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Fields of action for a socially just and ecologically sound energy supply

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1. Fields of action towards renewable energy (RE) self-sufficiency
2. Social ecology: What does it mean?
 - Justice
 - Ecological compatibility
3. Opportunities for local energy transition
4. Networking center

Fields of
action

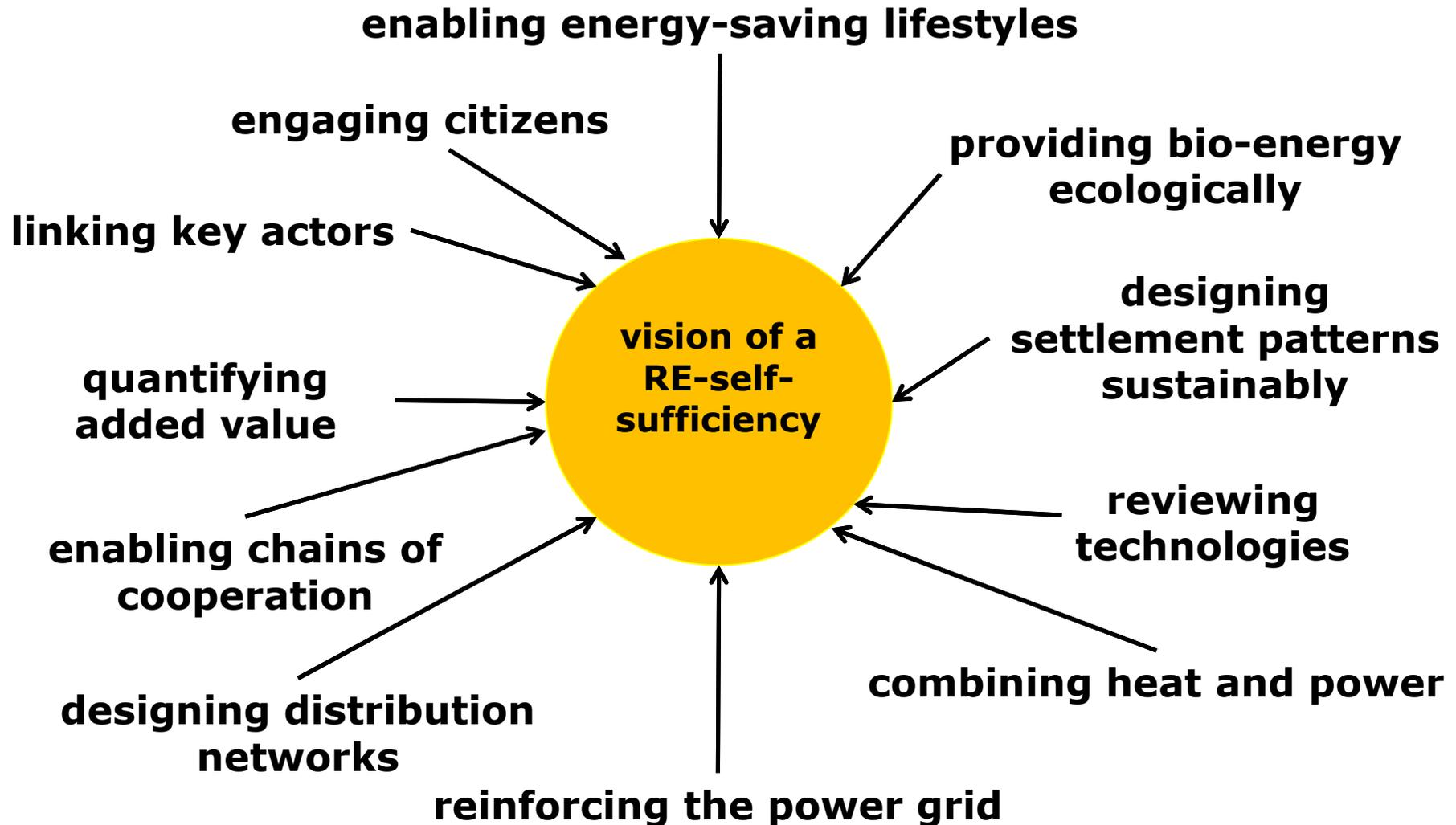
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Local
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Networking
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Where do we start?

