively for other garden-related purposes.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Reduction waste



Ways to reduce waste in gardens (2/3):

2. Limiting Chemical Waste:

- Use Organic and Natural Alternatives: Substitute chemical fertilizers and pesticides with organic alternatives such as compost, manure, or homemade botanical sprays (e.g., neem oil, garlic spray).
- Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Implement IPM strategies to control pests and diseases using cultural, mechanical, and biological methods instead of relying solely on chemical treatments.
- Choose Non-Toxic Garden Products: Select environmentally friendly and biodegradable gardening products, such as eco-friendly weed killers and natural soil amendments.

3. Reducing Organic Waste:

- Composting: Turn kitchen scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic materials into nutrient-rich compost for soil enrichment.
- Mulching: Use shredded leaves, grass clippings, or straw as mulch to suppress weeds, retain moisture, and add organic matter to the soil.
- Utilizing Cover Crops: Plant cover crops during off-seasons to prevent soil erosion, improve soil fertility, and reduce organic matter waste.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Reduction waste

Ways to reduce waste in gardens (3/3):



4. Adopting Sustainable Gardening Practices:

- Water Conservation: Install rainwater harvesting systems and use drip irrigation to minimize water waste.
- Native and Drought-Tolerant Plants: Choose native plants and drought-tolerant species that require less water and maintenance.
- Crop Rotation and Companion Planting: Rotate crops and plant complementary species to naturally deter pests and promote soil health.
- Encourage Wildlife: Create habitats for beneficial insects, birds, and pollinators to support natural ecosystem balance.

5. Educating and Sharing Knowledge:

- Community Outreach: Organize workshops, seminars, or garden tours to educate others about sustainable gardening practices.
- Promote Recycling Initiatives: Encourage gardeners to participate in recycling programs for garden waste, plastics, and other recyclable materials.
- Lead by Example: Demonstrate environmentally conscious gardening techniques and share success stories to inspire others to adopt similar practices.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Regenerative agriculture

Regenerative agriculture is an approach to farming and land management that focuses on restoring and improving the health of ecosystems. The goal of regenerative agriculture is not just to sustain the land for future use but to actively regenerate and revitalize it. This approach goes beyond sustainable agriculture, aiming to enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, promote water conservation, and sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

6 Core Principles of REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE



Co-funded by
the European Union



Regenerative agriculture

Goals of regenerative agriculture:

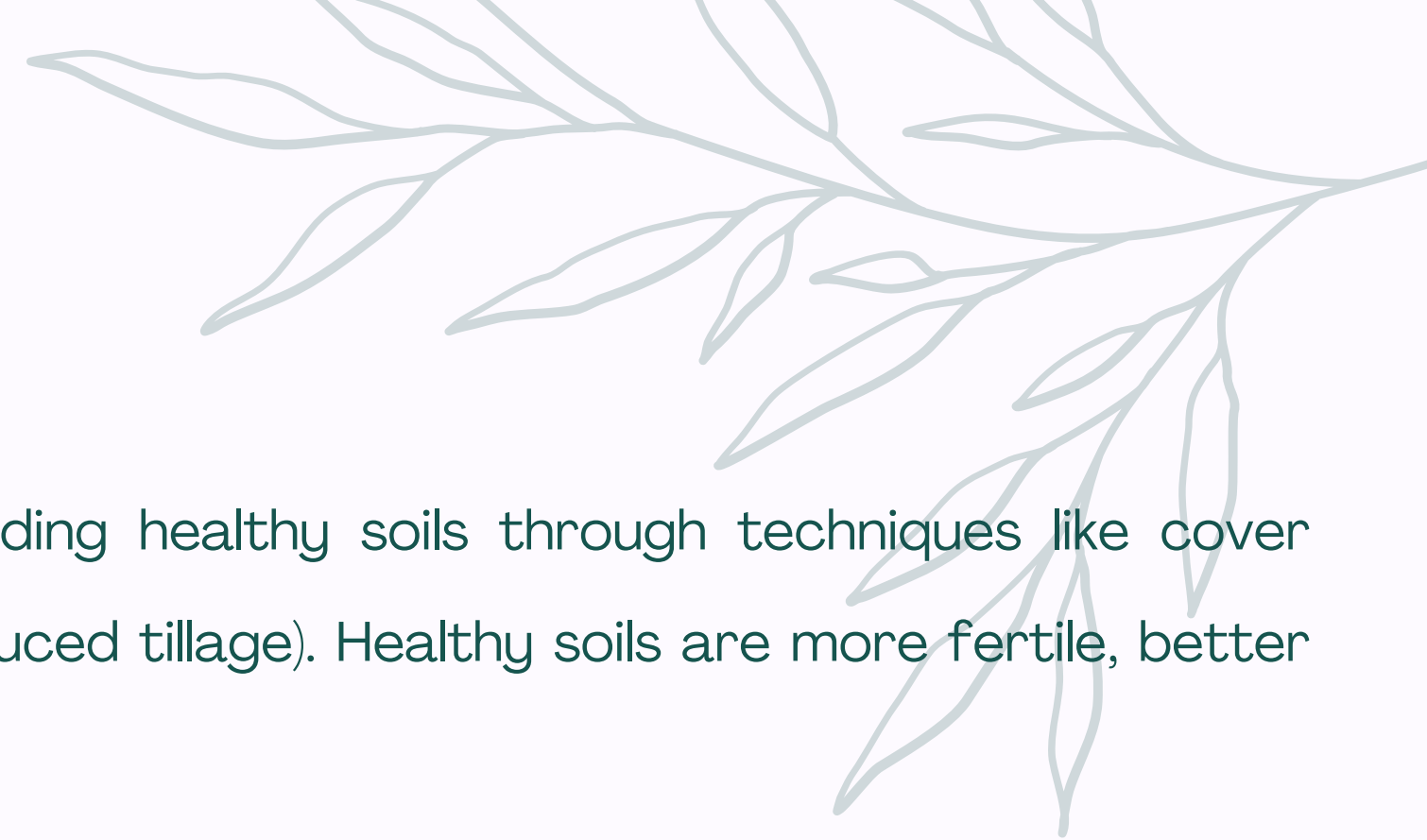
- Produce enough nutritious food for the world's population
- Help mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon in soil and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Restore threatened biodiversity and enhance natural habitats
- Prevent further deforestation and grassland conversion by increasing productivity on existing farmland
- Enhance farmer livelihoods.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Regenerative agriculture



