



NCE 2026 - Solarpunk

Wessel Fledderus

The Fifth Sacred Thing by [Jessica Perlstein](#)



The Fifth Sacred Thing by [Jessica Perlstein](#)





Vegetal Cities by Luc Schuiten (2009)



“Dear Alice” Decommodified. Waffle to the Left. (Originally a Chobani commercial)



Today

- What is solarpunk?
- Why solarpunk in the classroom?
- Doing solarpunk
- What will you take home?

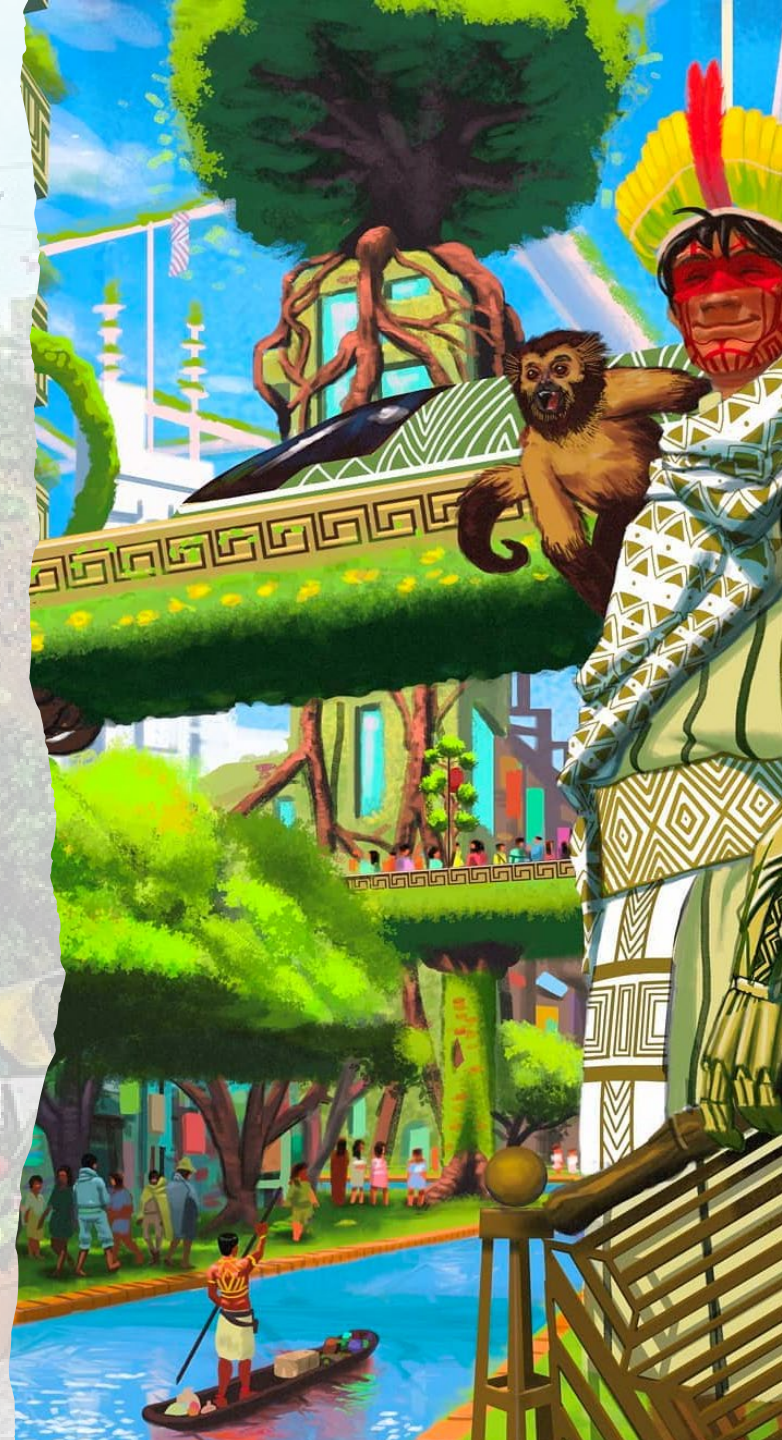
What is solarpunk?

