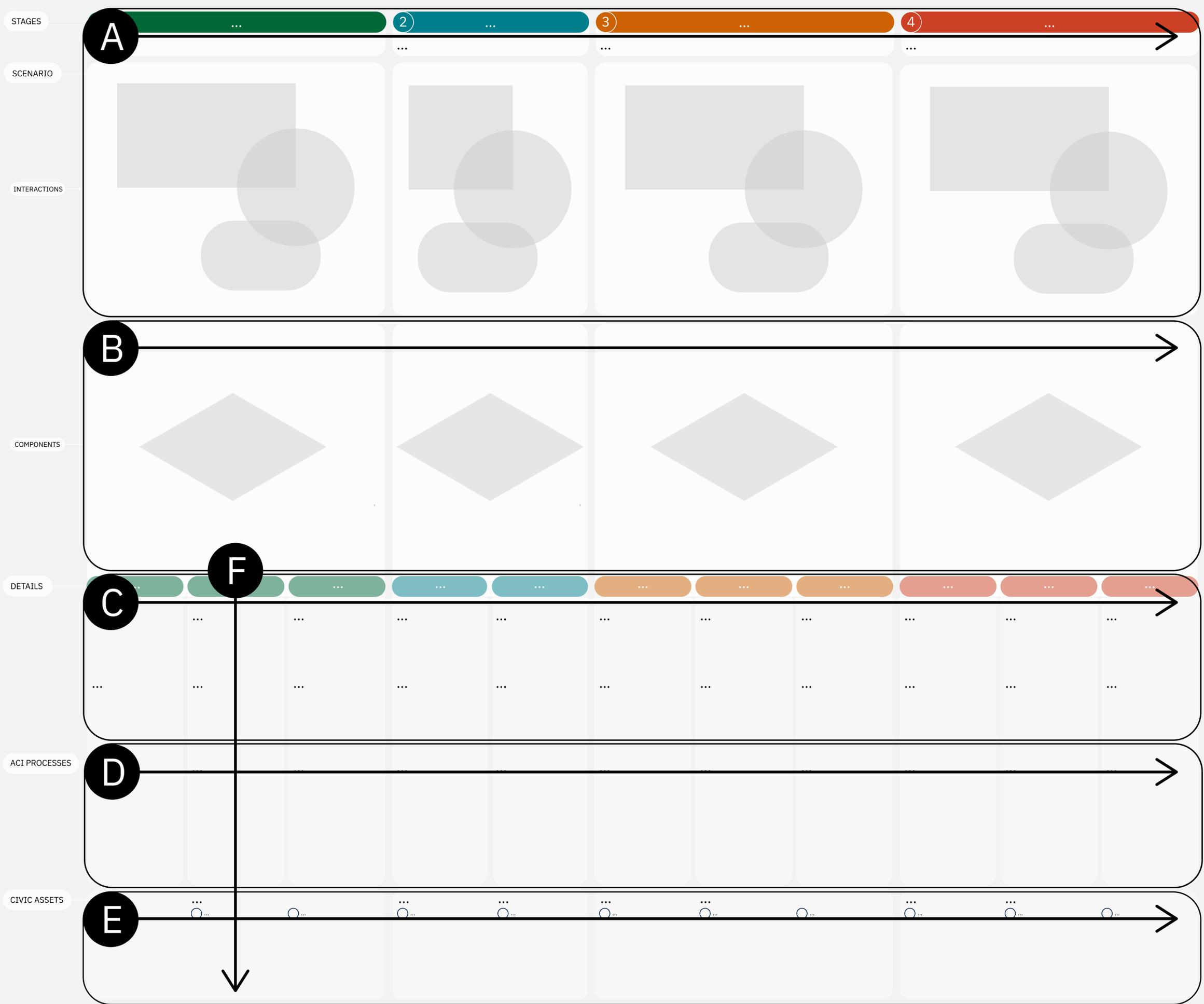


CivicAI is a project exploring how AI can enhance collective intelligence to help communities respond to the climate crisis through three near-future use cases. Read more at [civic-ai.org](http://civic-ai.org)

- Start at **A** for a visual summary
- See **B** for schematic representations of the processes involved
- See **C** for challenges that ACI can help address
- See **D** for opportunities for people and machines to collaborate
- Follow **E** for technical requirements and readiness across the full proposal
- Follow **F** for details within each stage of proposal

Section overview

- A** provides a visual summary of the key stages and example interactions within each scenario.
- B** gives a schematic overview of the processes conducted by people and machines in each of the scenarios.
- C** details the key challenges experienced by organisations working in these areas and a proposal for how they may be overcome.
- D** provides details of how people (HI) and machines (AI) collaborate and the specific tasks carried out during each stage of the proposal.
- E** summarises the civic assets which make up the proposal. These are separated in *Tangible* (physical) and *Intangible* (non-physical). Each component has an indicative *Technology Readiness Level* reflecting level of development of related technologies/projects. Components to focus on to achieve a *Minimum Viable Product* for the use case have also been highlighted.



