

# **Green walls for greywater treatment: contributions to the circular economy**

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**Instituto Superior Técnico**


**Lisbon, Portugal**



- Urban challenges



- Reshaping green walls



- Contributions to circular economy

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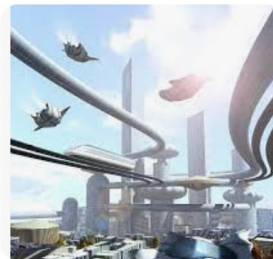
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Sustainable Cities of the Future ...



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Cities Are Becoming Smart Cities ...



TKE blog - TK Elevator  
Cities of the future: what will urban ...



Eco Tech Daily  
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Smart Cities World  
Dreaming of the future cities - Smart ...



Arch20  
5 Visions Of The Future Cities - Arch20.com

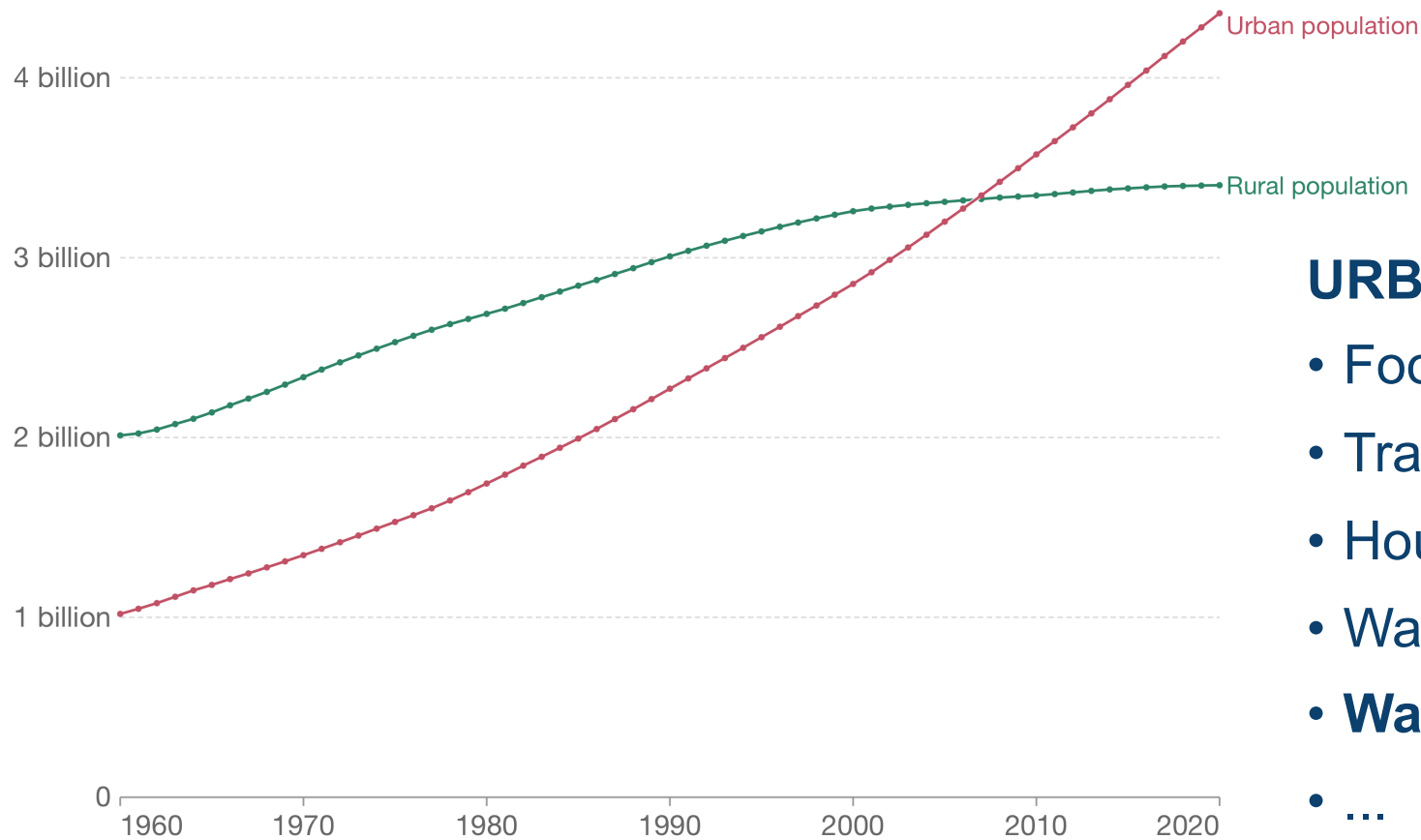


Zipcar  
9 Breathtaking City Concepts Tha...



## Number of people living in urban and rural areas, World

Our World  
in Data



### URBAN CHALLENGES:

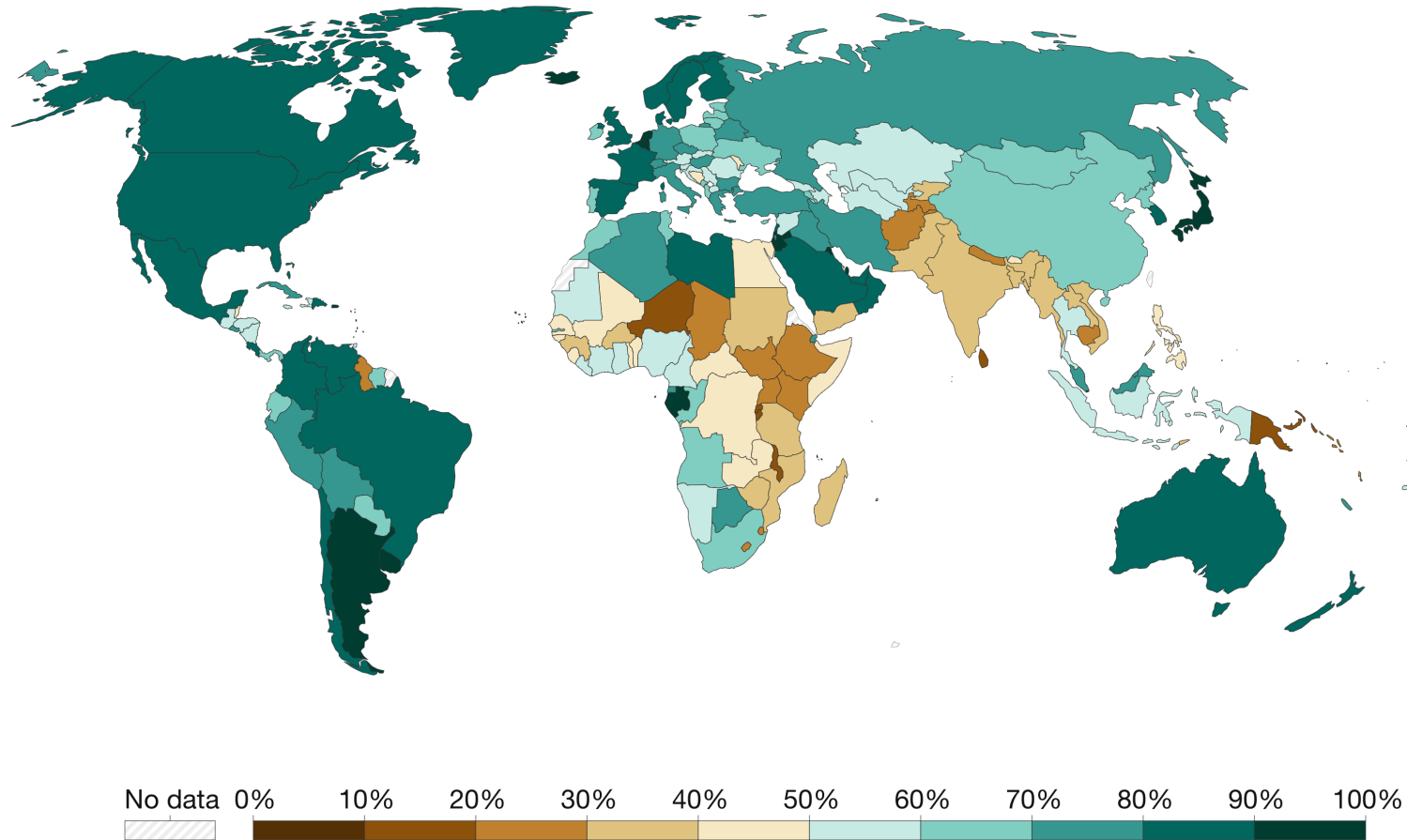
- Food
- Transportation
- Housing
- Waste
- **Water**
- ...