History

- **Republic of the Bees, 2008:**
“From Steampunk to Solarpunk”
- **Anarchism (anti-hierarchy)**
- **Sustainability**
- **Social justice and equality**
- **Hope (refusing pessimism)**
- **DIY (prefigurative politics, hacking, self-sustainability)**

Dorothe Wouters /
Darkmoon art.

João Queiroz
https://q1r0z.artstation.com/projects/4bkOl1?album_id=1529336



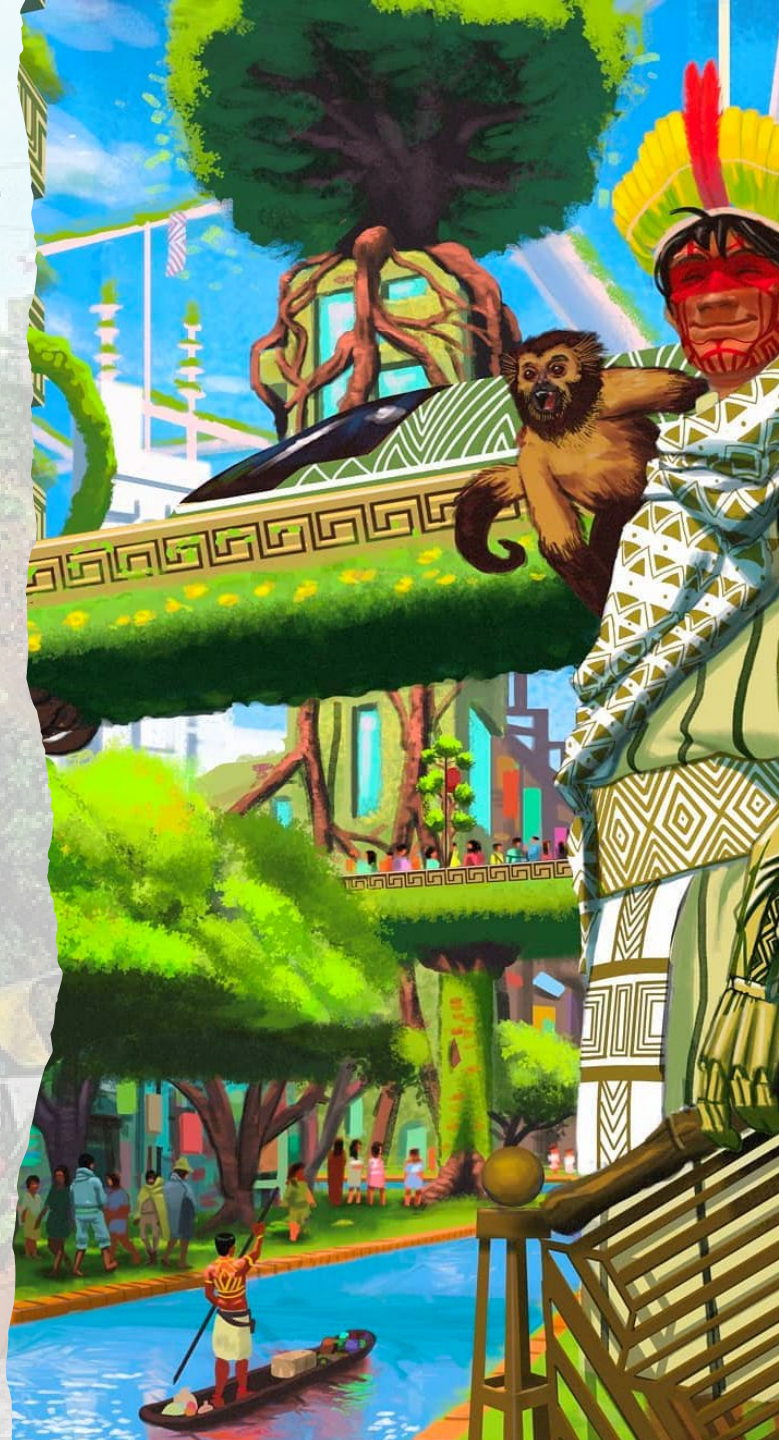
What is solarpunk?

