

# *Sharing Shed*

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*Information booklet*

acquired:

Here, in The Netherlands, we live in a **growth-oriented capitalistic economy**. We use money as a medium of economic exchange and to express prices and values. Money functions also as our currency - it circulates anonymously from person to person and country to country, facilitates trade, and is the principal measure of wealth. The fact that we use money makes our economy a market economy: what is produced is to be sold to earn the money that makes it possible to buy goods and services produced by others.

However, a variety of economic models exist that could help to move towards a steady state economy and lower energy and material throughput.

**Sharing economy** also called collaborative consumption - is a concept that highlights the ability -- and perhaps the preference -- of individuals to rent or borrow goods rather than buy and own them. It involves organised sharing, lending and swapping across communities. Some scholars argue that sharing is a way to achieve higher sustainability, by making underutilised resources more accessible.

**Gift economy** is a system of exchange where valuables are not sold but rather given without any expectation of receiving a gift in return. It is based on reciprocity - a situation in which two people provide

the same help or advantages to each other - and explicitly excludes the role of money.

*Reflection questions:*

1. *Can you imagine yourself participating in a gift or sharing economy?*
2. *Can you think of what you would be willing to share and what not and why?*

resources

An alternative to the use of money is so-called **local or complementary currencies**, which are already used in some places around the world. A **complementary currency** is a currency or medium of exchange that is not necessarily a national currency, but that is thought of as supplementing or complementing national currencies. They can serve to reduce carbon emissions, encourage the localisation of trade and relationships, the use of under-used resources and promote local businesses. An example of a local currency is The Fureai Kippu - "ticket for a caring relationship" - system in Japan. Every hour of labour spent helping an elderly person equals one credit. Collected credits are stored in an online bank and can be used when the person who earned them is in need of care or passed on to someone else who needs them.

The prices of goods and services influence our consumption and overall material and energy use. It is worth mentioning the concept

of **true pricing**, which introduces the environmental and social impact of our consumption. It is the market price plus the social and environmental costs of a product. It is determined with the help of so-called monetisation factors which are accepted monetary values for CO2 emissions, water use, soil degradation, land use change, underpayment and labour and human rights violations.

*Reflection questions:*

3. *What role does money play in your life?*
4. *How important it is in your view to implement true pricing on a larger scale?*

### time bank

Another alternative currency is time. So-called **time banks** are a reciprocity-based work trading system in which hours are the currency. With time banking, a person with one skill set can bank and trade hours of work for equal hours of work in another skill set instead of paying or being paid for services.

*Reflection questions:*

5. *What would it meet for your daily/weekly schedule if you joined the time bank?*
6. *If you were to ask for somebody's time, what would you use it for?*
7. *What kind of skills could you offer to share through the time bank?*

### owners

There are multiple ownership structures that could be introduced in our lives as an alternative to the currently dominating private ownership. For an object, instead of being owned exclusively by an individual, it can be, for instance, own collectively. This means that two or more people are the legal owners of it or it is a public good. Private ownership can lead to less equitable distribution of goods and increased material consumption. While more sharing of for example household equipment can help to lower material footprint, as more people benefit from the same amount of material. We live in an individualistic society where it is not necessarily in our mindset to be comfortable making 'mine' 'ours', it could be worth taking a minute to think about what we want to have for ourselves and why and what we would be willing share.

*Reflection questions:*

8. *What does it mean to you to own something?*
9. *How often do you think it is your conscious choice to own something?*
10. *What is your relationship with things you own by yourself?*

### functional/use value

It is a value of an object based on its use rather than on the market. It is determined based on the fulfilment of its user's practical needs. Focus on use value gives less incentive to accumulation of goods and thus can help to reduce material use.

