

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910645996203321
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Titolo	Water interactions : A systemic view Why we need to comprehend the water-climate-energy-food-economics-lifestyle connections // Gustaf Olsson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	United Kingdom : , : IWA Publishing, , 2022
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (275 pages)
Disciplina	333.91
Soggetti	Water-supply
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	About the author xiii -- Preface. . xv -- Acknowledgements. xix -- Prologue - Some experiences in my lifetime xxi -- Chapter 1 Introduction - setting the scene. 1 -- 1.1 Where We are Today . 1 -- 1.2 How We Got Here . 2 -- 1.3 Going from Here . . 4 -- 1.4 Some Scenarios . 4 -- 1.4.1 Fossil fuels 5 -- 1.4.2 Food. . 6 -- 1.4.3 Renewable energy - critical minerals . . 7 -- 1.4.4 Economics 7 -- 1.5 Overview of the Book . . 7 -- Chapter 2 Systems thinking . . 11 -- 2.1 Systemic Approach . 12 -- 2.2 Feedback 15 -- 2.3 Wicked Problems . 15 -- 2.4 Hyperobjects. 16 -- 2.5 The UN Sustainable Development Goals . 17 -- 2.6 Global Risks . 18 -- Chapter 3 Climate today . . 19 -- 3.1 The 1992 RIO Conference . 21 -- 3.2 Climate as Reported by IPCC in 2021 23 -- 3.3 Climate Pioneers . 26 -- 3.4 The Million-Year Perspective . 27 -- 3.5 The CO2 -- Budget 28 -- 3.6 The COP26 Agreements . 29 -- 3.7 Deforestation 31 -- 3.8 Actions Needed 34 -- Chapter 4 Global warming impacts . 35 -- 4.1 Global Impact of Climate Change . 37 -- 4.2 Weather vs Climate . 37 -- 4.3 Extreme Weather. 38 -- 4.3.1 Human-made vulnerability 42 -- 4.4 Temperature . 42 -- 4.5 Rossby Waves 45 -- 4.6 Droughts 46 -- 4.7 Air Pollution from Wildfires 47 -- 4.8 Precipitation . 48 -- 4.9 Methane 49 -- 4.10 Other Significant Greenhouse Gases 52 -- 4.10.1 Nitrous oxide . 52 -- 4.10.2 Hydrofluorocarbons . 52 -- 4.11 Climate Feedback Mechanisms . 52 -- 4.12 The Human Cost of Climate Change. 54 -- 4.13 Actions Needed 55 -- Chapter 5The water perspective . . 57 -- 5.1 How We Got

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energy has become recognized. Likewise, the couplings to food and agriculture are getting increasingly obvious and alarming. In the last year, a record number of extreme weather events have been reported from most parts of the world. This is a visible demonstration how consequences of climate change must be understood and alleviated. The impacts of economics, lifestyle, and alarming inequalities are becoming increasingly recognisable. If the wealthy part of the world is not willing not make radical changes it does not matter what the less wealthy half of the global population will do to meet the climate and resource crisis. The purpose of the book is to demonstrate and describe how climate change, water, energy, food, and lifestyle are closely depending on each other. It is not sufficient to handle one discipline isolated from the others. This is the traditional icomponent viewi. The book defines and describes a systems view. The communications and relationships between the icomponentsi have to be described and recognized. Consequently, the development of one discipline must be approached from a systems perspective. At the same time, the success of the systems perspective depends on the degree of knowledge of the individual parts or disciplines. The catchphrase of systems thinking has been caught in the phrase, iThe whole is more than the sum of its partsi. The idea is not new: the origin of this phrase is to be found already in Aristotleis Metaphysics more than 2300 years ago. The text may serve as an academic text (in engineering, economics, and environmental science) to introduce senior undergraduate and graduate students into systems thinking. Too often education encourages a isiloi thinking. Current global challenges canit be solved in isolation; they depend on each other. For example, water professionals should have a basic understanding of energy issues. Energy professionals ought to understand the dependency on water. Economic students should learn more how economy depends on natural resources like energy and water. Economics must include the environmental impact and ecological ceiling of economic activities.