Core ideas

- **Plurality**
- **Anarchism (anti-hierarchy)**
- **Sustainability**
- **Social justice and equality**
- **Hope (refusing pessimism)**
- **DIY (prefigurative politics, hacking, self-sustainability)**

Ridley Scott -
Blade Runner (1982)

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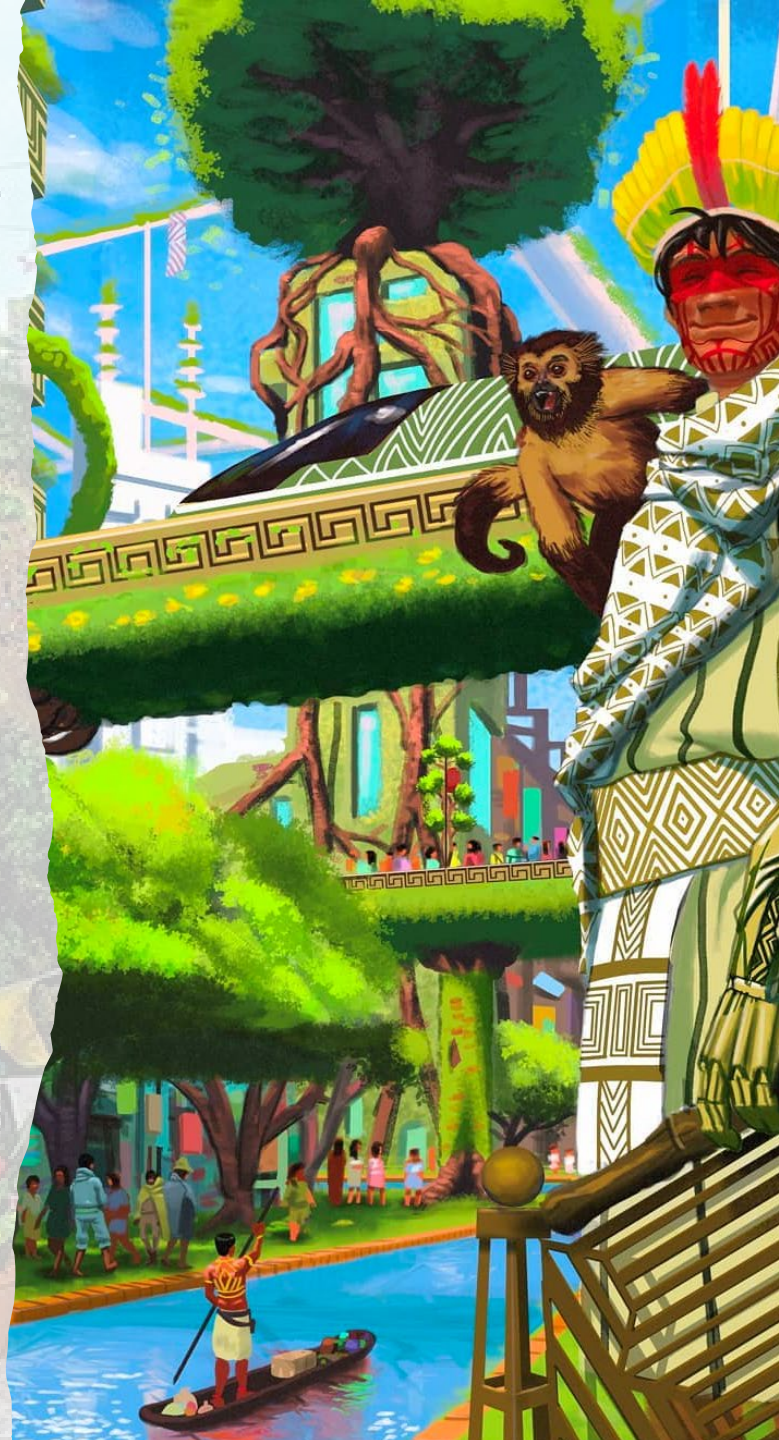
What is solarpunk?

