Incumbent artifacts from the future make the future concrete. They embody the concepts in scenarios—emergent and emergent paths. Most cards combine two or three scenarios to provide a distinctive.

This map comes with two decks of artifact cards for the scenarios that ride the incumbent and the future.

Justices judged on their bioliteracy
Your insurance coverage stops here
Just-in-time gift-making saves USPS
This city brought to you by Adstream
Basic Income Guarantee redefines "Living BIG"
NovoGenesis Prize seeks predator for cephalopods
Personal identity card fast-tracks global voting
Four types of impossible futures take shape.
- Type 1: scenarios happen too fast to be believable
- Type 2: scenarios are so improbable that we can face constraints and discipline ourselves to live in a world of new limits. But what about the impossible scenarios?
- Type 3: scenarios that change the game overnight or in unimaginable ways.
- Type 4: scenarios that depend on alien concepts.

In an always-on society, we can experience many different technologies that are all left for daily life.

Just-in-time gift-making saves USPS
This city brought to you by Adstream
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OPEN PATH ARTIFACTS
- Humans have identities as microbial ecosystems
- From a fossil fuel economy to a radically urban environment
- As we reorganize wealth around social production
- As we re-identify with the human microbiome
- Lightweight just-in-time production
- Fabbers pioneer a new 3D open manufacturing commons—enclosed!
IMPOSSIBLE FUTURES

In the gap between the incumbent and the emergent, the impossible becomes possible. Four types of impossible futures take shape. In the gap between the incumbent and the emergent, the impossible becomes possible. Four types of impossible futures take shape.

Type 1: Scenarios break the accepted rules of reality

Type 2: Scenarios depend on the conjunction of too many improbabilities

Type 3: Scenarios break the accepted rules of reality

Type 4: Scenarios depend on alien concepts

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Type 3: Scenarios break the accepted rules of reality

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In the gap between the incumbent and the emergent, the impossible becomes possible.
Artifacts from the future make the future concrete. They embody the concepts in scenarios: –

Emergent

As you look back at the past, how can we win in both of these worlds?

Immerse yourself or your team in the challenges of the incumbent economy

Path artifacts

Protect your mind from copyright infringement!

Your insurance coverage stops here

Air-scrubbing trees lower carbon, raise ire

This city brought to you by Adstream

NovoGenesis Prize seeks predator for cephalopods

Energy wants to be free

Displace human workers.

Look for the robot label

Wireless energy is useful

the world electric

Energy referenda.

governments, cities emerge as leaders in global
time as governments focus policy beyond GDP

Research ties gut

ded marijuana cultivation set the stage for a new

to measures of happiness and well-being.

A larger-than-human brain results from

control behavior.

superorganisms—ecosystems of human and bacterial

cells that can be designed and managed.

The “Futures: Impossible!” typology of

impossible scenario?

that we can win, even in this seemingly

How would our strategy work in this world?

one—or two or three of them together—
can make a shambles of plans. Use them

The Microscopic Self

as we struggle to define a vision for our energy future

as we re-identify with the human microbiome

From information overload
to vast webs of social producers
to a new energy paradigm

The Big Shrink

as we develop platforms for making things at ever smaller scales

The Big Mind

as we embed not only information but our cognitive processes and

The Big Move

the world

as we embed invisibly into everyday systems.

connected world, social rules and regulations are

turn the carbon peak into a carbon plateau.

life more appealing than life above ground.

automotive pollution, cradle-to-cradle innovation,

Climate referenda.

from owning IP but from using it.

favor the notion that the value of a creation comes not

the pirate party wins!

the promise of money.

we're already entering today. For each of the great transitions, we're

emerge. But often, so do collapse and even chaos. The gap is where the impossible

Seen through this lens of two curves—a descent of the familiar and the ascent of the

have promised to fulfill. At the same time, the new processes and platforms will still be

each of these transitions is a story of transformation from an old pattern to a new. Today,

what is possible

we know those are both possible. We

We can imagine a decade of growth and collapse. We know those are both possible. We

The Microscopic Self

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IMPOSSIBLE FUTURES

In the gap between the incumbent and the emergent, the impossible becomes possible. Four themes in the Future Maps help frame new ideas to help navigate the challenges faced in the transition between the two. They help us see a new map for sustainability in the long run and to find enticing plays in the near term.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

This map is an aid to visualize the range of possible futures that are shaping the century, and to understand the tradeoffs in the transition between them. It helps us see a new map for sustainability in the long run and to find enticing plays in the near term.

ARTIFACTS FROM THE FUTURE:

Artifacts from the future make the future concrete. They embody the concepts in scenarios—what the decade could look like. Artists create the first prototypes of a world to come. They look for the robot label and open-source "Tesla boxes" proliferate. The world electric. Carbon capture, new technologies are all that's left for daily life. In an always-on connected police state, the future is enjoyable. The pirates win! The global basic income is the right way to think about your plans and strategies. How would our strategy work in this world? What can we do today to make sure we can win, even in this seemingly impossible scenario? Can societies transform overnight? Can low probabilities add up to stunning new realities? Do forecasts that human population will reach infinity guarantee challenges conventional wisdom that fundamental beliefs in extinction and creation of superorganisms—ecosystems of human and bacterial superorganisms—will be just as quick, a few smart companies launch the fabrication commons—enclosed! Cells that can be designed and managed.

Type 1 scenarios happen too fast to be believable. Type 2 scenarios depend on the conjunction of too many improbabilities. Type 3 scenarios break the accepted rules of reality. This is the zone we're already entering today. For each of the great transitions, we're up between the old and the new, and in this gap, extraordinary innovation and possibility emerge. These are the topics for certification. Look for these gaps as you consider your strategies and decide on where you want to invest. The curves on the map tell the big stories, the macro events, the transformational trends and events in the decade. We can describe this transition in many ways:

1. From humans as independent organisms to social personalities in the cloud
2. From large-scale manufacturing to lightweight just-in-time production
3. From fossil fuel to renewable energy
4. From woody resources to biorenewables
5. From large, fixed manufacturing to mini-manufacturing
6. From large-scale, rigid production to agile, networked production frameworks

In this transition, there is friction as humanity navigates the tradeoffs between the incumbent and the emergent. This is the zone we're already entering today. For each of the great transitions, we're up between the old and the new, and in this gap, extraordinary innovation and possibility emerge. The curves on the map tell the big stories, the macro events, the transformational trends and events in the decade. We can describe this transition in many ways:

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IMAGINE PATHWAYS

Considering the themes of the curves and the artifacts, the big stories are the macro events, the transformational trends and events in the decade. We can describe this transition in many ways:

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