

Origins of permaculture



Niels Corfield of Edible Cities, Leeds, West Yorkshire

In the mid 1970's two Australians - Bill Mollison & David Holmgren - started to develop ideas that they hoped could be used to create **stable agricultural systems**.

This was in response to the energy crisis and the rapidly growing use of destructive industrial agricultural methods that were poisoning the land and water, reducing biodiversity and removing billions of tonnes of soil from previously fertile landscapes.

A **design approach** called 'permaculture' was the result. In 1976 the concept was launched with the publication of Permaculture One.

By the mid 1980's many of the early students had become successful practitioners and began teaching. In a short period of time, permaculture groups, projects, associations and institutes were established in over **100 countries**.

Since then many thousands of people have been trained in cities and the countryside, on small Scottish islands, and remote villages in Nepal, as part of national programmes and by small groups setting up their own courses.

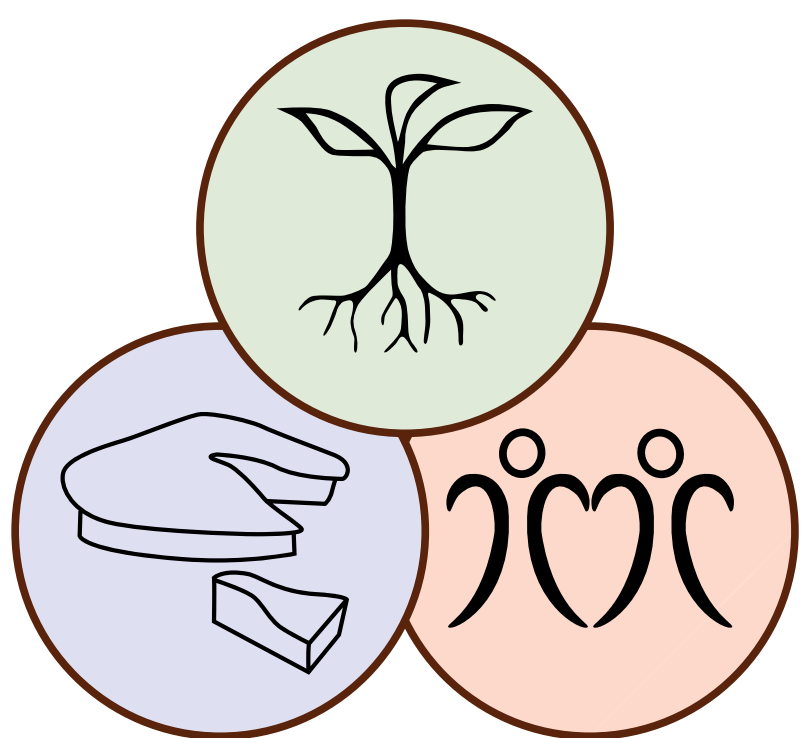
Permaculture is a successful approach to designing sustainable systems. It can be used in every climatic and cultural zone on planet earth.



A rainbow over The Garth Hillside Organic Garden, Wales

Permaculture has an agreed ethical framework. This was created after researching different world views and finding the common ground that could unite people in common cause.

The ethics connect us to the many thousands of groups across the world that are working for a better future for all:



Earth Care

Provision for all life systems to continue and multiply

People Care

Provision for people to access those resources necessary to their existence

Fair Shares

Setting limits to consumption and population to within the earth's carrying capacity and redistributing surplus

The ethics are like a compass, guiding us towards a world in which we care for ourselves, other people and future generations, and the earth that sustains us.

We're not there yet, but with a clear sense of direction, we can work towards a more sustainable culture with each of our actions.

Permaculture principles



Storing water and energy in the landscape at Krameterhof, Austria

The permaculture principles provide a set of universally applicable guidelines that can be used when designing sustainable systems.

These principles can be used in any climate, and at any scale. They come from the thoughtful observation of nature, and work by ecologists, landscape designers and others.



Observe and interact



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



Use small and slow solutions



Use and value diversity



Use edges and value the marginal



Creatively use and respond to change

Principles don't tell you what to do.

They help you to ask good questions so that you can get answers that are right for your own particular situation.

