

# Permaculture wiki

## From Appropedia

Appropedia is, among many other things, a **wiki for permaculture**. It is the one active wiki creating an expanding body of permaculture knowledge and related wisdom.

## Overview of permaculture wikis

There are many wikis about permaculture, but most are not active.

Global wikis:

- Appropedia (see the permaculture pages for a start.)  
Covers all relevant areas such as green building and appropriate technology as well as food growing. There is analysis of the question of appropriateness, i.e. context, which is central to permaculture.

## Contents

- 1 Overview of permaculture wikis
- 2 Appropedia as the permaculture wiki
- 3 Think globally: A call to collaboration
  - 3.1 Many permaculture wikis
- 4 Ideas for structure
  - 4.1 Site structure: page types and categories
  - 4.2 Elements, inputs, outputs
- 5 Notes
- 6 See also

- [permaculture.info \(http://permaculture.info/\)](http://permaculture.info/) : Inactive.<sup>[1]</sup>
- [PermaWiki on Wikia: Inactive.](#)<sup>[2]</sup>
- [Chaordic Permaculture Institute Pilot \(http://permacultureinstitute.pbworks.com/\)](http://permacultureinstitute.pbworks.com/) , Inactive

Many wikis for local groups exist also, some are active, but none are vibrant. These include Northeast New Mexico Permaculture Wiki (<http://nenmpermies.wetpaint.com/>) , Northeast Permaculture Wiki (<http://northeasternpermaculture.wikispaces.com/>) , and Phoenix Permaculture Wiki (Inactive).

To see a fuller list including inactive and very small wikis see [Category:Permaculture wikis.](#)<sup>[3]</sup>

## Appropedia as the permaculture wiki

The most common perception of Appropedia is as an appropriate technology wiki, and this is true at least to the extent that it is about what is appropriate to the social, ecological and financial context. This also describes permaculture, and so it could just as easily be called a **permaculture wiki**.

## Think globally: A call to collaboration

Permaculture is focused on **acting locally** - thus it's not surprising that there are many

locally-based permaculture websites, and this is probably a good thing.

In terms of a wiki for knowledge-sharing, however, this is definitely a case for **thinking globally**. It's an extremely rare community that has a member with the knowledge of a Bill Mollison, Geoff Lawton or other permaculture pioneer. Even in those cases, the wisest of individuals benefit from collective knowledge (much like "standing on the shoulder of giants," to adapt Newton's words to the wisdom of communities).

It is also a rare community that has even one obsessive wiki admin/contributor, let alone the half dozen or more that are needed to make a successful wiki.

## Many permaculture wikis

Many efforts have been made to make a permaculture wiki - do an internet search for "permaculture wiki" and you'll see how true this is.<sup>[4]</sup> However, making a successful wiki is hard, and most of these wikis are dormant, while a handful have a small amount of activity. This is unfortunate, as each site represents an island, a small isolated community and a fragmented knowledge base.

The only active wiki creating an expanding body of permaculture knowledge and related wisdom is Appropedia. Its broad focus, with extensive examples of appropriate technology and natural building, is consistent with the all-encompassing nature of permaculture.

See also Green wikis and development wikis - a more detailed comparison can be found there. Search the page (ctrl-F in most browsers) for *permaculture* and use the sortable table on that page to find the most active wikis, or the wikis with the most pages. Some great

efforts have been made; however, isolation is a killer.

*See also Wiki synergy.*

## Ideas for structure

### Site structure: page types and categories

An interesting perspective comes from the post below. It may not be too different from Appropedia's structure - we will see. The nature of a wiki is that it evolves, and while the structure takes work and forethought, can be changed over time.

Start a Wiki, where the front page is a Human, and we list all the things a Human needs and All it's byproducts. Those are all links, and we follow those to pages set up about those needs. A page like, say, heat, or food. A "product" page. On a Product page, we generally describe the product, and then list what things need that, and what other things provide that. Those links go to "Component" pages, which describes a part of a system, like a chicken or a compost toilet, and what it's inputs and outputs are. Those of course link out to more product pages....

The goal here would be to have a constantly expanding design tool. When designing a permaculture system, you could use this wiki to look up what various components of your system require, and choose from lists of things that provide those needs or use the byproducts.