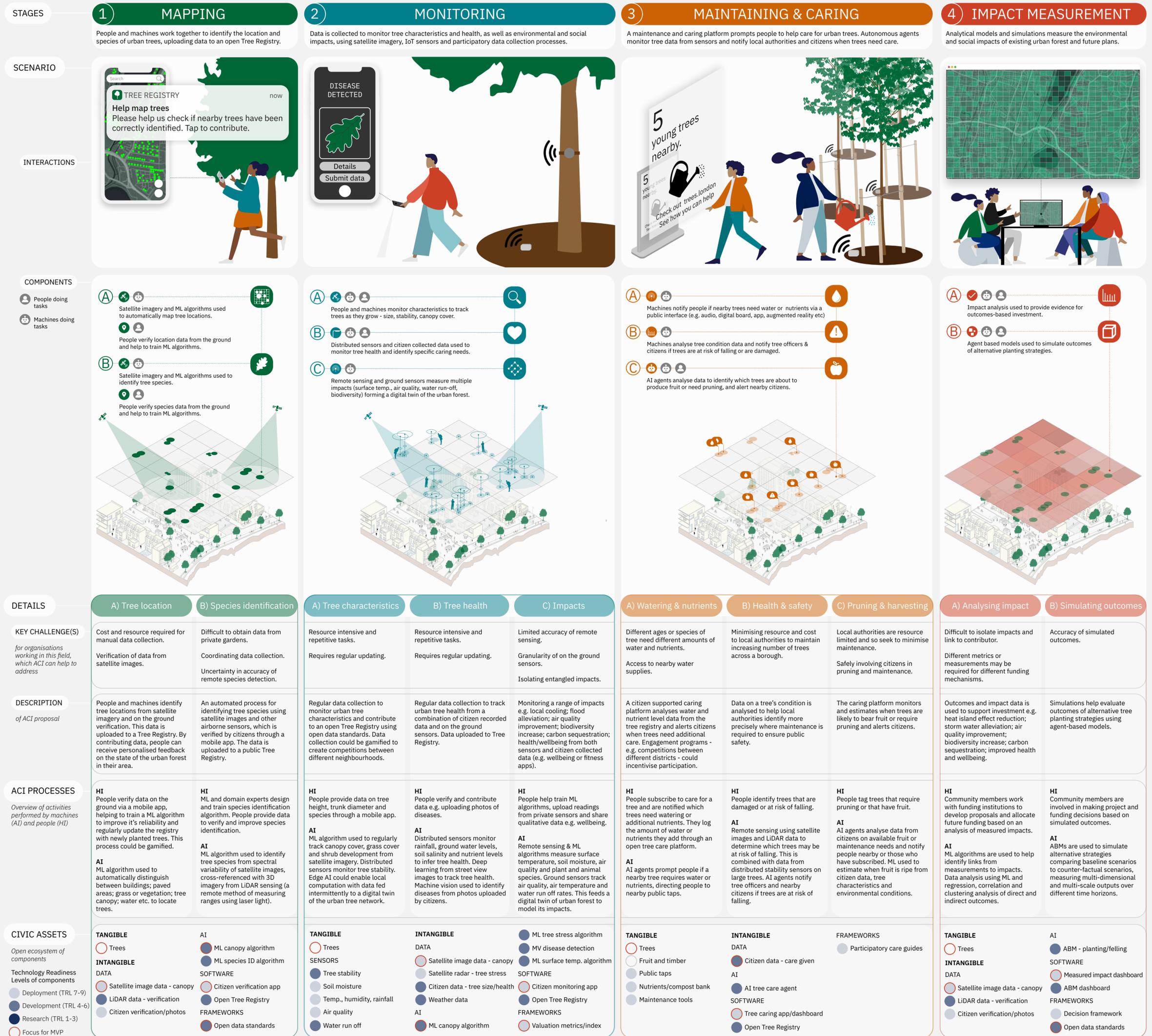
# CivicAI Connected urban forest

BLUEPRINT #1/3

CivicAI is a project exploring how AI can enhance collective intelligence to help communities respond to the climate crisis through three near-future use cases. [Read more at civic-ai.org](https://civic-ai.org)

Connected urban forest combines automated and participatory processes for mapping, monitoring, caring for, and measuring the holistic benefits of urban trees.

