

Back to the FutureS we want

– Part 1: Visions –

What could a sustainable future look like, according to you? In Part 1, we ask you to develop four different visions of sustainable futures for a region/city of your choice. You will be able to *choose a region* that matters to you or have connections with, and *research about the current situation*. Then, we will have you *envision four different possible future scenarios* of 2067 and ask you to *articulate your visions of a sustainable future* for each of the different scenarios. Depending on what we do today, there is a different tomorrow. ... What is the future you want?

1. Choose a region/city

Where do you feel at home? To what city or region do you feel connected to? Where do you want to live in 2067? Think of a city or region that you have a personal attachment to and imagine it fifty years from now.

2. Research your region/city

Look into how the region/city you chose is doing right now. In addition to online and literature research, try interacting with someone from/living in the region: Write an email, interview, or call someone. Different people in the region/city will likely have very different perceptions of what a sustainable future looks like, and could give you inputs on what they think the future for their city/region should look like in 2067.

Once you select your 2 parameters and are given the “What-if” statement below, look at the aspects of your region/city, relevant to these elements. For example, if your visions are related to renewable energy, where and how is the region/city currently getting its energy?

3. Develop four ‘sustainable’ visionS for 2067

“A utopia should therefore not be regarded as a final plan for a general transformation, but instead as an indispensable source of inspiration, propelling desire, imaginative capacity, reflexivity, change, and expectations of a better society.”

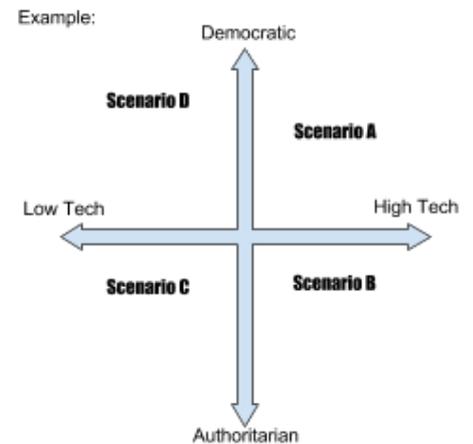
Karin Bradley and Johan Hedrén

Imagine four different futures for the region/city you chose. How could a sustainable region/city look like in 2067? This part of your assignment asks for you to be creative and practising your imaginative thinking.

There are different elements to this part of the assignment that help you in your envisioning. You will be introduced briefly to the elements below during Workshop 1 (October 17th). In your submission, you can expand on what you worked with during the workshop or come up with a new way to work with it.

a) **Choose 2 parameters from the list below, and think of 4 different future scenarios of what the world and your region could look like**, based on each quadrant. You can try out using different axis, but choose 2 axis for your submission. See Costanza (1999) in the Course Reader (Oct 17) for an example. For some parameters, you can find more ideas and information in the readings of the related lecture.

- High socio-economic equality - High socio-economic inequality
- High tech - Low tech
- Culturally diverse - Culturally homogenous
- High biodiversity - Low biodiversity
- High migration - Low migration
- Democratic (Participatory) - Authoritarian (Elitist)
- High economic growth - Low economic growth
- High consumption - Low consumption
- Green space high (high nature contact) - low (nature contact)
- Globalization - Regionalization



b) **Turn your 4 future scenarios into visionS of sustainability.** After you have developed your ideas about how each of these future scenarios could look like, think about “What does it mean that this society could be sustainable?” for each of these four scenarios. Revisit what sustainability means from the lectures and Course Reader (e.g. Sep 5, Q&A Diary, among others).

c) **Go deeper into each vision by applying a “What if...”?** One way to make a more complex and concrete vision is to ask yourself questions that start with “what if...”. Each group will receive a different “*What if*” statement. Develop your descriptions of the future applying the “What if” statement as a reality for your 4 visions. Of course, you can go back and forth between step b) to further develop these into sustainable visions.

Submissions

1. **Choice of Region/City:** Submit a document including a very brief text about which region you chose and why (no more than 100 words) on Studentportalen by **Monday, October 23rd at 17:00h.**

2. **Present and Future: Your region/city and your 4 visionS**

a) Submit a short report about your region/city’s current situation and practices, in relation to your What-if statement and chosen parameters. Please elaborate also on what you did to write this part (e.g. online research, interviews, email, etc.) (No more than 300 words. Include references to your sources).

b) Submit your 4 sustainable visionS for 2067. You can choose the format of how you write and describe each of the 4 futures: it can be a prose narrative like from a novel, journalist writing from the (future) newspaper, (mock) interviews with different (future) inhabitants, etc. Keep in mind that you will read each other’s visions in your SLS group during Workshop 2. (max. 1 page - feel free to format it how you like).

Submit a document including a) and b) to Studentportalen by **Monday, November 6th at 17:00h.**