Like any wiki, this needs a large base of knowledgeable users to get working. My instinct says to start with the Human page and work outward. Does this tool interest

anybody? Would anyone be willing to help me on this project? - Andrew Jensen on GlobalSwadeshi (<http://globalswadeshi.ning.com/forum/topics/2097821:Topic:5243>)

Let's compare this with the current Topic structure of Appropedia - considering the Topics category to be the "Human":

[−] Topics

- [+] Culture and community
- [+] Design
- [+] Energy
- [+] Environment
- [+] Fundamental human needs
- [+] Health and safety
- [+] International development
- [+] Knowledge
- [+] Living
- [+] Transport
- [+] Water

*Built environment*

*Energy*

*Knowledge*

*Appropedia: Topics*

*Transport*

The basic topics are very similar to those described, but the perspective of human needs does give some clarity for reordering and renaming - e.g. "Construction and materials" could become "Habitation" (better than "Shelter" as it's about more than a bare physical need). "Knowledge" may lie outside this framework as it is a means to meeting human needs more than a need in itself. These are arguable of course.

The distinction between "Products" and "Components" might be a useful one in organizing the pages. This might become more useful as semantic tools are added to the wiki.

## Elements, inputs, outputs

Lucas responded:

The wiki you suggest, if I get it right, or at least that was my idea and why I like yours, would be centered around the **elements** used in **designs**: I already have chicken, what else could I add and how could they be part of the system in my backyard? [1] (<http://globalswadeshi.ning.com/xn/detail/2097821:Comment:5290>)

Lonny responded:

I think that this would work great on Appropedia as a template. It could have some permaculture imagery and two columns: Input and Output that would be easily editable. In this way any page could have listed its needed inputs and delivered outputs.

To get a better idea see the new (temporary) permaculture box at Chicken basics. You can edit the list by clicking Input or Output. This could be made much prettier

and more automated... just wanted to give an idea.

All that said an interface like the Visual Thesaurus

(<http://www.visualthesaurus.com/>) , but editable and free, would be very, very cool.

...

I can add the "designs it's used in box", which will fit nicely across the bottom of the template. We can also semiautomate the adding of the templates to pages.[2]

(<http://globalswadeshi.ning.com/xn/detail/2097821:Comment:7621>) [3]

(<http://globalswadeshi.ning.com/xn/detail/2097821:Comment:7926>)

This (used in and templetization) is now done by a template called `{{Permaculture}}` as shown on Chicken basics. --Lonny 08:05, 10 September 2010 (UTC)

Check the latest version of that test box at Chicken basics#External links. Note that the parameters are stored on separated subpages for each of Input, Output and Used In. (This might not be needed when semantic features are added...?)

There are some concrete ideas to work with. The key is to add knowledge to the wiki, and adapt these technical features as we go, to help make it work and fit together better.

As for the call to get started on this project: **We have begun. Who will join us, and make it real?**

## Notes

1. ↑ Server was down for some months in 2009/2010 - now online, but 4 edits in 30 days recorded at 24 Nov 2010, and those were spam.Edits in 30d

- ([http://www.permaculture.info/index.php?title=Special:Recentchangeslinked&target=Main\\_Page&hideminor=0&days=30&limit=50](http://www.permaculture.info/index.php?title=Special:Recentchangeslinked&target=Main_Page&hideminor=0&days=30&limit=50))
2. ↑ 1 edit in 30 days recorded at 24 Nov 2010. Edits in 30d (<http://permaculture.wikia.com/index.php?title=Special:RecentChanges&days=30>)
  3. ↑ I plan to import this category of articles from permaculture.info. --Chriswaterguy 05:22, 19 February 2010 (UTC)
  4. ↑ E.g. see this list (<http://lists.ibiblio.org/pipermail/permaculture/2008-January/030143.html>)

## See also

- Green wiki

Retrieved from "[http://www.appropedia.org/Permaculture\\_wiki](http://www.appropedia.org/Permaculture_wiki)"

Categories: Collaborations | Knowledge sharing | Wikis for sustainability | Permaculture | Permaculture wikis

---

- [2 watching users]
  - Page was last modified 16:21, 24 November 2010. Based on work by Chriswaterguy, Lonny Grafman and Chriswaterguy's bot.
  - Text is available under CC-BY-SA
-