The Blueprint outlines how people and machines could collaborate in this area. It provides an overview of opportunities for implementing community-led AI systems, as well as a framework for connecting organisations who share common challenges or are developing potential solutions.



CivicAI is a project exploring how AI can enhance collective intelligence to help communities respond to the climate crisis through three near-future use cases. [Read more at civic-ai.org](http://civic-ai.org)

Collective climate action imagines a new form of collective deliberation to support ecocentric decision-making. Utilising both feedforward and feedback mechanisms to facilitate climate-positive commitments and sustained behaviour.

The Blueprint explores how people and machines could collaborate to respond to the climate crisis. The intention is for it to provide an overview of opportunities for using AI, as well as a framework for connecting organisations who share common challenges or are developing potential solutions.

STAGES

**1 SENSE-MAKING & IDENTIFYING**  
Building more-than-human shared understanding and a wide range of potential interventions.

**2 SIMULATING POTENTIAL IMPACT**  
Calculating potential impact of choices to encourage behavioural change.

**3 FEEDFORWARD & FEEDBACK**  
Providing feedback to sustain behavioural change.

SCENARIO

**Future generations** *future*  
Have you accounted for the future impact this will have on our lives?

**Bees** *2 mins ago*  
The UK has lost 13 species of bee, and a further 35 are considered under threat of extinction.

**River** *1 year ago*  
Water firms dumped raw sewage into England's rivers 200,000 times in 2019.

**Community garden** *20 mins ago*  
Opposing the development of local community garden sites.

**Local resident** *now*  
Increasing biodiversity is the key for flourishing at all levels.

**Community Climate Action Bot**  
You can make an impact in your community! Your commitment, alongside 100 others in your community, could help contribute 10% more impact. Share with friends

**Rewild your street**  
0 carbon energy tariff

**Eat more local veg**  
Impact: 15%  
My impact: 30%  
Liters water saved: 44

**Impact Estimation**  
Average  
Community target: 75% reached  
City target: 60% reached  
Global target: 45% reached

**Community detailed breakdown**  
0 carbon footprint: 85% reached  
Building community: 60% reached  
Well-being & health: 70% reached  
Resilience to change: 80% reached  
Great place to live: 70% reached  
Biodiversity: 65% reached

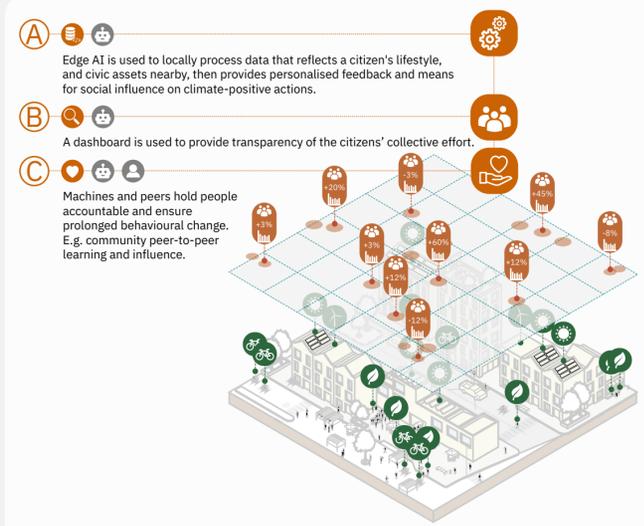
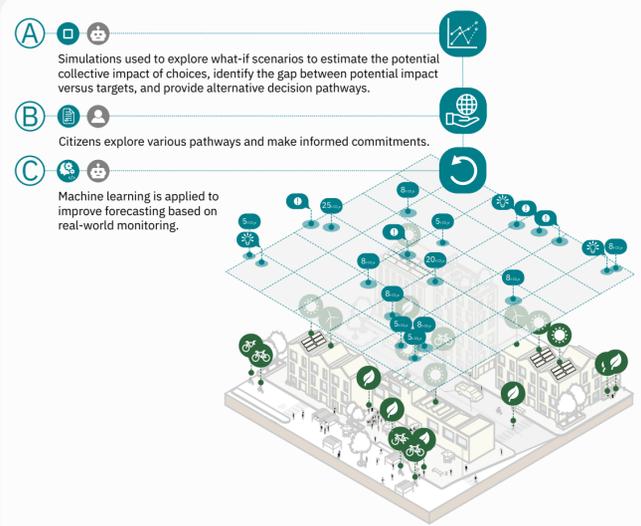
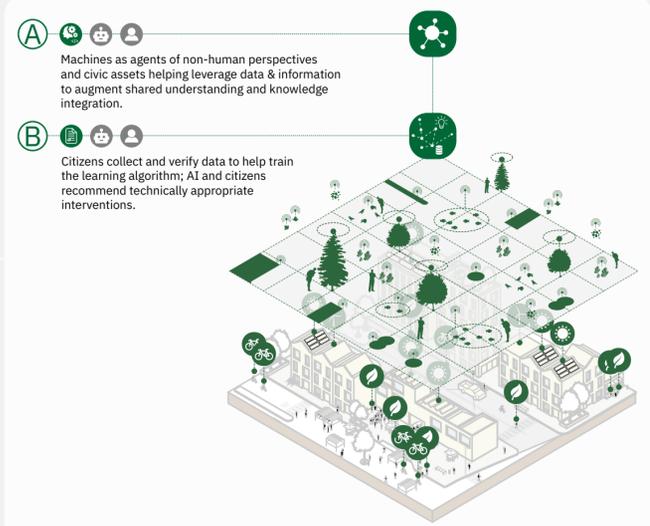
**Commit to intervention**

