Permaculture

From Appropedia

See also the **Permaculture category**.
Category pages contain subtopics, howtos, project pages, designs, organization pages and more.

See also Category:Agriculture for more pages relevant to permaculture and sustainable agriculture - most of the articles on Appropedia are written with a concern for holistic, sustainable practices.'

See Permaculture wiki for an explanation of how Appropedia

works for permaculture.

Permaculture is a form of whole systems design based on the sustainability of natural systems, seeking to reproduce that sustainability in our living environment. Although at first the term was used to mean "permanent agriculture," it is applicable to all realms of design and is now considered to mean "permanent culture".

Permaculture is, at its core, a set of thinking tools. In particular these tools give an awareness of context, threats and opportunities.

The practices and principles of permaculture are modular and applicable to any bioregion, while specific choices and practices are specific to local conditions.

Contents

- 1 History
- 2 What permaculture is about
    - 2.1 12 principles of permaculture
    - 2.2 Ethics
    - 2.3 A plant's relationships
    - 2.4 Many perspectives
- 3 See also
- 4 Interwiki links
- 5 External links
- 6 Permaculture map
    - 6.1 Other maps

History

Permaculture was coined by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren in

Australia during the 1970's as a permanent agriculture for reversing the environmental degradation that seems to follow closely on the heels of modern development while simultaneously increasing the sustainability of food production systems by promoting localized self-reliance. Today, the concept and methodology have evolved to become supportive of a permanent culture, and are certainly not limited to agriculture alone.

What permaculture is about

The prime directive of permaculture as stated by Mollison is that "the only ethical decision is to take responsibility for our own existence and that of our children. Make it now."

The three interwoven ethics guiding permaculture are: Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Share/Return the Surplus. To borrow a concept from Buddhism, Right Action occurs when all three ethics are actualized by a given action or design decision.

One way to look at permaculture is being counter to the linear perspective much of the developed world operates in. An example would be how consumerism functions; we buy a product, unwrap it and throw away the wrapper, use the product, then throw it away as well, the product then travels to a landfill where it is disposed of. Stuff in, stuff out. In permaculture everything is viewed in more of a circular fashion; there is no waste. If you find yourself discarding something then you have a resource you have not discovered how to utilize. Everything must find balance; you may think you have a beetle problem, but what you really have is a duck shortage...

12 principles of permaculture

Main article: Principles of permaculture.

1. Observe and interact. Take time to engage with nature, so we can design solutions for our particular situation.

2. Catch and store energy: Develop systems that collect resources when abundant, & use them in times of need.
3. Obtain a yield - Ensure that you are getting truly useful rewards as part of the work that you are doing.
4. Apply self-regulation & accept feedback - Discourage inappropriate activity so systems continue to function well.
5. Use and value renewable resources and services - Make the best use of nature's abundance.
6. Produce no waste - Valuing and make use of all the resources available to us, so nothing goes to waste.
7. Design from patterns to details - Step back and observe patterns in nature and society. Details come after.
8. Integrate rather than segregate - Put the right things in the right place, so relationships and support develop.
9. Use small, slow solutions - easier to maintain than big systems, better use of local resources, more sustainable.
10. Use and value diversity - reduces vulnerability to threats and takes advantage of the of the environment.

11. Use edges & value the marginal - often the most valuable, diverse and productive elements in the system.
12. Have a positive impact on inevitable change by carefully observing, and then intervening at the right time.

These are principles used and taught by the pioneers of permaculture - they are not universal truths. E.g. re "Use small, slow solutions": in certain contexts, big and fast-acting solutions may be best; however the principle reminds us that great impacts can come in ways that require patience and are not flashy.

Ethics

These 3 broad ethic principles are part of permaculture thinking.

- Care for the earth (husband soil, forests and water)
- Care for people (look after self, kin and community)
- Fair share (set limits to consumption and reproduction and

redistribute surplus).

A plant's relationships

Permaculture is relationship-oriented and is based on close observation, critical thinking, and a systems perspective. Individual plant types are not chosen discretely, but relationships between organisms and communities of organisms are be woven together carefully, considering each plant's relationships to fellow organisms, the overall ecosystem, and the people whose needs it is intended to meet.

Knowledge of such relationships is critical to the practice of Permaculture design, our understanding of ecological processes, our capacity for systems thinking.

Consider for example the role of microorganisms in soil, which have a profound effect on the fertility of the soil and the health of the plant. *See Effective Microorganisms.*

The goal of permaculture is to satisfy basic human needs without compromising the needs of the Earth.

Many perspectives

Permaculture means many different things to many different people, and nothing to some. There is no one correct definition, as permaculture is holistic, integrated, and applicable on all levels and in all situations. At its core, permaculture is a philosophy of interdependence and ethical responsibility actualized through a whole-systems design methodology and on-the-ground action. Permaculture is grounded by ethics and guided by ecological principles, traditional cultural values, and applied scientific understanding. Permaculture is being applied at increasing rates and diversity around the world to develop strategic, long-term, practical solutions to the challenges facing humanity and the ecosystems of which we are a part.

See also

- Organopónico[1]
- Sustainable agriculture
- How to Practice Sustainable Agriculture
- Regenerative Design (organization)
- Bioneering

Interwiki links

- Wikipedia:Permaculture
- Wikipedia:Category:Permaculture for a collection of articles.

External links

- Wikipedia:Permaculture

- Permaculture: A Brief Introduction (http://www.ic.org/pnp/cdir/2000/24permaculture.php) , by Jillian Hovey (2000)
- Permaculture Information Web (http://permaculture.info/index.php)
- permaculture (http://www.permies.com/permaculture) forums at permies.com

Permaculture map

Maps can be used to make us aware of others in our area engaging in similar work and practices. For example, the following map contains sites on the Pacific coast of the USA that are actively demonstrating and applying permaculture and/or allied sites and organizations providing valuable education. This map is not by any means exhaustive, so please add other sites to it as you see fit. Original compilation by Jeffrey M. Adams

Should separate maps be made of other countries and regions, or should this map be used globally?

Other maps

Map of projects in the german speaking part of europe (http://nachhaltigbeobachtet.ch/dossiers/permakultur/karte.html)

Retrieved from "http://www.appropedia.org/Permaculture"
Categories: Agriculture | Permaculture | Green living

- [2 watching users]
- Page was last modified 14:06, 28 March 2011. Based on work by Chriswaterguy, Cory Brennan and Chriswaterguy's bot, Appropedia anonymous users 71.217.143.161 and 91.182.176.96 and others.

-
  Text is available under CC-BY-SA