

LOW TECH MAGAZINE - POTENTIAL OF PAST KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES

Founded in 2007 in Barcelona (Spain) by Kris De Decker, the [Low-tech Magazine](https://solar.lowtechmagazine.com) offers an extraordinary archive of articles presenting the potential of past and often forgotten technologies to implement sustainable energy practices today. Since 2019, the Magazine also appears in print and [four volumes are now available](#).



The Low-tech Magazine website highlights that “Technology has become the idol of our society, but technological progress is, more often than not, aimed at solving problems caused by earlier technical inventions. There is a lot of potential in past and often forgotten knowledge and technologies when it comes to designing a sustainable society. Interesting possibilities arise when you combine old technology with new knowledge and new materials, or when you apply old concepts and traditional knowledge to modern technology”.

With these principles and objectives, the Magazine presents in the section [Low-tech solutions](#) very interesting articles on solutions combining old technology with knowledge and new materials. All these Low-tech solutions are presented through very detailed documents including the history, the technical characteristics, the benefits and an extensive bibliography that allows interested actors to acquire knowledge and build or adopt the proposed solution.



These solutions concern Low-tech technological tools that can be built and used in modern daily life as for example [Pedal-powered generators](#), [Solar panels](#), [Thermoelectric stoves](#), [Mechanical windmills](#), [Modular Cargo Cycles](#) or [small wind turbines](#).



The section also presents articles on complex interesting solutions adopted by communities to solve problems of collective interest and which can inspire similar practices. For example, the [Urban Fish Ponds](#) a low-tech sewage treatment for towns and cities, or the [Vietnam's Low-tech Food System](#) based largely on fermentation, or the [Greenhouses reinvented in China](#).

Other articles deal with issues that represent the great faiths of sustainability in our days, showing technologies adopted by innovative private companies. For example, the extraordinary article [How to design a sailing ship for the 21st century](#) published in 2021 tells the story of the revival of carbon neutral sailing ships and presents the main features of the two ships currently under construction and in the design phase: the [Ceiba](#) which is being constructed in Costa Rica by the company [Sailcargo](#) and the



[EcoClipper500](#) designed by the company [EcoClipper](#), which is led by one of the founders of the Dutch FairTransport.

For readers interested in more general aspects of current technological development, the articles in the [High-tech Problems section](#) may also be of great interest. Low-tech Magazine publishes at most 12 well-researched stories per year.

The sister Blog [No Tech Magazine](#) which hosts all links and updates from Low-tech Magazine, publishes more regular articles related to the following issues: pedal power, solar power, wind power, water power, Low-tech transportation, Low-tech farming, Low-tech architecture, Low-tech Food storage. For each of these categories, short articles are published that present solutions created in different countries and information is provided to access the sites, documents and materials available, which can also include guides for applications and manuals. Some examples are the article [how-to-build-a-biosand-water-filter-using-a-wood-mold](#), the article [Bike Powered Water Pumps](#), or the article [Building Dry Stack Stone Walls](#)

The No Tech Magazine invites all interested actors [to subscribe the newsletter and stay updated](#).

Since 2018, the Low-tech Magazine runs on a solar powered server and it has been transformed into a multilingual publication. Many articles had been translated over the years, but they were not easy to find. Each language has its own solar powered main page. The [French](#) and [Spanish](#) versions are the most complete. [Dutch](#), [German](#), [Polish](#), [Italian](#) and [Portuguese](#) main pages are also available. Some languages also have articles that are not translated into English. There are also links to translations in the articles themselves.

To know more

[Low Tech Magazine website](#)

[Overview of all articles](#)

[Low-tech solutions](#)

[High-tech Problems](#)

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