Source: World Bank based on data from the UN Population Division

[OurWorldInData.org/urbanization](https://OurWorldInData.org/urbanization) • CC BY

Note: Urban populations are defined based on the definition of urban areas by national statistical offices.





Source: UN Population Division (via World Bank)

[OurWorldInData.org/urbanization](https://OurWorldInData.org/urbanization) • CC BY

Note: Urban populations are defined based on the definition of urban areas by national statistical offices.

## *UN 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects:*

- 68% of the world population projected to live in urban areas by 2050

# DRINKING WATER IN THE EU



## Average consumption of tap water per person

(drinking water in litres per day)\*



\*includes usual household consumption (2014, 2015)

Water scarcity\*  
affects at least  
**11%**  
of Europeans

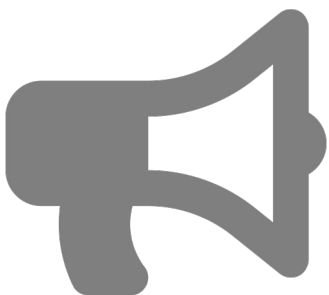
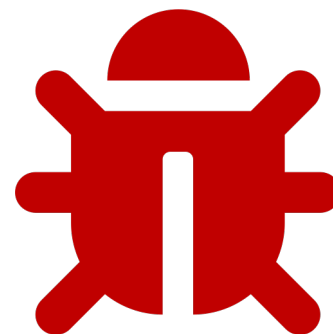
\*It occurs where there are  
insufficient water resources to satisfy  
long-term average requirements

How will this be affected  
by Climate Change?

Water scarcity affected 29% of the EU territory  
during at least one season in 2019

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/ims/use-of-freshwater-resources-in-europe-1>

