

A Permaculture Taster

Learning how we can live more sustainably, grow food intensively and strengthen the resilience of our communities using Permaculture Design.

Hosted by Davie Philip of Cultivate, Bruce Darrell of Feasta, both of whom are based at Cloughjordan Ecovillage.

Course Outline

- 10.30 - Introductions
- 10.45 - Exploring the Context
The Opportunities and Challenges
- 11.00 - The ethics and principles of Permaculture
- 11.45 - Lessons from the European Permaculture Teachers Leonardo Learning Partnership
- 12.45 - Application in the Urban Context
- 13.00 - Lunch Break
- 14.00 - Growing Food Intensively
- 15.30 - Going Further with Permaculture
- 17.00 - Close

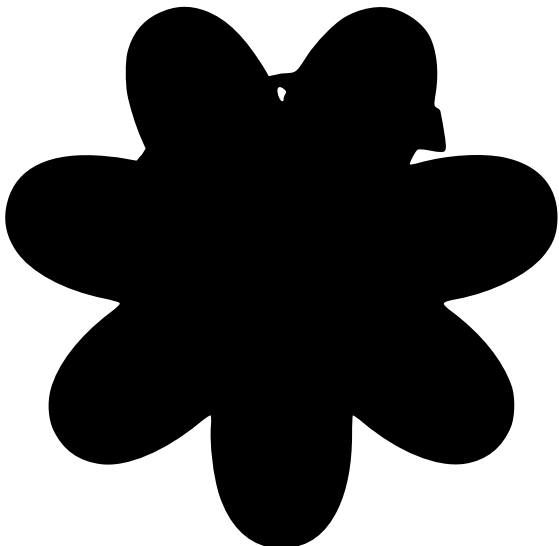
Permaculture works with nature to make a better world for all.

By observing the natural world we can see a set of principles at work. Permaculture design uses these principles to develop integrated systems that provide for our needs of food, shelter, energy and community in ways that are healthy and efficient.

We can use permaculture design methods to improve the quality and productivity of our individual lives, our society and our environment.

The Permaculture Flower

The flower illustrates how the permaculture journey, beginning with Ethics and Design Principles, moves through the key domains required to create a sustainable culture.



Permaculture Ethics

Central to permaculture are the three ethics: earth care, people care and fair share. They form the foundation for permaculture design and are also found in most traditional societies.

Ethics are culturally evolved mechanisms that regulate self-interest, giving us a better understanding of good and bad outcomes. The greater the power of humans, the more critical ethics become for long-term cultural and biological survival.

Permaculture ethics are distilled from research into community ethics, learning from cultures that have existed in relative balance with their environment for much longer than more recent civilisations. This does not mean that we should ignore the great teachings of modern times, but in the transition to a sustainable future, we need to consider values and concepts outside the current social norm.



earth care, people care and fair share

<http://permaculture.cultivate.ie>

www.cultivate.ie

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Permaculture Principles

Permaculture principles are brief statements or slogans that can be remembered as a checklist when considering the complex options for design and evolution of ecological support systems.

These principles can be seen as universal, although the methods that express them will vary greatly according to place and situation. Fundamentally, permaculture design principles arise from a way of perceiving the world that is often described as 'systems thinking' and 'design thinking.'

Observe and Interact

“Beauty is in the mind of the beholder”

By taking the time to engage with nature we can design solutions that are in harmony with the patterns and flows of nature.

Catch and Store Energy

“Make hay while the sun shines”

By collecting surplus energy and storing it for periods of low energy we can meet our needs when the sun does not shine.

Obtain a Yield

“You can't work on an empty stomach”

Even when we are engaged in learning, we need to be able to produce something of value.

Apply Self Regulation and Accept Feedback

“The sins of the fathers are visited on the children of the seventh generation”

We need to design systems that can regulate themselves and accept feedback from the environment.

Use and Value Renewable Resources and Services

“Let nature take its course”

Make the best use of natural energy and services and reduce dependence on non-renewable resources.

Produce No Waste

“Waste not, want not” or “A stitch in time saves nine”

By valuing and making use of all the resources that are available to us, nothing goes to waste.

Design From Patterns to Details

“Can't see the forest for the trees”

By stepping back, we can observe patterns in nature and society. These can form the backbone of our design, which we then fill in with the details.

Integrate Rather Than Segregate

“Many hands make light work”

By putting things together in the right place, relationships develop between the things and the people who use them.

Use Small and Slow Solutions

“Slow and steady wins the race” or “The bigger they are, the harder they fall”

Small and slow solutions are easier to maintain than big ones, making better use of local resources and producing more sustainable outcomes.

Use and Value Diversity

“Don't put all your eggs in one basket”

Diversified systems are able to deal with a wide range of conditions and are more resilient to change.

Use Edges and Value the Marginal

“Don't think you are on the right track just because it's a well-beaten path”

The interface between things is where the most interesting things take place. These are often the most valuable, diverse and productive elements in the system.

Creatively Use and Respond to Change

“Vision is not seeing things as they are but as they will be”

We can have a positive impact on the inevitable changes by reflecting on them and then influencing the future.