Reflection question:

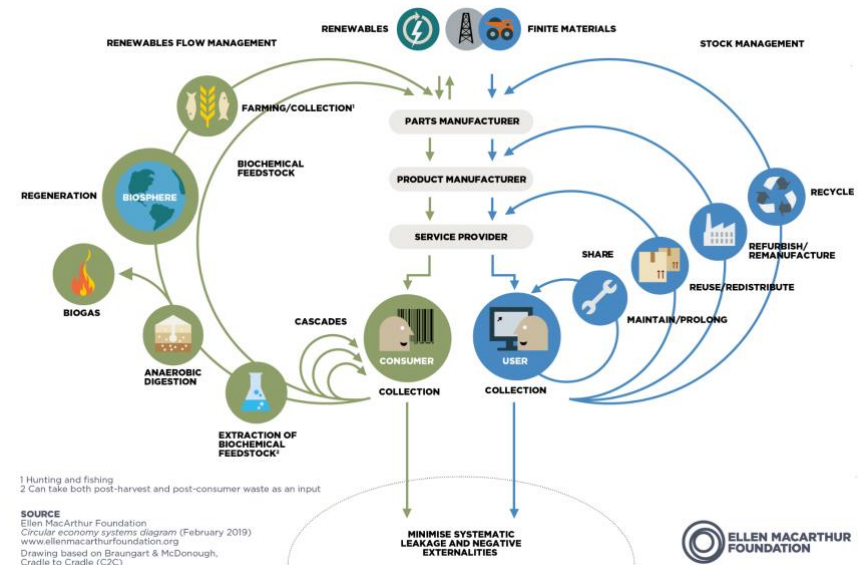
11. What do you think is the main reason for people to accumulate goods?
12. Do you there are any goods that are necessary to be accumulated?

### embodied energy

Embodied energy is the energy associated with the manufacturing of a product or service. This includes energy used for extracting and processing raw materials, manufacturing construction materials, transportation and distribution, and assembly and construction. To give an example, to produce and assemble an average vacuum cleaner, ones needs around 34,3 MJ or 8197,9 kcal, which equals the energy burned by doing 252244,4 rounds of a brisk walk around the Singel in Utrecht!

### repair/replacement

One of the actions that could help us reduce our material and energy throughput is the adoption of a model of a **circular economy**. It is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. Its three basic principles are to eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials by keeping materials in use, and regenerate of nature.



### repair cafe

The repair cafe is an organisation where people gather to work on repairing objects of everyday life such as electrical and mechanical devices, computers, bicycles, clothing, and other items. Repair Cafés are places where device owners can fix their broken goods with the help of volunteers. Repair Café is a part of the grassroots movement that aims to reduce waste, overconsumption, and planned obsolescence - is a way of designing a product with an artificially limited lifetime or a purposely frail design, so that it breaks after a certain pre-determined period of time.

# Please, read the rules and fill in the form when borrowing an object!

*Sharing Shed*

*Oudegracht 112, 3511 AW Utrecht*

Form:

Name	
Apartment	
Contact	
Object (incl. brand)	
Start date	
End date	
Purpose	
Initial state	
Remarks	

1. The objects present in the storage:

- hoover (x3)
- iron (x2)
- blender
- fruit dryer
- wheel barrel (x2)
- lawnmower (x2)
- spade (x2)
- grass trimmer
- drill
- welding torch
- screwdriver with magnetic bit holder
- screwdriver for bits and sockets
- bit adapter (3x)
- ratchet 1/4" & 1/2"
- camera + tripod
- air fryer
- projector (x2)

2. The objects were acquired (purchased, gifted or shared) and intended to be used by the residents of the housing complex "Potter House" located at Oudegracht 112, 3511 AW Utrecht
3. The resources (money, local currency) for the purchase were collected from the residents. The contribution of each individual was determined through a joint agreement (and can vary between people).
4. All the contributors have equal rights to use the objects and are considered owners if they wish to.

Rules of use:

1. Before the object is taken to be used, the above form is to be filled in.
2. All the users are asked to take care of the objects and use them adequately to prolong the lifespan of the objects and their parts.
3. All the users are asked to respect the material functional/use value of the objects and their embodied energy as well as the contribution and needs of other users.
4. The object is to be used only for the specified purpose.
5. Any damage is to be reported in the form.

Repair:

1. If possible, the particular broken piece is to be repaired or replaced.
2. The repair/replacement can be done on one's own. Alternatively, a list of repair cafes can be found in the storage room.
3. The repair/replacement should be done as soon as possible. The other users should be informed about the possible unavailability of the object shortly.
4. The person who has been in the possession of the object when it broke is responsible for covering the costs of the repair/replacement. In case the person does not agree to do so, the case can be discussed with other users.
5. In case of serious damage, the storage caretaker can be contacted for advice. Please, check his availability in his time bank account.
6. If the objects need to be completely replaced, it is to be decided by all its users how the new object will be acquired and how the possible costs will be shared.