Fields of action for RE-regions



Appliance of RE means consuming land and resources



If RE is rolled-out comprehensively conflicts of land-use occur, i.e. competing interests within one area, e.g. concerning:

- energy production
- environmental protection (inter alia: biodiversity)
- character of landscape
- food production

⇒ balancing interests with the aim to meet conflicts / avoid them

⇒ integrating “social ecology” as guiding code = condition of success towards a RE self-sufficiency

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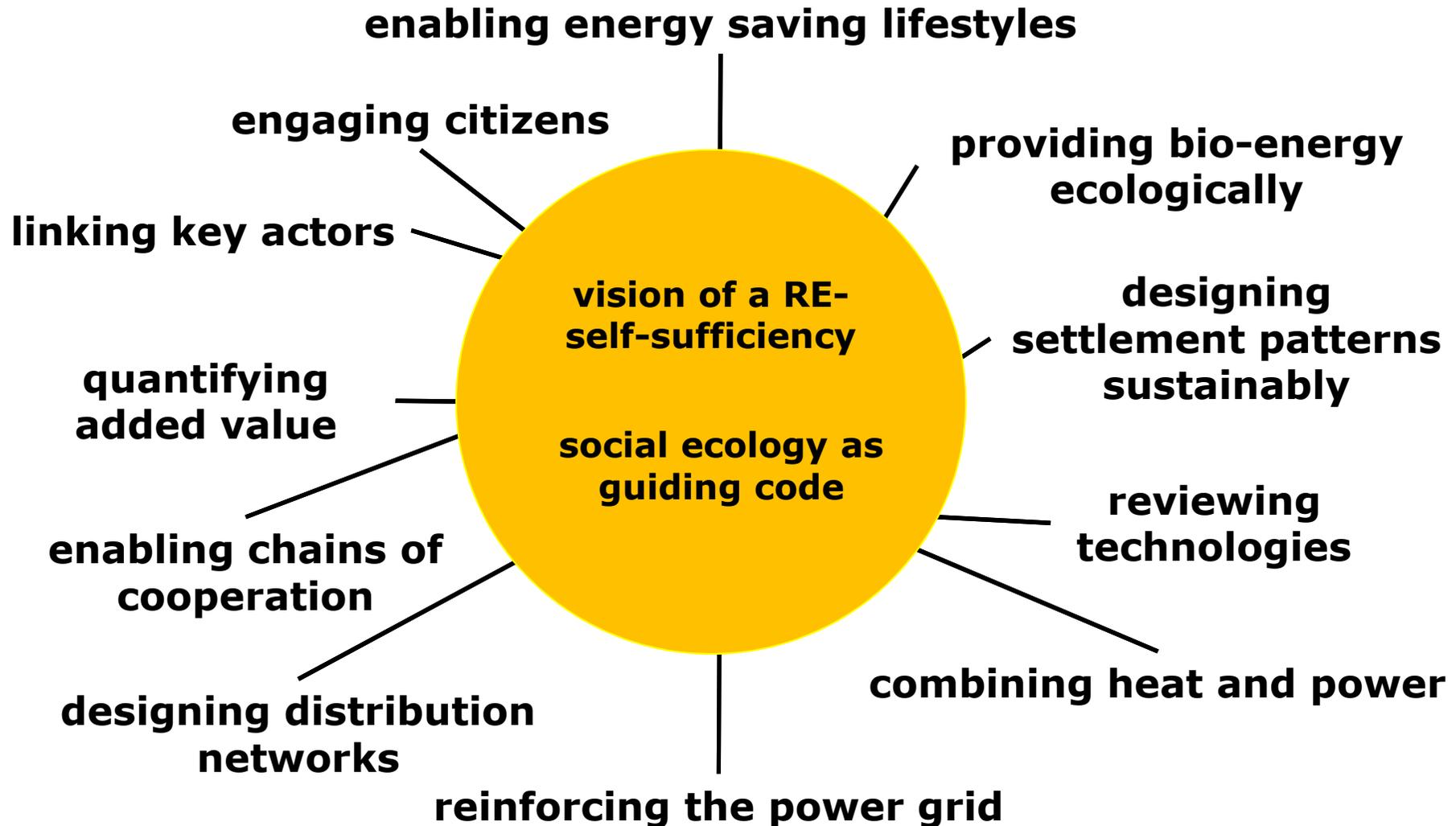
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Fields of action for RE-regions



2) Social ecology: What does it mean?