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Permaculture Zoning

ZONE 0 — The house, or home centre. Here permaculture principles would be applied in terms of aiming to reduce energy and water needs, harnessing natural resources such as sunlight, and generally creating a harmonious, sustainable environment in which to live, work and relax

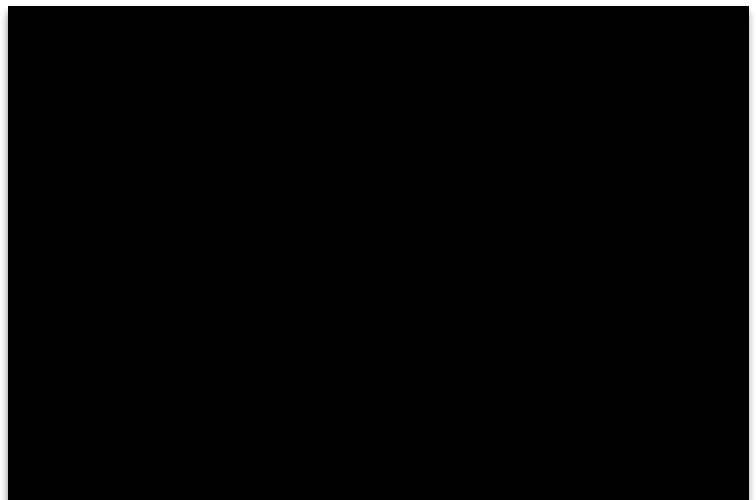
ZONE 1 — Is the zone nearest to the house, the location for those elements in the system that require frequent attention, or that need to be visited often, e.g., salad crops, herb plants, soft fruit like strawberries or raspberries, greenhouse and cold frames, propagation area, worm compost bin for kitchen waste, etc.

ZONE 2 — This area is used for siting perennial plants that require less frequent maintenance, such as occasional weed control (preferably through natural methods such as spot-mulching) or pruning, including currant bushes and orchards. This would also be a good place for beehives, larger scale compost bins, etc.

ZONE 3 — Is the area where maincrops are grown, both for domestic use and for trade purposes. After establishment, care and maintenance required is fairly minimal provided mulches, etc. are used, e.g., watering or weed control once a week or so.

ZONE 4 — Is semi-wild. This zone is mainly used for forage and collecting wild food as well as timber production. An example might be coppice managed woodland.

ZONE 5 — The wilderness. There is no human intervention in zone 5 apart from the observation of natural eco-systems and cycles. Here is where we learn the most important lessons of the first permaculture principle of working with nature, not against.



Lessons from the European Permaculture Teachers Leonardo Learning Partnership

The European Permaculture Teachers Leonardo Learning Partnership which aims to promote the professional development of permaculture teachers across Europe.

This session, dedicated to the Permaculture Teacher, will give an overview of the Leonardo Learning Partnership. An ongoing initiative becoming involved in each Permaculture online educational opportunity in Europe will find his session useful.

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Cultivate Permaculture Programme

Spring Courses - Ecological design for living and working - run over 3 weekends

1 - 2 & 22 - 23 March & 5 - 6 April 2014
Cloughjordan Ecovillage, Co Tipperary | €350 inc. lunch.

FETAC L5 accredited Permaculture Design Course* that provides participants with a balanced combination of theory and outdoor practical place-based learning. This course emphasises both ecological and social permaculture covering topics such as perennial plants, agro-forestry, soil health and new ways of thinking about land management. A lively, participatory and thought-provoking experience is guaranteed.

*Those who took the Permaculture Taster Workshop can avail of a €55.00 discount on any of Cultivate's Permaculture courses.

**This course can be taken alone or taken with Applied Permaculture Design FETAC L5 – held over 2 further weekends - Spring - 3rd & 4th + 17th & 18th of May - leading to a full Permaculture Design Certificate.*

10 Day fully immersive – Full Permaculture Design Certificate

8 - 17 August 2014 Cloughjordan Ecovillage, Co Tipperary, Cost €550 inc. Lunch. Reserve a spot with a €100 deposit

Join the gardening, farming, social permaculture and green building experts resident in the ecovillage for this unique opportunity to learn invaluable design and practical skills. This is Cultivate's 6th consecutive year holding the Full (UK Permaculture Association accredited) Permaculture Design Certificate ("PDC") at Cloughjordan Ecovillage.

Our unique setting

Cloughjordan is home to Ireland's first Ecovillage and winner of Ireland's national Green Community award. The Ecovillage includes over 50 high energy performance houses on a 67-acre estate. The land is zoned for food growing, community woodlands, renewable energy production, with a district heating system, a wood-fired bakery, research gardens and Cloughjordan Community Farm.

The course will be held in the brand new WeCreate Enterprise Centre, which along with meeting rooms, classrooms and a co-working space, features a community fabrication laboratory. This setting provides participants with an opportunity to see many key sustainable systems in working practice.

Accommodation

Contact the Cultivate office for more information on accommodation options in Cloughjordan.

Cultivate on 0505 56063