**Community Climate Action Bot**  
Welcome! You just moved into our area! Your current carbon footprint is 16.3 tonnes, 155% higher than the 2020 target of 10.5 tonnes. A new community allotment has opened nearby. Why not try growing your own vegetables, composting and taking up a plant-based diet? This would help you cut your footprint.

**How's your plant-based diet going? Try this new recipe I just found!**

**Your carbon footprint**  
16.3 tonnes  
10.5 tonnes  
12% travel  
57% food  
31% houses

INTERACTIONS



COMPONENTS

- People doing tasks
- Machines doing tasks

DETAILS

- A) Data collection
- B) Shared understanding
- C) Interventions

- A) Impact estimation
- B) Social influence
- C) Forecasting improvement

- A) Lifestyle pattern
- B) Reinforcement
- C) Aggregated effort

KEY CHALLENGE(S)

for organisations working in this field, which ACI can help to address

**Perspectives** - getting stuck in biased and narrow human-centric worldviews, lacking a more ecocentric shared understanding. Overly simplified conceptual frameworks could lead to inaccurate decisions.

**Value alignment** - incompatible or non-diverse values may impede the attempts of communities to prioritise mitigation and adaptation efforts.

**A lack of agility** in iterating interventions.

**Measuring impact** - uncertainty in comparative impacts of alternative actions, leading to a lack of informed commitment and a reluctance to justify upfront investment.

**A lack of personalised feedback** in order to nudge behavioural change.

**Uncertainty of comparative impacts.**

**A lack of personalised feedback** in order to successfully nudge behavioural change.

**Sustained commitment** - a lack of mechanisms to support sustained long-term collective commitment.

DESCRIPTION

of ACI proposal

**Collecting a wide range of data** to support relational thinking (understanding systems through relationships) and create the conditions for building holistic shared understanding among humans, non-humans, inanimate things and future generations.

**Citizens and machines work together** to integrate knowledge and democratise deliberation by analysing impacts from an ecocentric perspective.

**Citizens oversee models and algorithms.**

**AI Agent-based Modeling** - this is employed to model how an actor learn, adopt, interact, and mimic each actor, simulate their interactions with other actors and the environment hence expand our understanding.

**Machine Learning** - machines update shared understanding based on real-time data input and learning. For example, using machine learning to recognise bees and understand their behaviour.

**Citizens can propose and contribute** to a repository of interventions. Interventions are shown through the lens of customisation, locality, and impact. With the consideration of each agent's boundaries and behaviour, people in the community can come up with appropriate interventions.

**AI Machine algorithms** - synthesising discussions such as finding common view points, highlighting important issues, identifying nuances among similar proposals, summarising discussions.

**Agent-based Modeling** - simulating civic assets' interactions with others.

**New forms of real-time governance** through Conviction Voting - continuously sampling preferences can provide instantaneous data that allows people to account for the underrepresented.

**Citizens are given an initial forecast** of the comparative impact of different actions. Seeing aggregate data of other nearby commitments helps motivate and reassure them to make informed actions and sustain behavioural change.

**Citizens make different levels of commitments** based on social influence and what they can do. Individual impact can be aggregated e.g. 60% of your community is committed to plant-based diet which is contributed to 15% reduction of CO2 emissions.

**Citizens receive feedback** on how accurate the forecasting is.

**Citizens explore various pathways and propose potential interventions.**

**AI Run simulations** to identify the gap between the potential impact of local actions and what is required to meet national climate targets.

**Run simulations** to estimate impacts of alternative pathways and scenarios via a digital twin. Self-learning algorithms used to provide impact modeling should be fully transparent and traceable.

**Federated learning** - understand community choices and predict impact.

**Create synthetic data** whilst running simulations. Train machines using these data.

**Conviction Voting** - transforming a continuous data stream of individual levels of commitments into discrete acceptance of interventions. When the level of individual commitments are aggregated, rich temporal data stream of collective impact is created.