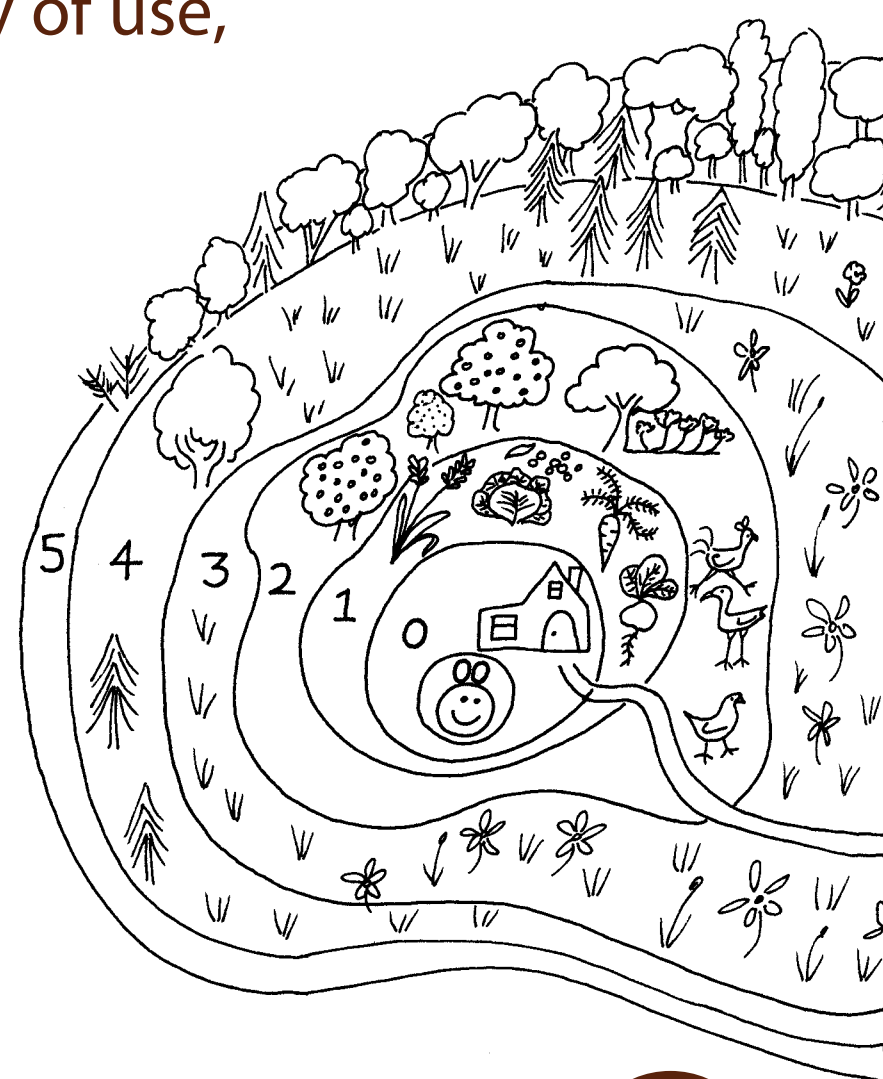
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COMFREY PLUM 'VICTORIA' BLACKBERRY, WORCESTERBER

There are lots of techniques and processes that are used such as:

Maintenance - Ensuring you will be able to look after it properly.

You can learn more on an introductory or full design course.



The Permaculture Association



Members of the Association at a convergence in Dorset

Join the Permaculture Association and the people using permaculture design to transform homes, gardens, farms, schools, community projects, businesses, allotments and woodlands in cities and the countryside.

We share resources and practical solutions, support members to collaborate on projects and help people to understand the value of the permaculture design approach in relation to their activities.

The knowledge to create effective, fair and sustainable ways of living is there and people like you are making a difference. As a member of the Permaculture Association, you will be part of an amazing, supportive network of people who are determined to put nature and ethics first.

Permaculture Association members have:

- *planted forest gardens*
- *designed an eco village*
- *won an RHS medal*
- *run workshops to show how to graft fruit trees*
- *supported permaculture in Africa*
- *set up a successful handmade bakery for their community*
- *designed a wetland system for a commercial cider mill*
- *started a Community Supported Agriculture scheme*

...and run thousands of courses, created hundreds of permaculture designs, started local groups and created beautiful, productive sustainable places throughout Britain.

Join us! To find out how you can get involved in the network, make a donation or volunteer, contact the office, go to the website, or take a leaflet.

The Permaculture Association is a company (05908919) and registered charity (1116699 and SC041695)

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with permaculture



www.permaculture.org.uk

What other people say



Students during a design course

"I was a little apprehensive being a new member, but everyone was really friendly. It was good to meet those local to me that have been involved in permaculture for some time"

Suzi Cumiskey on attending an AGM

"What permaculturists are doing is the most important activity that any group is doing on the planet."

David Suzuki, geneticist, broadcaster & international environmental advocate

"Many researchers, including myself, believe that permaculture should form the basis of agricultural and social development.

The establishment of a large number of small, permaculture type farms serving local communities and adapted to local conditions, would create tremendous cultural as well as biological diversity, because farming would no longer be geared to uniform global production. Permaculture based mini-farms could be the key to agricultural and community regeneration."

Dr. John Zarb, Newcastle University.

"Permaculture is a philosophy of working with rather than against nature; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than protracted and thoughtless labour; and of looking at plants and animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single product system."

Masanobu Fukuoka, Japanese farmer and philosopher

The LAND Project



Harpsbridge House, Lincolnshire - one of the LAND Project's learning centres

The LAND project is run by the Permaculture Association to create an accessible permaculture learning and demonstration network.

LAND Learning Centres show, explain and describe to volunteers and visitors how permaculture is applied to their project. They offer opportunities to learn about permaculture in a practical environment.

More people now have access to local food and are able to learn the techniques of permaculture food production and ecologically sound land design.

Regional and national skill sharing and training events are held for new and existing practitioners. We are also supporting people to deliver local presentations and short courses.

Get involved!

To register your interest in becoming a LAND Learning Centre, or recommend a project, email:
network@permaculture.org.uk

To find out about group visits and learning opportunities, email:
learn@permaculture.org.uk

See the Permaculture Association's website for a comprehensive list of LAND Learning Centres and upcoming events:

www.permaculture.org.uk/LAND

or call 0845 458 1805

The LAND project is funded by:

The National Lottery
through the Big Lottery Fund



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Group Visit Scheme



A group visit to Keveral Farm, Cornwall - a LAND Learning Centre

The LAND Project includes help and support to hold events including:

Group Visit Scheme: Groups of people who are interested in permaculture can visit LAND Learning Centres to see permaculture in practice.

Skill Sharing and Networking Events: Discover new skills, methods and techniques - discuss, try and learn.

Volunteer Work Days: Get practical experience first hand with expert assistance.

Teacher's Meetings: Develop teaching methods, seek advice from long-term tutors and make your contribution to the development of permaculture teaching and learning.



Learn and share new tips and techniques



The LAND Project enhances permaculture teaching and learning



Experience permaculture in action during an organised group visit

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