

Energy systems & Systems Theory

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We start with the fundamental question What is a system?

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4

From Greek systēma

'whole compounded of several parts or members'



Common factors in systems

- Inputs & outputs
- Processes (transform inputs to outputs)
- Feedback
- Holistic
- Goal seeking
- Boundary
- Environment
- Hierarchy
- Affected by entropy
- Have equifinality





Holistic

Aristotle: "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts"

- Health of overall system depends on subsystem functioning
- A holistic problem solving framework

Goal-seeking

- A system has a goal or purpose
- Requires a decision making process

Equifinality

- The ability for systems to achieve goals in different ways
- Equifinality vs "one best way"











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