**Climate positive interventions** are suggested based on nearby civic asset and individuals' lifestyle. This acts as a feedforward mechanism, before making commitments.

**Machines and peers hold each other accountable** to ensure prolonged behavioural change.

**A dashboard is used** to provide transparency of the citizens' collective effort.

**HI Citizens commit** to climate positive actions and provide feedback for machine learning.

**AI Edge AI** - this is used to locally process data that reflects a citizen's lifestyle and civic assets nearby, then provide personalised feedback and means for social influence on climate-positive actions.

**Recommendation system** - this could be used to provide suggestions of commitments. Self-learning algorithms used to provide recommended actions should be fully transparent and traceable.

**HI Citizens provide peer-to-peer learning and social influence** in order to hold each other accountable and prolong behavioural change.

**AI Machines show** how close the citizens are to the trajectory in order to hold citizens accountable and prolong their behavioural change.

**HI Citizens prolong their commitment** based on real-time collective impact and gaps towards desired targets.

**AI Machines provide** real-time collective effort and the gap between current and desired targets.

ACI PROCESSES

Overview of activities performed by machines (AI) and people (HI)

**HI** Citizens collect and verify contextual data & quantitative data (e.g. well-being and biodiversity data) to help enrich the database and train the algorithm using citizen sensing kits and a mobile app. Data collection should avoid bias, encourage diverse participation and oversight.

**AI** Semantic web technology - machines are capable of analyzing all the data on the Web - the content, links, and transactions between people and machines.

**HI** Citizens augment their understanding with emphasis on relational thinking.

**AI** Agent-based Modeling - this is employed to model how an actor learn, adopt, interact, and mimic each actor, simulate their interactions with other actors and the environment hence expand our understanding.

**Machine Learning** - machines update shared understanding based on real-time data input and learning. For example, using machine learning to recognise bees and understand their behaviour.

**HI** Citizens explore various pathways and propose potential interventions.

**AI** Machine algorithms - synthesising discussions such as finding common view points, highlighting important issues, identifying nuances among similar proposals, summarising discussions.

**Agent-based Modeling** - simulating civic assets' interactions with others.

**New forms of real-time governance** through Conviction Voting - continuously sampling preferences can provide instantaneous data that allows people to account for the underrepresented.

**HI** Citizens make informed actions and sustain behavioural change such as plant-based diet and rewild streets.

**AI** Run simulations to identify the gap between the potential impact of local actions and what is required to meet national climate targets.

**Run simulations** to estimate impacts of alternative pathways and scenarios via a digital twin. Self-learning algorithms used to provide impact modeling should be fully transparent and traceable.

**Federated learning** - understand community choices and predict impact.

**Create synthetic data** whilst running simulations. Train machines using these data.

**Conviction Voting** - transforming a continuous data stream of individual levels of commitments into discrete acceptance of interventions. When the level of individual commitments are aggregated, rich temporal data stream of collective impact is created.

**HI** Citizens provide feedback for machine learning.

**AI** Machine learning - this is applied to improve impact estimation based on real-world monitoring.

**HI** Citizens commit to climate positive actions and provide feedback for machine learning.

**AI** Edge AI - this is used to locally process data that reflects a citizen's lifestyle and civic assets nearby, then provide personalised feedback and means for social influence on climate-positive actions.

**Recommendation system** - this could be used to provide suggestions of commitments. Self-learning algorithms used to provide recommended actions should be fully transparent and traceable.

**HI** Citizens provide peer-to-peer learning and social influence in order to hold each other accountable and prolong behavioural change.

**AI** Machines show how close the citizens are to the trajectory in order to hold citizens accountable and prolong their behavioural change.

**HI** Citizens prolong their commitment based on real-time collective impact and gaps towards desired targets.

**AI** Machines provide real-time collective effort and the gap between current and desired targets.

CIVIC ASSETS

Open ecosystem of components

Technology Readiness Levels of components

- Deployment (TRL 7-9)
- Development (TRL 4-6)
- Research (TRL 1-3)
- Focus for MVP

**Tangible**

- Community gardens
- Pollinators
- Bacteria

**DATA**

- Satellite data - CO2 spread
- Ecology data - biodiversity
- Citizen data - well-being
- Contextual data - stories

**AI**

- AI agent (e.g. future generations)
- ABM - shared understanding

**ML algorithm**

- Digital twin - pollinators

**SOFTWARE**

- Interventions dashboard
- ABM dashboard

**FRAMEWORKS**

- System of ontologies
- Simulation / game

**Tangible**

- Community gardens
- Local farm shop
- Pollinators
- Bacteria

**DATA**

- Satellite data - CO2 spread
- Ecology data - biodiversity
- AI
- AI agent (e.g. future generations)
- ML forecasting algorithm
- ABM - impact model
- Simulation - gap analysis