# BENEFITS OF GREEN SYSTEMS





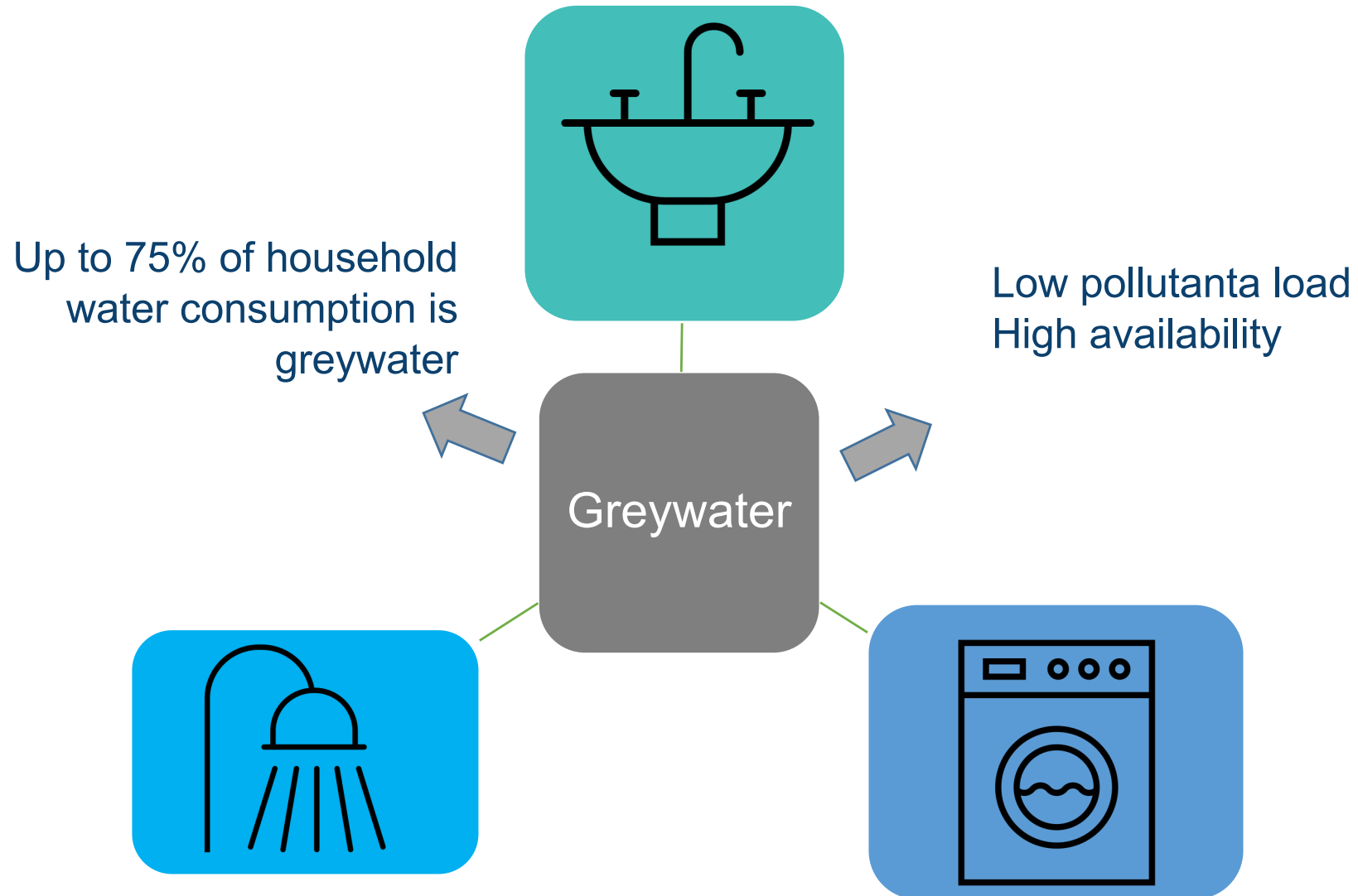
# ALTERNATIVES?



[https://aguasdotejoatlantico.adp.pt/sites/aguasdotejoatlantico.adp.pt/files/pagin as\\_base/Caminho\\_18/4-alexandra\\_henriques\\_projetos\\_art\\_cml\\_26\\_09\\_2018.pdf](https://aguasdotejoatlantico.adp.pt/sites/aguasdotejoatlantico.adp.pt/files/pagin%20as_base/Caminho_18/4-alexandra_henriques_projetos_art_cml_26_09_2018.pdf)

<https://www.aguasdotejoatlantico.adp.pt/galeria/infraestruturas>

# GREYWATER: A DECENTRALIZED SOURCE







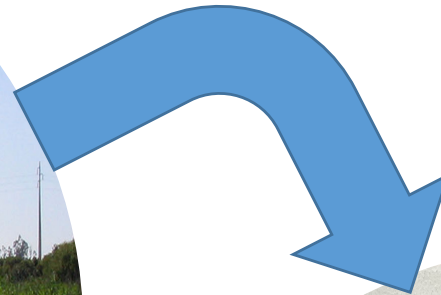
# RESHAPING GREEN WALLS

Insert this...

into this!