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Social ecology



Mankind in its social system is interwoven with ecosystems, and influences their design and shapes their changes, both regionally and globally

Individual / independent operational decisions and actions have an impact on the community:
RE-expansion e.g. affects landscape and biodiversity

Regions with the aim of RE self-sufficiency are part of a Germany-wide, and ultimately global, energy transition. Thus they assume supra-regional responsibility

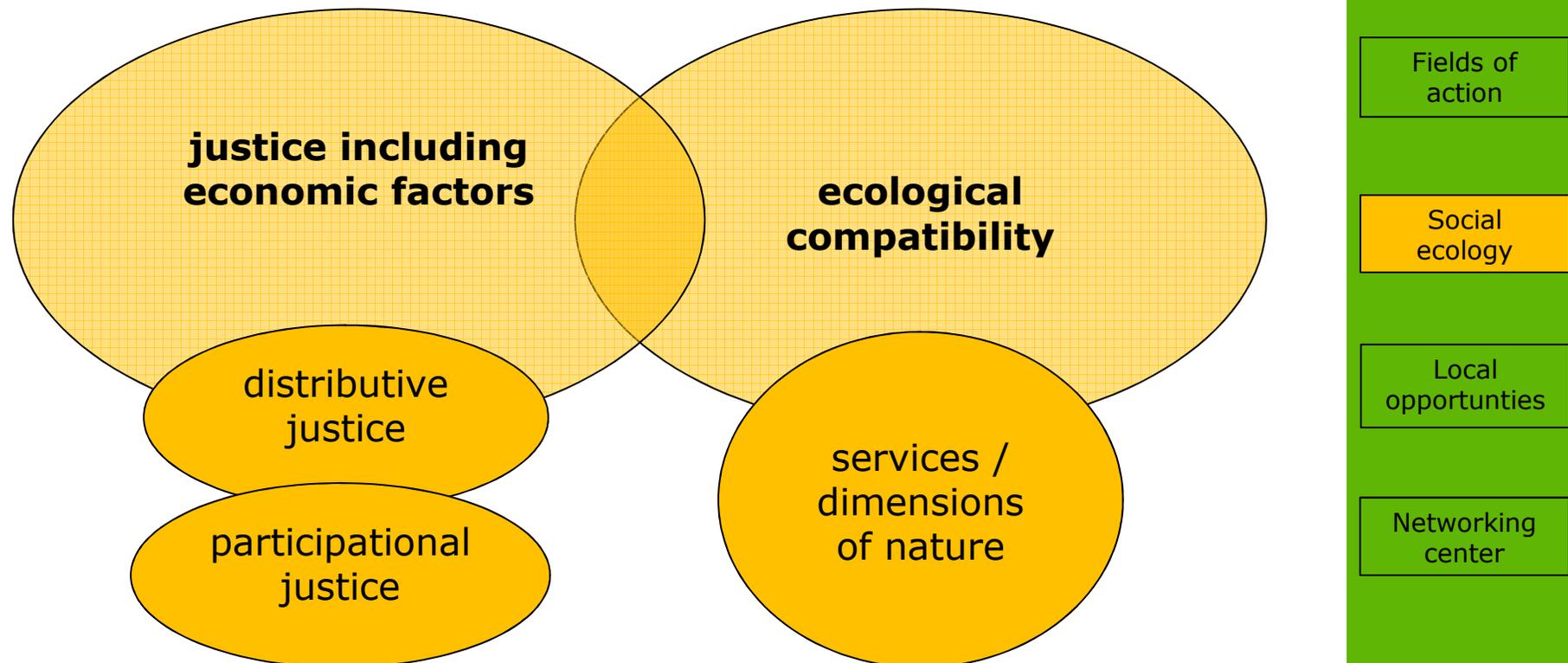
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Social ecology



Justice within the context of RE

- Social dimension: discussion regarding the distribution of benefits and costs of the energy transition, e.g. about:
 - Energy prices, feed-in-tariff allocation
 - Energy poverty
 - Ecological dimension, e.g.:
 - Influence on the rights of creatures, including animals and plants = ecological justice
- ⇒ Perspective/sustainability in a society as a whole: intergenerational justice (time) and global justice (space)

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Distributive justice



Vision: fair distribution of costs as well as benefits of the RE roll-out as much as possible

- Material or rather financial goods like jobs or return on investments
- Immaterial goods like limiting quality of life through changes in landscape or regional identity
- Benefits and costs of the expansion of RE can rarely be distributed equally between citizens, e.g. the interference with the character of landscape in the direct living environment

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Participational justice



Vision: All citizens have equal access to information and participation – independent of their social status, education, income, gender etc.

