

What is Permaculture?

1. An ecological science - the study of nature and natural systems
2. A design system for self-reliant living
3. Everything is connected to everything else
4. Integration of water, people, animals, land, plants, technologies, and community for productive and beautiful environments.
5. Build harmony, through cooperation with an attitude of Positivism
6. Global grass roots movement applicable on all scales and in all situations.

Goals

1. Long term self-reliance - consider seven generations
A generation: the average time interval between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring.
2. Work with nature rather than against it
3. Think globally act locally
4. Plan for small-scale energy efficient systems - intensive rather than extensive
5. Eat a bioregional diet— grow food in urban - suburban - and rural settings
6. Hold water and fertility as high on the land as possible
7. The problem is the solution- - turn constraints into resources
8. Reforest - restore earth fertility
9. Utilize native plants
10. Increase sum of yields
 - a.) Succession, natural ecosystems change over time giving rise to different plants and animals
 - b.) Stocking, find the balance of various elements keeping one from overpowering the other(s), number of elements in a guild
 - c.) Stacking, multi-layer and functions for each element
11. Invent and re-invent – close the loops
12. Whatever we take, we must return:
One calorie in/ One calorie out = sustainability
input = output=energy cycling
The user must pay (i.e.: recycling, tree tax, seed collecting, composting, energy)
13. Start small, make lots of little mistakes.
14. The earth, Gaia, is the super client
15. Permaculture starts at your doorstep and is a way of life.
The work of the permaculture designer is to maximize useful energy storages in every system on which they are working, be it house, urban property, gardens or rural lands.

“The traditional knowledge has allowed our indigenous peoples to develop certain lifeways, values and cultural practices that have allowed us to live in balance and in a sustainable way for thousands of years.” Tom Goldtooth Navajo Nation, N.M.

(compiled by: Jude Hobbs 2005)