**SOFTWARE**

- Commitment dashboard
- Simulation dashboard
- Impact dashboard (feedforward)

**FRAMEWORKS**

- Dynamic decisions
- Smart legal contracts
- Simulation / game

**Intangible**

- Social impact data

**Tangible**

- Community gardens
- Local farm shop
- Pollinators
- Bacteria

**DATA**

- Purchase history
- Lifestyle survey
- Civic assets location

**AI**

- AI agent (e.g. future generations)
- Edge AI - lifestyle analysis

**ML algorithm - gap analysis**

- Lifestyle carbon calculator
- Collective effort dashboard
- Impact dashboard (feedback)

**FRAMEWORKS**

- Machine & human influence
- Simulation / game

ACRONYMS

- ACI Augmented collective intelligence
- AI Artificial intelligence
- HI Human intelligence
- MV Machine vision
- ML Machine learning
- ABM Agent based modelling

# CivicAI Participatory energy

BLUEPRINT #3/3

*CivicAI* is a project exploring how AI can enhance collective intelligence to help communities respond to the climate crisis through three near-future use cases. [Read more at civic-ai.org](http://civic-ai.org)

*Participatory energy* explores how communities could adopt Augmented Collective Intelligence to help set-up, operate, maintain and model the financial and social outcomes of community energy projects.

The *Blueprint* outlines how people and machines could collaborate in this area. It provides an overview of opportunities for implementing community-led AI systems, as well as a framework for connecting organisations who share common challenges or are developing potential solutions.

## STAGES

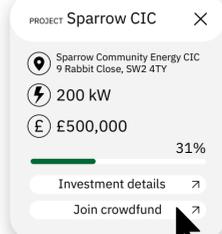
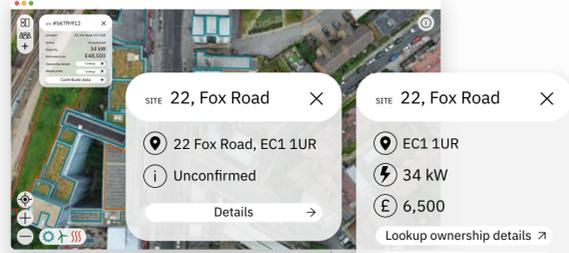
**1 PLANNING**  
The process of planning and setting up a community energy project can be made less resource intensive and less risky by integrating ACI.

**2 FINANCING**  
ACI can help to streamline project financing by forecasting revenue and social impact and linking investments to smart contracts.

**3 OPERATING**  
During the operating phase of a project, AI agents can help people to balance local production and use of energy, as well as guiding participatory maintenance based on data from distributed sensors.

**4 MODELLING**  
Lifetime revenue and social impact of individual community energy projects can be modelled to measure and evidence aggregated impacts across multiple projects.