- Offer low-effort possibilities for information and participation
- Ensure access of interested and affected people to information and opportunities of involvement - in all phases of processes, from planning to implementation
- Explicit address and support of usually marginalised target groups within the political process of involvement, e.g. elderly people, people with a migration background

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Justice within the context of regional RE self-sufficiency



How can the local energy transition be fairly shaped in regions?

- Respect distributive as well as participational justice in the entire process
- Trigger discussions about justice:
 - Addressing possible conflicts openly and jointly in order to obtain awareness on different possibilities and gain transparency
 - Introducing less attractive themes like energy-saving lifestyles into the discussion (keyword: global justice)

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Justice within the context of regional RE self-sufficiency



- Use of the direct democratic potential of decentralised RE-technologies and benefit from related usage and organisational models, e.g.:
 - Bring all stakeholders to the table
 - Enable participation
 - Ensure that in the planning phase, social differences and lack of pre-knowledge don't lead to unequal access through target group specific, direct approaches and the invitation of potentially disadvantaged groups

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Ecological compatibility



Services / dimensions of nature:

- Intrinsic value of nature / for mankind (ethical question)
- Functions of ecosystems based on protected common goods like soil, water, air
- Ecosystems form the foundation for satisfying human needs like food, housing and mobility
- Diversity of living environments and habitats (biodiversity)
- Beauty, character and recreation value of landscape

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Ecological compatibility



Assumption (“resilience”-research):

- The richer and more diverse an ecosystem is designed and equipped, the better it is able to cope with stressful procedures or emergencies

Functions of ecosystems don't stop at administrative borderlines:

- They are interlinked at all levels from local to global
E.g. if meadows and pastures are ploughed, greenhouse gases are released (with effects on a global scale)

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What does this mean for the use of RE in a region?



RE self-sufficiency may be organised regionally, but developments and necessities should be considered which exceed local measures

- Avoidance of negative impacts on the functionality of ecosystems
- Conservative and efficient use of natural resources
- Invite independent operations to a regional strategy

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3) Opportunities for the local energy transition

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Design the energy transition locally: use opportunities of decentralisation



- Decentralisation in particular offers the possibility of a socially just and ecologically sound design of the energy transition through the use of the potential of direct democracy
- Regions can/should consider/define independently what socially just and ecologically sound means to them
- Possible by:
 - Integration of various stakeholders in regions, such as representatives of regional conservation groups who represent the "interests" of ecosystems/nature
 - Explicit integration of cross-border problems and synergies with the analysis, objectives, measures and evaluation of achievements

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*What did we achieve?
What potential do we possess?*

*What objectives do we wish
to achieve?*

**Analysis of
Initial State and
Potential**

**Formulating
Objectives**

Vision

respecting nature

balancing interests

securing environmental assets

socially just

guiding

ensuring participation

ecologically sound

creating together

**Evaluating
Achievements**

**Establishing
Measures**

*Did we achieve what
we wished?*

*What do we have to do in order
to achieve the objectives?*

Facing regional conflicts related to land-use and justice



Analysis of the point of departure and potential, discussion with different stakeholder groups



Define a collective vision, define targets, identify conflicts of use, balance targets



Regional RE-strategy, formulation of targets, implementation of measures, monitoring/evaluation

-> cooperation and coordination of different actors

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4) Networking center

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Well coordinated with a “networking center”



Tasks:

- Networking and coordination of actors, or rather different groups/working groups/projects
- Provision of information, communication, mediation in case of conflicts of interests between actors or their aims
- Implementation of measures, or formation of working groups and realisation of projects
 - Potential analysis
 - Development of concrete measures/projects
 - Founding of new companies for “projects”
 - Ensure possibilities of participation of relevant stakeholders in single projects
 - Monitoring/evaluation of measures/projects

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Well coordinated with a “networking center”