Constructed wetland





Module A

Module B

L1

L2

L3

L4

L5

L6





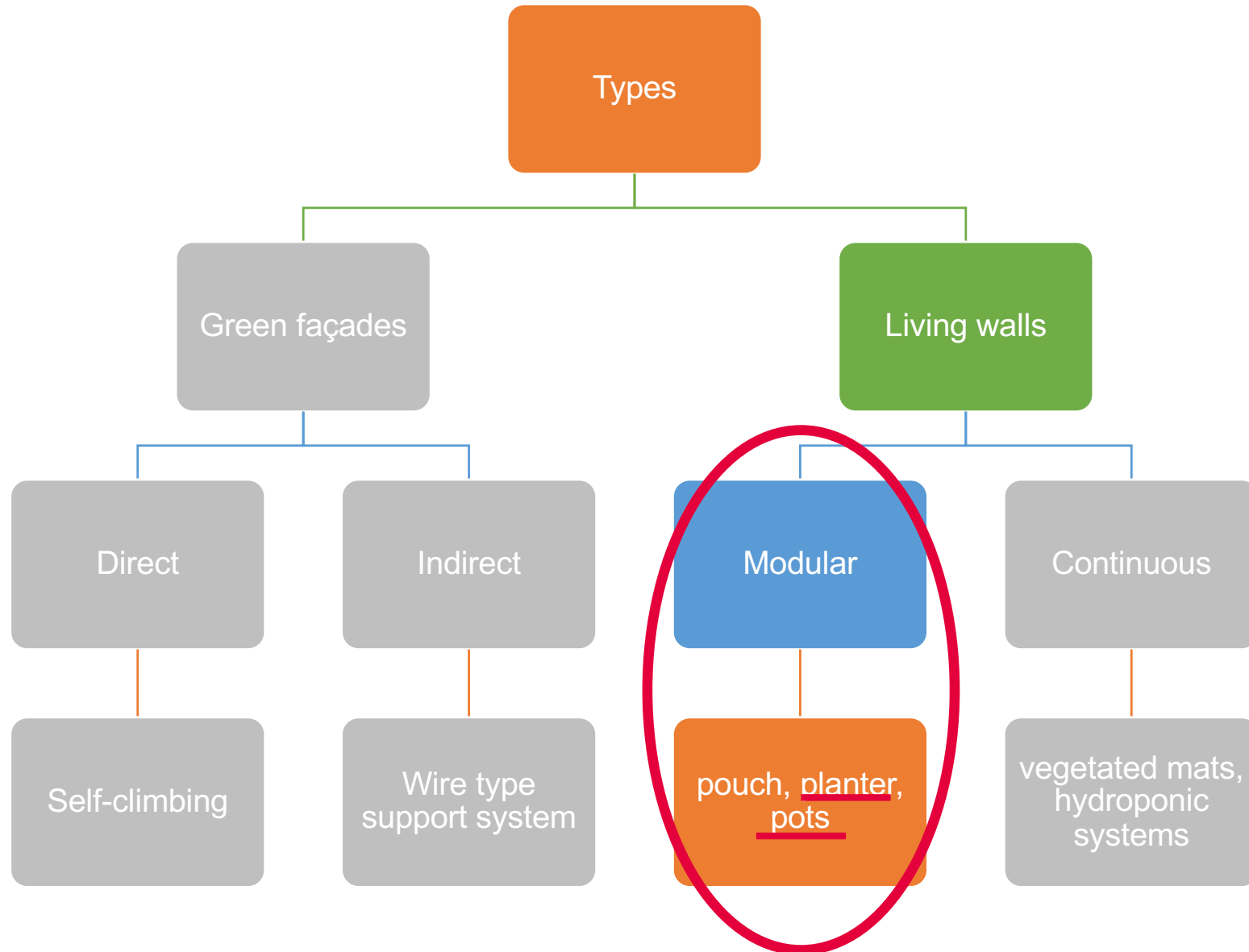






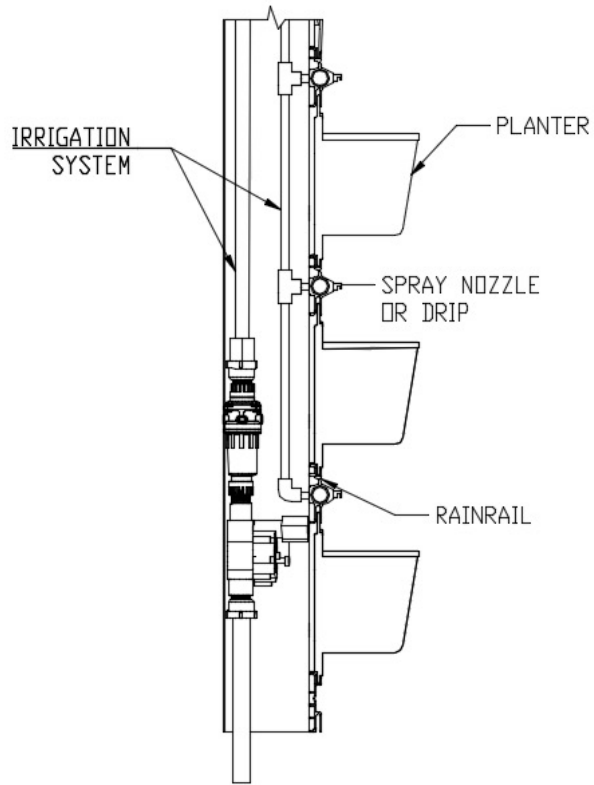


# WHAT TYPES OF GREEN WALLS CAN BE USED?





## Individual pots



Livewall.com



Smith Group JJR Reception Area



Livewall.com



TÉCNICO  
LISBOA

# Modular Living Walls

## Interconnected pots



Minigarden.net





## Filling media



Perlite



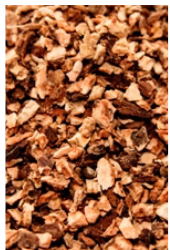
Coco coir



Expanded clay



Vermiculite



Granulated  
cork



construction  
materials



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## Ecological Engineering

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ecoleng](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ecoleng)



### Green walls for greywater reuse: Understanding the role of media on pollutant removal



Veljko Prodanovic<sup>a,\*</sup>, Belinda Hatt<sup>b</sup>, David McCarthy<sup>a</sup>, Kefeng Zhang<sup>b</sup>, Ana Deletic<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Civil Engineering, Monash University, 3800  
<sup>b</sup> Department of Civil Engineering

Journal of Environmental Management 300 (2021) 113646



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## Journal of Environmental Management

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jenvman](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jenvman)



### Evaluation of the influence of filter medium composition on treatment performances in an open-air green wall fed with greywater



Fulvio Boano<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Elisa Costamagna<sup>a</sup>, Alice Caruso<sup>a</sup>, Silvia