Aesthetics

- **Art Nouveau**
- **Technology integrated**
- **Diversity (plurality)**
- **Green and colourful**
- **Water, plants and animals**

Ridley Scott -
Blade Runner (1982)

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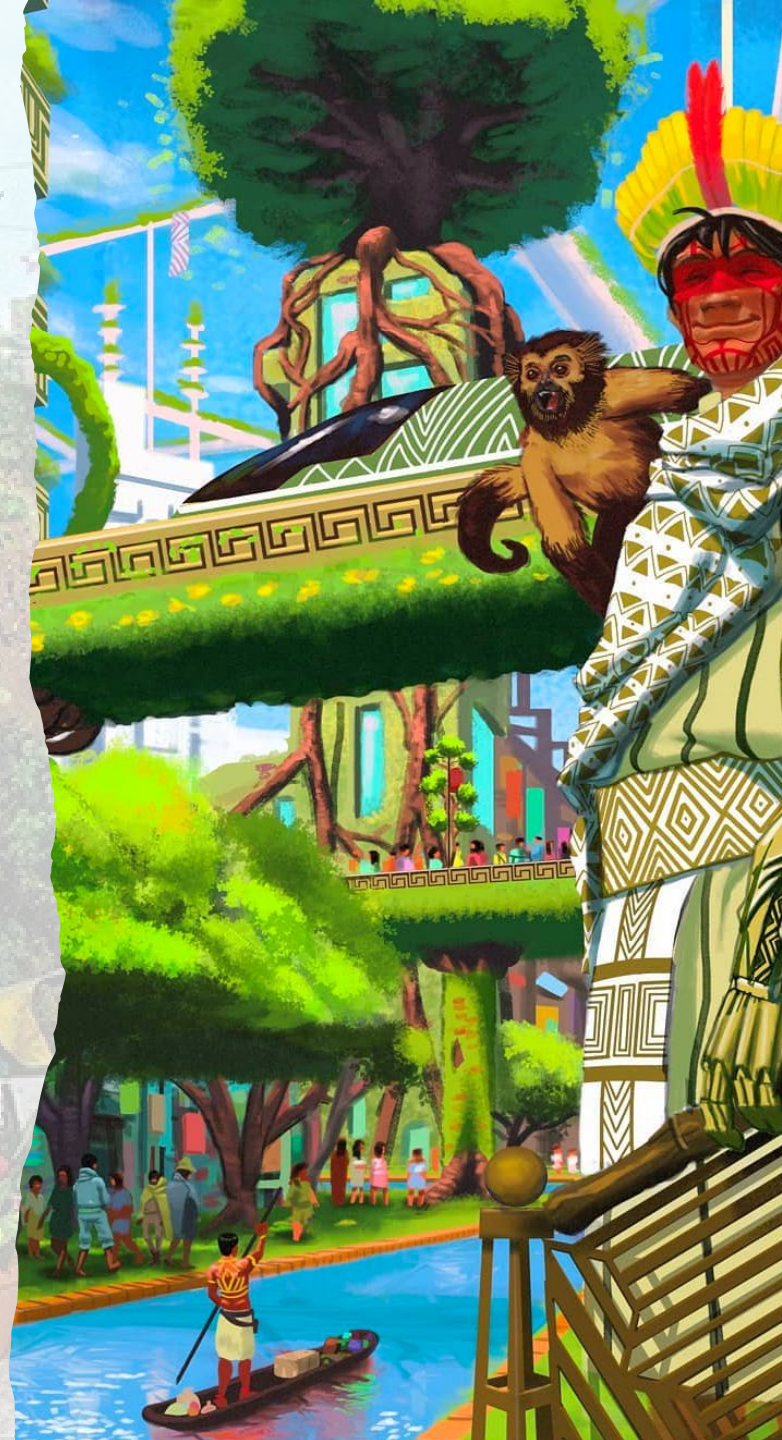
What is solarpunk?

Activism

- **Gardening:** guerrilla gardening, rewilding, planting.
- **Sharing:** library economy, sharing communities.
- **DIY:** recycling, hacking, social technology.
- **Sustainability:** from insulation, renewable energy and water reusage to reducing waste, recycling and mending clothes.
- **Degrowth:** reducing demand and output, deprioritising economic growth.

Ridley Scott -
Blade Runner (1982)

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Why solarpunk in the English classroom?

- Language and imagination are linked – finding words for another future makes it possible.
- Authentic language experiences where people are finding words and ideas for a different image of the future.
- The mix between artistic genre and activism makes it perfect for exploration, discussion, expression and engagement.
- Guiding students away from passivity and doomerism towards local, interconnected and hopeful expression and activity (or activism).