## SCENARIO

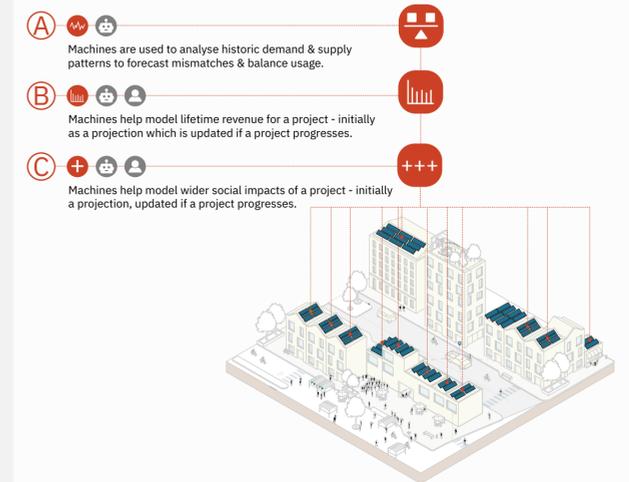
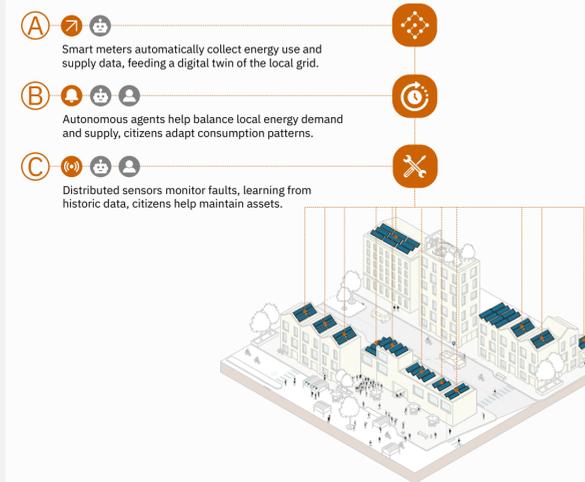
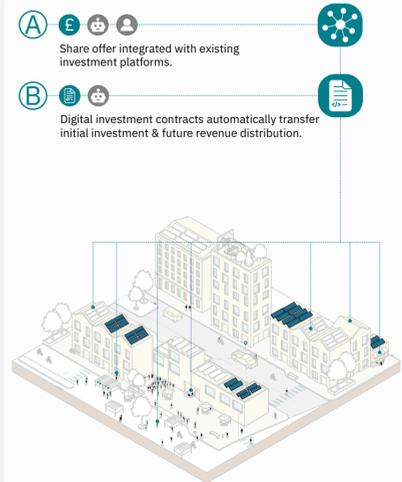
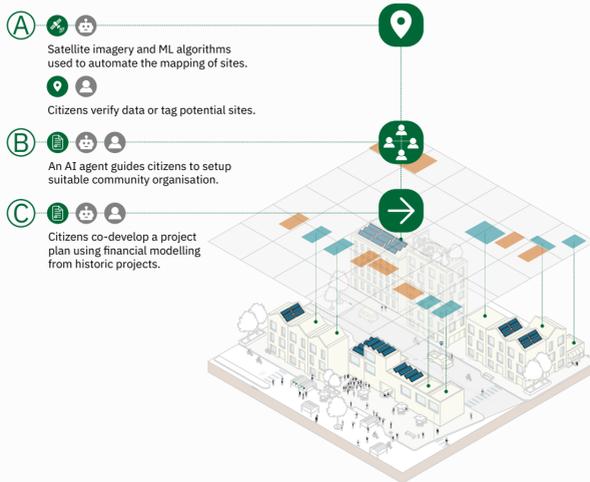


## INTERACTIONS



## COMPONENTS

- People doing tasks
- Machines doing tasks



## DETAILS

### KEY CHALLENGE(S)

for organisations working in this field, which ACI can help to address

### DESCRIPTION

of ACI proposal

### ACI PROCESSES

Overview of activities performed by machines (AI) and people (HI)

### CIVIC ASSETS

Open ecosystem of components

Technology Readiness Levels of components

- Deployment (TRL 7-9)
- Development (TRL 4-6)
- Research (TRL 1-3)
- Focus for MVP

