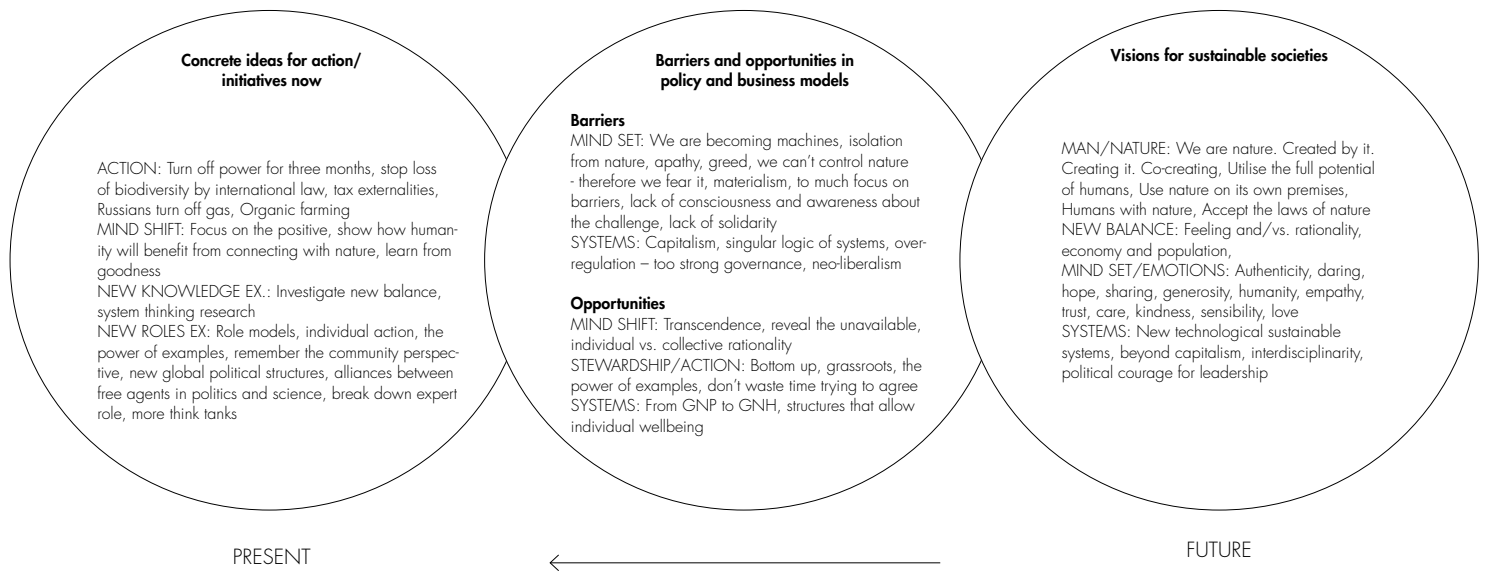


PHOTOS: STINE SKOTT OLESEN

BACKCASTING PROCESS AS TOOL 21 SEPTEMBER



DIALOGUE ROOM:

**THE POWER OF THE POSITIVE:  
FROM HUMAN MACHINES TO STEWARDSHIP**

After having listened to and even sensed the future scenarios presented by House of Futures, participants were guided into the Dialogue Room and placed randomly in groups of 4. The groups were asked to brainstorm on developing sustainable societies in the long run structured by the backcasting method (see figure). We wanted to get the participants' immediate ideas for visions, barriers, opportunities and initiatives on the pitch. The atmosphere was energetic and commitment was great. Above we have shown some of the ideas from the groups to give an impression of the span and innovations in the feedback. A few highlights from the statements:

- VISIONS:  
"We are nature. Created by it. Creating it. Co-creating". Basically a unifying vision which brings together a wide range of views in the field. And it is also a vision that implicitly points to a focal tension between what and how much we as humans create nature and the extent to which we are created by nature – not least in the long run.

- BARRIERS:  
"We are becoming machines". Isolation from nature, growing apathy, greed and lack of leadership coupled with a technological and societal development that pushes us as human beings towards "becoming machines" seems dreadful, but not necessarily utopian. It's the "Man-Made world" scenario as a horror picture.
- OPPORTUNITIES:  
"Stewardship". Stewardship in all its forms and opportunities are reflected in many responses. And many are counting on bottom-up rather than top-down. One group has lost patience and demands action rather than spending more time trying to achieve consensus: "We don't need to agree".
- ACTIONS/INITIATIVES:  
"Tax, law and the power of the positive". Asked about specific examples of initiatives that can be taken here and now, the participants identified both bottom-up and top-down initiatives as well as initiatives directed at changing actors role, mind set and gaining new knowledge. Opportunities in showing how mankind can benefit from connecting with nature were highlighted as well as using the positive vision as a powerful driving force today.