Why solarpunk in the English classroom?

Suggestions for in-class activities:

- Zine (many types)
- Video games
- Role-playing games and writing
- Newsletters of good news
- Networking or connecting (with other solarpunks or the community)
- Reading books, texts, essays.
- Activism: posters, projects, guerilla gardening, arts and crafts, videos, zine.
- Imagination: what would the world be like?
 - Countercultural expression would help to fight doomerism.
- Videos and podcast. Andrewism, Solarpunk Presents – see sources at the end.

Doing solarpunk

Make a “zine”

Choose a solarpunk theme
Work together in groups to design and make a counter-cultural version of current magazines.

Gather individual solarpunk expressions (short story, poem, drawing, collage) to create a zine together

Solarpunk reimagining

Pick one of the dystopian stories (or one of your own) and reimagine it in a solarpunk way.

- *1984*
- *Blade Runner*
- *The Matrix*
- *The Handmaid's Tale*
- ...

Solarpunk news

Write a newsletter of hopeful news based on research.

Example:
Solarpunk Stories (website, Substack, social media)

Activism

Think of a positive thing you and your students could make happen in your environment, such as rewilding, reducing waste or consumption, contributing to local community, starting a library of things...

RPG writing

Play “Solarpunk Pen Pals” the role-playing writing game.
Use the cards to write as characters from an imagined solarpunk future.

Reflection



- What did you learn?
- What did you feel?
- What will you do?

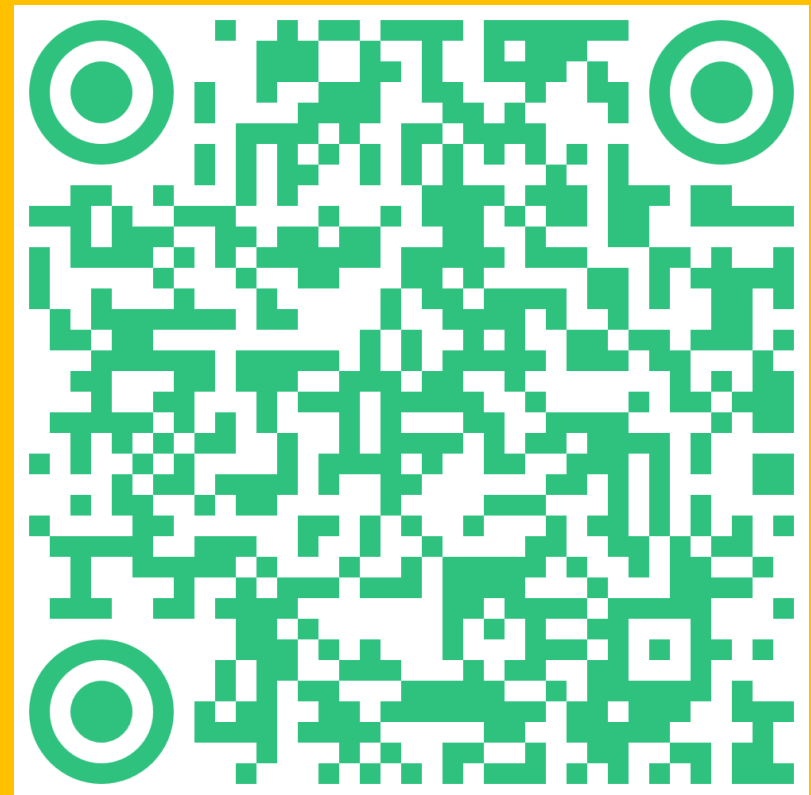
To take home

- Solarpunk is a hopeful way of looking towards the future. A necessary act of imagination to overcome apathy and despair, followed by acts that bring that future closer.
- Solarpunk is art and activism.
- Solarpunk is exciting and in motion. Everyone can be a part of it.
- Share ideas, materials and enthusiasm.

This slideshow is available for all of you, with sources in the following slides.

