

Interpretation of symbols.

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## **Emerging Convention of Components in Systems Diagrams**

(cf diagrammatic representation of electronic circuitry)

A **circle** is a representation of an amplifier/signal damper (AKA “Converter”) [I am not entirely sure how this differs from a valve] but in some cases seems to be used as a representation of a dial; a meter. a measure of current *rate* of **flow**/strength of signal.

A **rectangle** is a representation of a *cumulative level* (often referred to as “stock”) that has been built up over time: eg extent of environmental degradation or innovative capacity of a workforce or society. Such stocks or cumulative levels may be increased or diminished via an inflow or outflow.

A **double sided triangle** >< is a flow (signal) control mechanism (AKA a “valve”). The flow in question should have a name and the exogenous and endogenous variables which determine the setting of the control mechanism are indicated by the arrows entering the triangles from either side. (Actually, I am not sure why the arrows can enter from either side.)

Endogenous variables are those entering from other parts of the system map and determined by whatever happens in the system ... which may itself be influenced by exogenous variables at some other control valve indicated in the system.

Exogenous variables are those not documented in the system diagram ... and may include such things as legal arrangements.

A **cloud** or **turbine** represents some kind of exogenous input not documented on the diagram or some kind of output with which those drawing the map are not concerned at the present time.