Institution:

- Check whether an existing body can take over tasks; if applicable, integration of a new steering group or recognition of existing group by policy-makers
- Potential institutions for networking center:
 - Local or regional energy agencies
 - Economic development agencies
 - Energy-related posts in the administration
 - Working group on energy, regional development, etc.
 - Regional energy cooperatives

=> Regional cooperation of different groups of actors is necessary and should be institutionalised

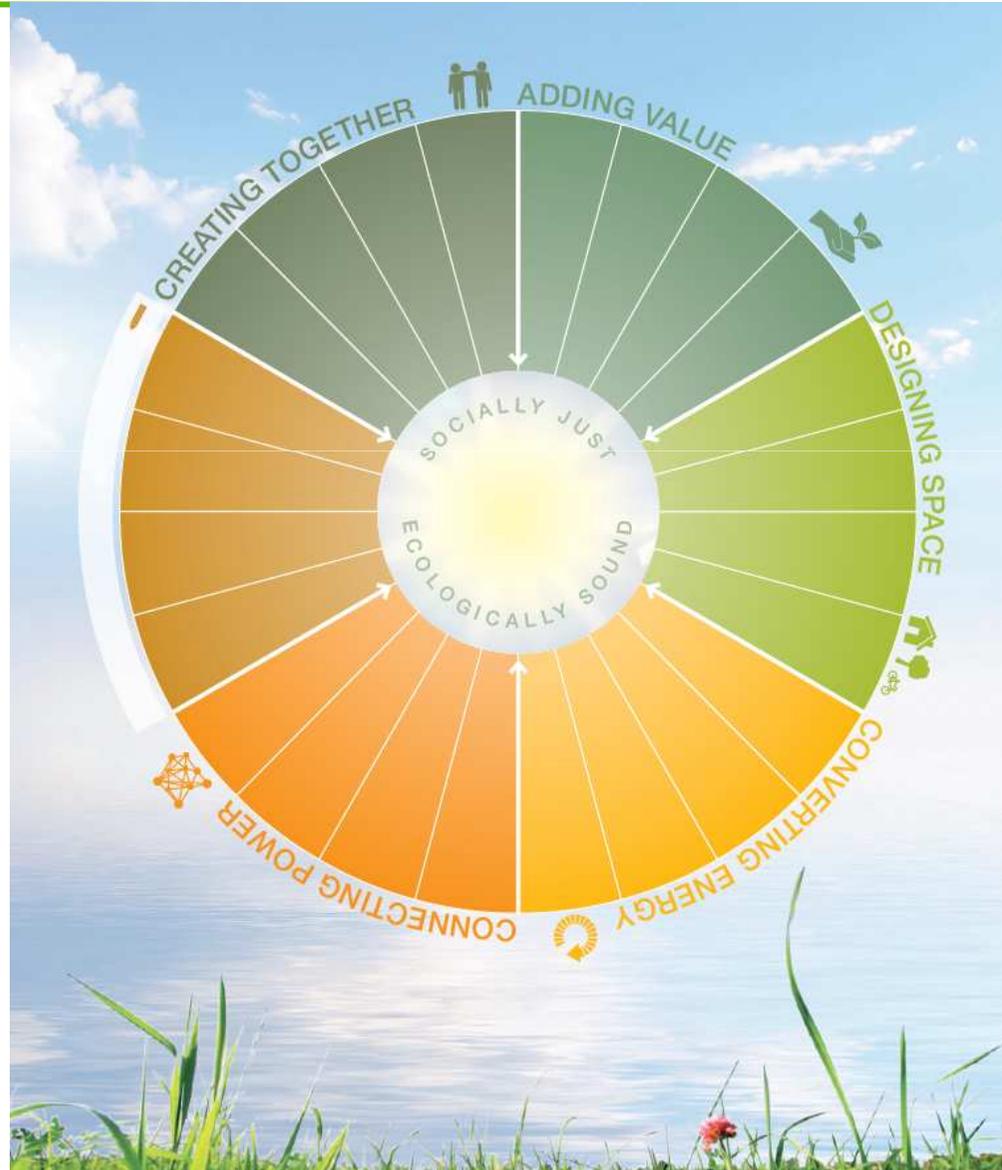
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Where do we start? Fields of action



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Thank you for your attention!

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