Fiore<sup>a,b</sup>, Marco Chiappero<sup>a</sup>, Ana Galvão<sup>c</sup>, Joana Piscoiro<sup>c</sup>, Anacleto Rizzo<sup>d</sup>, Fabio Masi<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> DIATI (Department of Environment, Land and Infrastructure Engineering), Politecnico di Torino, Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10129, Turin, Italy  
<sup>b</sup> CleanWaterCenter@PoliTo, Politecnico di Torino, Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10129, Turin, Italy  
<sup>c</sup> CERIS, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Av. Rovisco Pais, 1049-001, Lisbon, Portugal  
<sup>d</sup> IRIDRA Srl, Via La Marmora 51, 50121, Fl

Science of the Total Environment 842 (2022) 156748



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## Science of the Total Environment

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv)



### Green walls with recycled filling media to treat greywater



Ana Galvão<sup>a,\*</sup>, David Martins<sup>b</sup>, Andreia Rodrigues<sup>b</sup>, Maria Manso<sup>a</sup>, Joana Ferreira<sup>b</sup>, Cristina Matos Silva<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> CERIS, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Av. Rovisco Pais, 1049-001 Lisboa, Portugal  
<sup>b</sup> Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Av. Rovisco Pais, 1049-001 Lisboa, Portugal



- Tall sedge (*Carex appressa*)
- Queen fern (*Nephrolepis obliterate*)
- Tasman Flax Lily (*Dianella tasmanica*)
- Agapanthus (*Agapanthus praecox*)
- Giant Lily turf (*Liriope muscari*)
- New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax*)
- Creeping myoporum (*Myoporum parvifolium*)



