

Permaculture Design Program Content

Session 1: Pretro

Group introductions
Course orientation & requirements
Group goals and guidelines
Communication (NVC and conflict resolution)
Learning styles & multiple intelligences

Learning Goals:

Set a course culture of safety, respect and organization
Create a positive & effective learning environment
Encourage active listening in groups
Value different ways of communicating and have confidence in utilizing tools of conflict resolution
Orient participants to course content

Session 2: Foundations of Permaculture

Definitions
History of Permaculture
Ethics
Principles

Learning Goals:

Know the Permaculture ethics and the Transition ethic and how to apply them to conscious decision making
Learn the basis of how the Permaculture movement began, how it has grown, some of its progeny's and how the lineage links to this course.
Gain a strong understanding of nature's principles and how they are at the foundation of design decisions and application
Provide awareness of the world's problems and the current situation
Shift from a place of problems to positive solution based thinking.
Feel confident in defining Permaculture clearly to others

Session 3: Design Methods

Needs, Functions and Outputs
Zones
Sectors
Mapping

Learning Goals:

Understand how to do a needs & yields analysis
Gain a base understanding of closed loop systems
Observe a site, document and recognize available resources and design constraints

based on analysis.

Identify energies or influences that effect a design site

Be able to create a base map including zones & sector analysis for a site

Know the basic elements included in mapping a site

Session 4: Pattern Literacy

Physical patterns, emergent patterns, fractal patterns

Functions of patterns

Patterns in time

Behavioural patterns

Application of patterns in design

Guilds

Learning Goals:

Pattern recognition in nature and technology

Learn the functions of patterns in nature and how to apply that knowledge to effective design

Gain Pattern literacy and understand how to replace dysfunctional patterns with functional ones.

Know the functions of and feel confident designing guilds

Recognize that pattern literacy is fundamental in becoming good designers

Session 5: Soil

Soil biology

Soil classification and testing

Biodynamics

Soil remediation

Composting

Soil indicators

Learning Goals:

Have a base understanding of the components of healthy soil and know the value of building soil.

Know different ways to test soil

Recognize different plant indicators and what they tell about soil health.

Understand a multitude of different ways to remediate and build soil.

Apply different composting techniques in appropriate situations.

Identify key plants that bring nutrient to the soil.

Session 6: Trees

Ecological function of trees in relation to earth, water, air and energy

Succession

Polycultures

Forest gardens and food forests

Plant and tree identification
Plants as soil indicators
Design for trees

Learning Goals:

Understand the ecological functions of trees and recognize them as a keystone species in the ecosystem.

Learn the stages of succession and how to intervene at appropriate times.

Know the layers in a forest garden and different plants for each layer that grow locally

Identify local plants and trees and see the difference in characteristics between species.

Be able to integrate trees adequately and appropriately in design.

Session 7: Animals

Design for wild and domestic animals

Animal care

Integrated pest management

Learning Goals:

Recognize the intrinsic characteristics, functions and outputs of animals

How to meet the needs of animals on site

Learn techniques for integrating animal systems

Understand effective and healthy ways to handle pests

Know how to safely and ethically live with wildlife

Session 8: Water, Aquaculture & Earthworks

Water facts

Water conservation

Water strategies & techniques

Waste water treatment

Water harvesting & storage

Earthworks

Aquaculture

Learning Goals:

Understand how global water issues can affect us on a local level.

Learn how to do a water audit.

Recognize multiple ways in which to conserve water.

Feel confident in applying strategies and techniques to capture, store, treat and release water safely and appropriately.

Know how to calculate roof water catchment amounts.

Session 9: Climate

Climatic factors

Microclimate

Climate design strategies

World climate

Learning Goals:

Understand climate on a global scale

Learn how to design in order to moderate and utilize climatic factors

Be able to identify, create and design microclimates

Session 10: Cool Climate

Cool climate characteristics

Cool climate design challenges and strategies

Cool climate design elements, techniques and technologies

Learning Goals:

Learn how to effectively design homes, gardens, farms and communities in the Cool Climate.

Session 11: Tropics

Tropical climate characteristics

Tropical climate design challenges and strategies

Tropical climate design elements, techniques and technologies

Learning Goals:

Learn how to effectively design homes, gardens, farms and communities in the wet, wet dry and monsoon tropics

Session 12: Drylands

Dryland climate characteristics

Dryland climate design challenges and strategies

Dryland climate design elements, techniques and technologies

Learning Goals:

Learn how to effectively design homes, gardens, farms and communities in the drylands

Session 13: Social Permaculture

Client interview & designer checklist

Community building including group processes

Governance

Land access

Right livelihood

Legal structures

Bioregionalism

Learning Goals:

Gain confidence in the consultation and design process for clients.
Be able to map assets and resources and identify community needs.
Understand different models of decision making and how to apply them.
Learn tools to provide for healthy group dynamics and efficient process.
Recognize opportunities for land access locally.
Become aware of ethical and effective business models and legal structures that support the local economy
Know ways to relocalize and create resilient communities.

Session 14: OS Permaculture

Resiliency
Permaculture economics
Urban renewal strategies and design

Learning Goals:

Be able to identify risks and mitigate disaster using Permaculture design tools and techniques
Know the steps in building an emergency preparedness plan and engaging local community in the process
Learn a variety of different economic strategies and the value of utilizing multiple currencies and tools
Feel confident in utilizing place-making tools, techniques and Permaculture strategies in urban environments

Session 15: Graduation

Next steps (setting up a permaculture practice, further education, community involvement, goal sharing)
Education (accessibility, open source, alternative education)
Mapping and design presentations
Talent show
Certificates

Learning Goals:

Think about niches in permaculture and practice effective goal setting
Gain experience presenting to groups and receiving feedback
Understand how to help others share their gifts

Optional hands on activities throughout the course:

Design Charrettes
Earthworks demonstration
Integrative games
Compost building
Soil analysis

Plant & tree identification
Surveying
Medicine Making
Homesteading

Additional Topics:

Medicinal plants & preparations
Plant Identification
Fermentation
Non-violent communication
Placemaking

Completion Requirements

We don't require those taking the course to participate in the certification requirements.

Those wanting the certification will complete:

Individual map and design

Questions/ Written work

Course Journal

100% attendance (students can arrange to make up missed classes with the instructors, at no extra cost)

Graduating and Jobs

Having a Permaculture Design Certificate from a recognized training institute will empower participants as permaculture designers, consultants and beginner teachers able to use the word permaculture legally in their practice, business or project. This sustainability education eco-training certificate is a practical path for greening your life, resume and portfolio. You will have a green edge when applying for jobs, grants or school programs