Key principles and practices of regenerative agriculture include (1/2):

- 1. Soil Health Improvement:** Regenerative agriculture emphasizes building healthy soils through techniques like cover cropping, crop rotation, composting, and minimal soil disturbance (reduced tillage). Healthy soils are more fertile, better retain water, and support diverse microbial life.
- 2. Biodiversity Enhancement:** Diverse plantings and crop rotations help increase biodiversity, which in turn supports pollinators, beneficial insects, and other wildlife. This reduces reliance on chemical inputs and creates a more resilient ecosystem.
- 3. Water Management:** Practices like mulching, contour farming, and agroforestry help conserve water, reduce erosion, and enhance the water-holding capacity of soils. Water-efficient irrigation methods are also used to minimize water use.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Regenerative agriculture

Key principles and practices of regenerative agriculture include (2/2):

4. **Carbon Sequestration:** Regenerative agriculture aims to capture and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in the soil. Practices like cover cropping and no-till farming increase organic matter in the soil, which helps sequester carbon and mitigate climate change.

5. **Integration of Livestock:** Integrating livestock into farming systems through rotational grazing can improve soil health, reduce weeds, and enhance nutrient cycling. Well-managed grazing can mimic natural grazing patterns, benefiting both the land and the animals.

6. **Reduced Chemical Inputs:** Regenerative agriculture minimizes the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Instead, natural methods like composting, biological pest control, and integrated pest management are employed to maintain crop health.

7. **Holistic Farm Management:** Regenerative farmers often take a holistic approach to land management, considering the entire ecosystem and the interconnections between different elements (soil, plants, animals, water). This approach leads to more resilient and sustainable farming systems.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Further Reading

Websites:

- <https://www.greenflagaward.org/resources-research/guidance/renewable-energy-use-on-community-gardens-and-city-farms/>
- <https://www.encora.com/insights/what-is-renewable-energy-integration-benefits-process>
- https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news-and-updates/agrivoltaics-alone-could-surpass-eu-photovoltaic-2030-goals-2023-10-12_en
- <https://www.iberdrola.com/innovation/agrovoltaics>
- <https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/agrivoltaics-solar-and-agriculture-co-location>
- <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/07/agrivoltaic-farming-solar-energy/>
- <https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northeast/topic/agrivoltaics-coming-soon-farm-near-you>
- https://www.ucsus.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/agfs_wind_2003.pdf
- <https://www.agtechdigest.com/p/wind-turbines-and-agriculture-a-sustainable>
- <https://justagriculture.in/files/newsletter/2021/march/03.pdf>
- <https://www.cals.iastate.edu/news/2018/iowa-state-university-research-finds-wind-farms-positively-impact-crops>
- https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/sustainability/economic-sustainability/bioeconomy/agricultural-biomass_en
- <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/biomass-energy/>
- <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/biomass/>
- <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/microhydropower-systems>
- <https://www.britannica.com/science/geothermal-energy>
- <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/geothermal-energy/>
- <https://www.iea.org/energy-system/energy-efficiency-and-demand/energy-efficiency>
- https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency_en
- https://www.reiljp.com/reproducts_waterpump.aspx
- https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/factsheet-agriresearch-water-manament_en_0.pdf
- <https://eos.com/blog/agricultural-water-management/>
- <https://www.oecd.org/agriculture/topics/water-and-agriculture/>
- <https://www.iaea.org/topics/agricultural-water-management>
- <https://www.wwfbalticfarmer.org/farming-practices/water-management/>
- <https://www.homebiogas.com/blog/agricultural-waste-management/>
- https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/af_bmp_wastemgt-2.pdf
- <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a74be3aed915d502d6caa08/geho0003bieo-e-e.pdf>



Co-funded by
the European Union



Further Reading

Videos:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgZBID-TCFE&t=167s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hwpXCjmkRo&t=195s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz11Xt-TxP4&t=256s>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVI17JLn_uO
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TT-qgpc4VHk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xy9nj94xvKA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFQrE91kZwk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEsrAmM07fs>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO4HdriXnVU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFlsjRXbnSk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ishA6kry8nc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cr8dW8q8A48&t=34s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnOOF2OiDL0&t=209s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czB8nqeVi7l>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFqecEtdGZ0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5WiD8ZPSNk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrDxPWZSE2U>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qmla9NLFBvU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTvK7TCInNQ>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY2T1jllFKw>



Co-funded by
the European Union





s.m.a.r.t.
greenhouse

THANK
YOU

✉ hello@greenhouseproject.eu

🌐 <http://greenhouseproject.eu/>