Irish spleenwort (*Asplenium onopteris*)



Maidenhair fern  
(*Adiantum capillus-veneri*)





Preferential paths



Aerial roots



Root network entrapping  
granulated cork filling media



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Science of the Total Environment

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv)



## Performance of a green wall (Total Value Wall™) at high greywater loading rates and Life Cycle Impact Assessment



Fida Hussain Lakho <sup>a,\*</sup>, Asif Qureshi <sup>b</sup>, Laura De Donno Novelli <sup>a</sup>, Veerle Depuydt <sup>c</sup>, Teun Depreuw <sup>d</sup>, Stijn W.H. Van Hulle <sup>a</sup>, Diederik P.L. Rousseau <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Laboratory for Industrial Water and Ecotechnology (LIWET), Department of Green Chemistry and Technology, Ghent University Campus Kortrijk, Sint-Martens Latemlaan 2B, B-8500 Kortrijk, Belgium*

<sup>b</sup> *Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT), 445 Boulevard de l'Université, Rouyn-Noranda, QC J9X 5E4, Canada*

<sup>c</sup> *Flanders Knowledge Center Water (Vlakwa), Leiestraat 22, B-8500 Kortrijk, Belgium*

<sup>d</sup> *Muurtuin, Vandenpeereboomstraat 16, 2140 Borgerhout, Belgium*

### HIGHLIGHTS

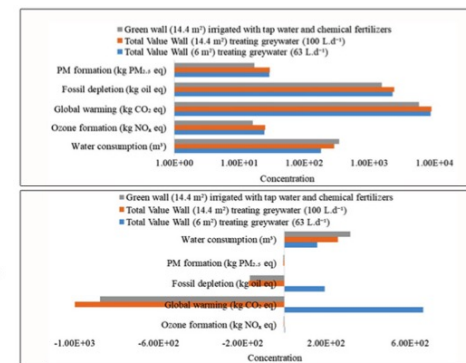
- Total Value Wall (TVW) was subjected to higher hydraulic and pollutant loads.
- Higher hydraulic loads caused excessive leakage.
- Higher pollutant loads still resulted in 82% COD, 95% BOD<sub>5</sub> and 90% TSS reduction.
- Life cycle assessment (LCA) was performed for different variants of the TVW.
- LCA showed that grey water irrigation of the TVW is a sustainable technology.

### GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



Actual Case

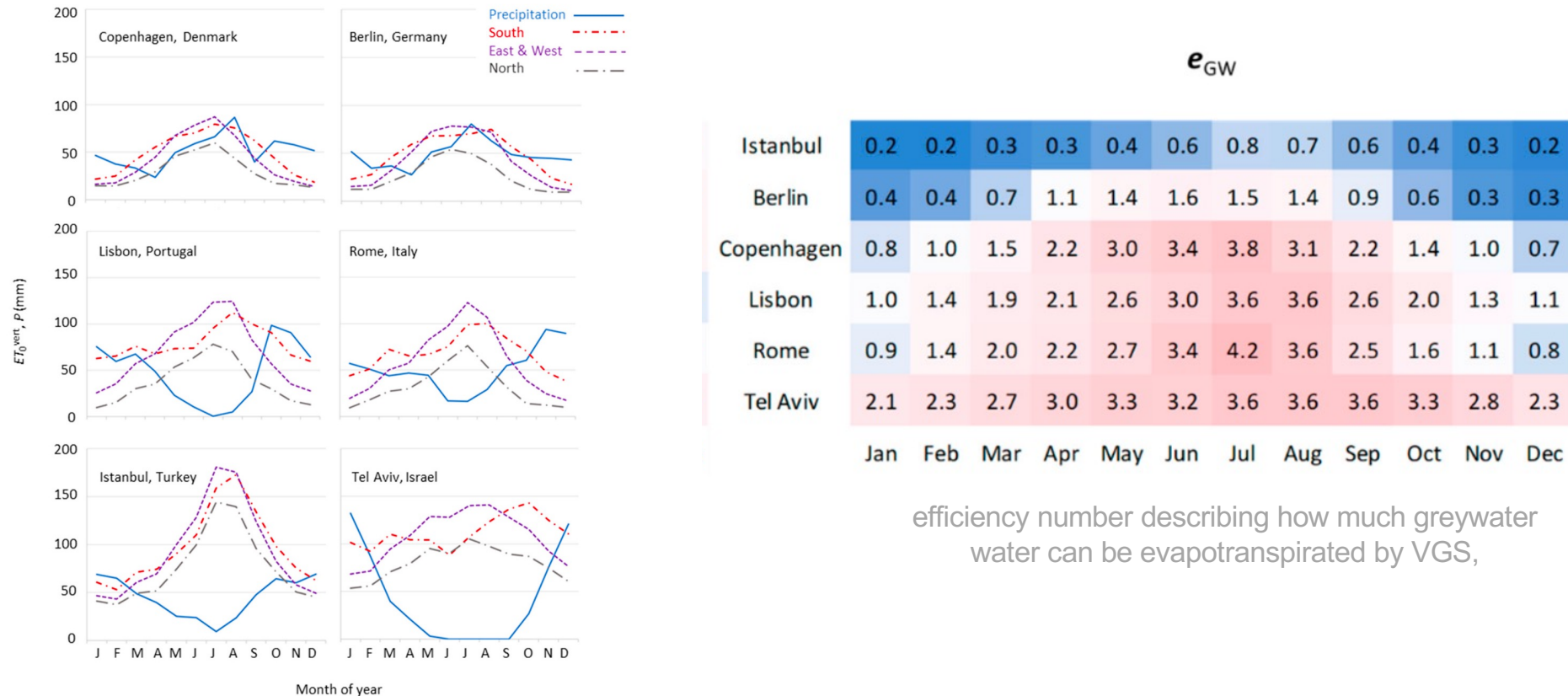
Net Impacts after compensating with insulation effect & optimized pump energy



Article

# Closing Water Cycles in the Built Environment through Nature-Based Solutions: The Contribution of Vertical Greening Systems and Green Roofs

David Pearlmutter<sup>1,†</sup>, Bernhard Pucher<sup>2,†</sup>, Cristina S. C. Calheiros<sup>3,\*</sup>, Karin A. Hoffmann<sup>4</sup>, Andreas Aicher<sup>5</sup>, Pedro Pinho<sup>6</sup>, Alessandro Stracqualursi<sup>7</sup>, Alisa Korolova<sup>8</sup>, Alma Pobric<sup>9</sup>, Ana Galvão<sup>10</sup>, Ayça Tokuç<sup>11</sup>, Bilge Bas<sup>12</sup>, Dimitra Theochari<sup>13</sup>, Dragan Milosevic<sup>14</sup>, Emanuela Giancola<sup>15</sup>, Gaetano Bertino<sup>16</sup>, Joana A. C. Castellar<sup>17,18</sup>, Julia Flaszynska<sup>19</sup>, Makbulenur Onur<sup>20</sup>, Mari Carmen Garcia Mateo<sup>21</sup>, Maria Beatrice Andreucci<sup>7</sup>, Maria Milousi<sup>22</sup>, Mariana Fonseca<sup>23</sup>, Sara Di Lonardo<sup>24</sup>, Veronika Gezik<sup>25</sup>, Ulrike Pitha<sup>26</sup> and Thomas Nehls<sup>4</sup>



efficiency number describing how much greywater water can be evapotranspired by VGS,

**Figure 5.** Long-time average standard evapotranspiration for vertical greening systems (VGS),  $ET_0^{\text{vert}}$  ( $L/m^2 = mm$ ) for the different expositions in the different cities together with precipitation  $P$  (mm) (Meteonorm, 2021; for the years 2005–2019).

**Thank you!**

**Ana Galvão**

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## **Funding**

Project GRAVITY - FCT Research grant 2022.02093.PTDC  
FCT grant for CERIS - Project UIDB/04625/2020