QR code or link:

<https://www.herwaarns.nl/nce-solarpunk>



Solarpunk Sources: History and Definition

- First mention of the term: Republic of the Bees, 2008: “From Steampunk to Solarpunk”
<https://republicofthebees.wordpress.com/2008/05/27/from-steampunk-to-solarpunk/>
- Solarpunk Manifesto: <https://re-des.org/a-solarpunk-manifesto/>
- Solarpunk Reference on Medium, with the early mentions of the term:
<https://medium.com/solarpunks/solarpunk-a-reference-guide-8bcf18871965>
- Notes towards a solarpunk manifesto by Adam Flynn, 2014:
<https://hieroglyph.asu.edu/2014/09/solarpunk-notes-toward-a-manifesto/>
- Viral hit for solarpunk from Miss Olivia Louise on Tumblr, 2014:
<https://missolivialouise.tumblr.com/post/94374063675/heres-a-thing-ive-had-around-in-my-head-for-a>
- A community-run solarpunk wiki: https://solarpunk.fandom.com/wiki/SolarPunk_Wikia
- One Earth overview article on Solarpunk: <https://www.oneearth.org/solarpunk/>

Solarpunk Sources: Fiction

Proto-Solarpunk:

- Ursula K. Le Guin – *The Dispossessed*
- Norman Spinrad – *Song from the Stars*

Solarpunk collections

- *Sunvault: an Anthology of Solarpunk and Eco-Speculation* (Edited by Phoebe Wagner and Brontë Christopher Wieland)
- *Metamorphosis - Climate Fiction for a Better Future* (Edited by Grist)
- *Solarpunk: Stories from Many Futures (Beyond and Within)* (Edited by Francesco Verso).

Solarpunk stories online

- Suzane Kaye Quinn - <https://susankayequinn.com/hopepunk-solarpunk>

Solarpunk Sources: Visual Art

Proto-Solarpunk:

- Studio Ghibli / Hayao Miyazaki works such as *Nausicäa of the Valley of the Wind* (manga and film)

Solarpunk

- Kaye Freeman (https://www.instagram.com/kayefreeman_art/)
- Joan de Art (<https://www.instagram.com/p/CtUdgTjxVxe/>)
- Dustin Jacobus (<https://www.dustinjacobus.com/futurism-gallery>)
- Solarpunkification Project: <https://www.solarpunkification.art/single-project-1>
- Taylor Seamount (<https://www.taylorseamount.com/>)
- Teiko Shounen / Imperial Boy. [Teikoku Shounen](#) / [Imperial Boy](#)

Solarpunk Sources: Video

About Solarpunk

- Andrewism - <https://www.youtube.com/c/Andrewism>
- SolarpunkAlana - <https://www.youtube.com/@solarpunkalana>
- Our Changing Climate (has solarpunk videos)-
<https://www.youtube.com/@OurChangingClimate>

Solarpunk

- “Dear Alice” Decommodified. Waffle to the Left. (Originally a Chobani commercial)

Solarpunk Sources: Podcasts

- *Solarpunk Presents.*
- *Demand Utopia – A Solarpunk Podcast.*
- *Solarpunk Now!*

Solarpunk Sources: Newsletters and Blogs

- Solarpunk Stories - <https://substack.com/@solarpunkstories>
- Solarpunk Magazine - <https://solarpunkmagazine.com/blog/>

Solarpunk Sources: Projects and Activism

- AIME: <https://aimementoring.com/>
- That place in the Netherlands...
- A Guide to Solarpunk Fashion – The Solarpunk Scene: <https://youtu.be/SxRv-g2l3lY?si=ZlygMjNJdWPlPfaM>
- Activist builders: <https://solarpunkcities.com/>
- I'm excited to join or start any solarpunk projects you set up!

Solarpunk Sources: Games

Video Games

- *Terra Nil* - <https://www.terraniil.com/> - can be played for free with a Netflix subscription
- Itch.io/solarpunk: place where game developers can place projects to be played for free - <https://itch.io/games/tag-solarpunk>
- *Solarpunk* – to be released in 2026. A creative survival game in a solarpunk setting. Demo available on Steam.

Tabletop Games

- *Solarpunk Futures* – A role-playing game like D&D in solarpunk style and setting. <https://thefuture.wtf/>
- *Solarpunk Pen Pals* – Based on *Solarpunk Futures*, this is a role-playing writing exercise to spark solarpunk imagination. <https://solarpunkpenpals.com>