

WHAT IS PERMACULTURE?

Permaculture is a design system based on ethics and design principles that can be used to guide efforts made by individuals, households, and communities towards a sustainable earth, to provide food and energy resilience and a secure future.

For individuals, it envisions the design of our habitat – our environment, our property, our lifestyle -- to allow us to live lightly on the earth, refraining from excess, capturing and conserving water, producing some or all of our own energy and our own food, with no waste. A permaculture design follows nature's patterns to produce what we need with renewable resources. A permaculture design is developed and executed in community as we reach out to others and our community for mutual support and assistance.

Permaculture Design Principles

Care of the earth: Provision for all life systems to continue and multiply. This is the first principle, because without a healthy earth, humans cannot flourish.

Care of people: Provision for people to access those resources necessary for their existence.

Fair Share: Healthy natural systems use outputs from each element to nourish others. We humans can do the same. By governing our own needs, we can set resources aside to further the above principles.

A permaculture design adheres to the following principles:

- Observe and Interact with the site and its environment
- Catch and store energy
- Obtain a yield
- Apply self-regulation and accept feedback
- Use and value renewable resources and services
- Produce no waste
- Design from patterns to details
- Integrate rather than segregate
- Each element has multiple functions
- Each function supported by many elements
- Use small and slow solutions
- Use and value diversity
- Creatively use and respond to change