	A) Mapping sites	B) Organisational setup	C) Developing plan	A) Share offer	B) Investment contract	A) Data collection	B) Load balancing	C) Remote maintenance	A) Forecasting	B) Revenue	C) Social impact
<b>KEY CHALLENGE(S)</b>	Time consuming and resource intensive to do manually. Creating consistent datasets that are easy to verify.	Process is time consuming, paper based and not easily replicated. Currently requires specialist and context specific legal advice which is expensive.	Reducing admin costs and dependence on volunteers. Funding the pre-financing work.	Attracting local investment. Minimising admin costs. Collecting relevant data to link to investment contracts.	Minimising admin costs and paperwork required. Adaptable for different types of financing - crowdfund, bond, grant etc.	User engagement. Management of data. Data privacy and security considerations.	Increased complexity from managing demand and supply at a local level. Coordinating behaviours of multiple stakeholders to manage energy demand.	Additional investment in sensors and meters. Data privacy and security considerations.	Open data standards. Computationally resource intensive.	Unpredictability of lifetime costs and revenues; fluctuating energy prices.	Difficult to measure aggregated impact across multiple community energy projects. Currently no incentives for community projects to supply social impact data.
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	AI helps to automate mapping potential sites for community energy projects - identifying rooftops suitable for PV panels; land suitable for wind turbines or ground source heat pumps etc. Land ownership data is retrieved from the Land Registry.	A replicable process for setting up a community energy organisation using easily replicable and adaptable legal templates, appropriate for a range of contexts. Integrating smart contracts and linked datasets to automate data collection.	Machines help develop a local energy plan identifying: potential capacity; site ownership or lease details; required investment; technical feasibility; financing strategy and social impact.	An investment dashboard shows potential returns and impact for each project, using open APIs to integrate with crowdfunding platforms. If funded, smart investment contracts are automatically created.	Smart investment contracts identify: an individual's investment and corresponding ownership; future purchasing agreements; revenue distribution details. They are linked to a site and transferable with lease or ownership transfer.	Automated data collection of local energy demand and supply, using open data standards. Automated billing, accounting for community use vs export to grid.	Autonomous agents help enable demand-side response, balancing supply and demand through auto-scheduling electricity usage or prompting behaviour change.	Distributed sensors help to monitor electricity patterns to remotely and diagnose faults. Data is fed to a digital twin of the energy system which enables predictive maintenance schedules to minimise downtime. Citizens conduct simple maintenance.	Data modelling to forecast energy demand and supply by analysing historic supply and usage patterns and weather forecast data. Live data fed from digital twin.	Modelling lifetime costs and revenue; and simulating alternative investment and financing strategies, both before a project is implemented, as well as throughout a project.	Modelling wider social impacts both before a project is implemented, as well as throughout a project. Calculating emission reductions; support of local economy; social impacts etc. to provide evidence to attract social impact funding.
<b>ACI PROCESSES</b>	<b>HI</b> People tag potential sites, verify automatically identified sites and map existing energy infrastructure. <b>AI</b> MV and ML algorithms used to automatically process satellite images and calculate site production capacity. An AI agent proposes energy generation potential to land owners or potential investors.	<b>HI</b> People provide context specific information such as organisational rules, members and their positions and bank account details etc. <b>AI</b> An autonomous agent guides people through the community organisation setup process. ML used to learn most appropriate organisational structure for given contexts.	<b>HI</b> People provide context specific information such as historic energy use, existing available funding and building details etc. <b>AI</b> AI agents analyse contextual data - no. of houses, total historic energy demand, location etc. to help specify technical requirements.	<b>HI</b> People coordinate marketing of project and opportunity for local investment. <b>AI</b> Simulations used to model scenarios that consider both financial returns, environmental and social impact.	<b>HI</b> People sign investment contracts. <b>AI</b> The platform features automated identity verification and management of participants. All automated processes are transparently implemented so they can be audited and interrogated if necessary.	<b>HI</b> People see their consumption patterns compared to available supply so they can alter consumption accordingly. <b>AI</b> Smart meter data feeds a digital twin of local demand and supply, with automated billing.	<b>HI</b> People adapt energy consumption patterns with help from automated feedback and task scheduling to meet personalised targets that are pooled at the community level. <b>AI</b> AI agents help to automatically balance demand e.g. when an electric vehicle is charged or used as battery; or prompt behaviour adaptations to match fluctuating supply.	<b>HI</b> People participate in maintenance practices - cleaning PV panels, replacing components etc. Technicians conduct skilled maintenance and repairs. <b>AI</b> ML algorithms learn from production and consumption patterns to help identify faults. AI agents prompt citizens to maintain energy assets, with collectively set rewards for those conducting maintenance.	<b>HI</b> People can see forecasts and can adapt consumption patterns accordingly. <b>AI</b> ML used to analyse historic demand and supply patterns. Resulting forecasts of short and long term energy balance help to identify and prevent potential blackouts. MV used to identify solar panel locations and track cloud movements for short-term forecasting.	<b>HI</b> People use simulations to help make investment decisions. <b>AI</b> Simulations are run to model a project's lifetime revenues based on analysing the outcomes of similar existing projects, helping to create synthetic data for alternative implementation approaches.	<b>HI</b> People use simulations to help make investment decisions and provide evidence for social impact oriented funding. <b>AI</b> Simulations are run to model social impacts based on analysing the outcomes of similar existing projects, helping to create synthetic data for alternative implementation approaches.
<b>CIVIC ASSETS</b>	<b>TANGIBLE</b> Energy generation sites <b>INTANGIBLE</b> Satellite image data - sites Site boundary data Citizen data - energy use Weather data	Solar exposure data AI ML site algorithm AI agent Citizen dashboard Open Site Registry	<b>FRAMEWORKS</b> Org. setup templates Smart legal contracts Open data standards	<b>INTANGIBLE</b> Financial model Social impact model AI Impact simulation SOFTWARE Investment dashboard	<b>FRAMEWORKS</b> Smart investment contracts Open data standards	<b>TANGIBLE</b> PV panels Batteries/energy storage Heat pumps Smart meters In-home interfaces Computing network	<b>INTANGIBLE</b> Energy consumption data Energy production data Fault data AI ML fault detection algo. AI DSR & maintenance agent	<b>SOFTWARE</b> Digital twin - energy system Energy usage dashboard Maintenance dashboard DSR app FRAMEWORKS Maintenance guides Open data standards	<b>INTANGIBLE</b> Financial data Social impact data Weather data AI ML forecasting algorithm MV- cloud tracking	<b>FRAMEWORKS</b> ABM - production & usage ABM - impact model Impact dashboard Simulation dashboard FRAMEWORKS Decision-making framework Open data standards	