



Permaculture Drylands Institute



Sonoran Permaculture Guild

Information and course listings:

P.O. Box 3631, Tucson, AZ 85722 (520) 572-1672

Ethics:

Care for the Earth

Care for People

Contribute surplus time, money and energy to
achieve the aims of
earth and people care

Design Principles:

- Place every element in relationship to another so they assist each other
- Each element performs many functions
- Each important function is supported by many elements
- Plan for efficient energy use in homes and communities (zones and sectors)
- Use biological resources over fossil fuel resources if possible
- Recycle energy on site (both fuel and human)
- Use and accelerate natural plant succession to establish favorable sites and soils
- Use a diversity of beneficial species for a productive, interactive system
- Use edge and natural patterns for best effect

Permaculture is a design system that reconciles human communities with the ecological imperatives of a living planet. Permaculture design may be used to restore ecosystems, create sustainable farms and healthy towns, and promote economic systems that support earth care. Permaculture provides an ethical and holistic foundation for sustainable culture. Permaculture principles are derived from three basic ethics: Care for the earth. Care for people. Limit needs and reinvest in the future. The core emphasis of permaculture is that landscapes are complex and integrated wholes. Ecosystems are healthy and relatively stable when their parts are connected into a diverse web of relationships. In a permaculture design, decisions flow naturally from observations of these relationships. Decisions that arise from connection are inherently functional and frequently beautiful.

Permaculture uses the energies of wind, sun, water, soil and the myriad biological processes of the world's organisms. These powerful energies, appropriately used, can reverse desertification. Soils are reclaimed. Forests, prairies, and river systems regenerate. Waste products are minimized and reused. Human communities provide for their own needs in small, efficient farms and gardens, allowing the broad landscape to return to health. Permaculture is a body of knowledge, susceptible to learning and teaching. But permaculture is also a way of organizing knowledge, a connecting system that integrates science, art, politics, anthropology, sociology, and psychology, the diverse experiences and resources available in any community.

Excerpted and adapted from *Living Community: A Permaculture Case Study at Sol y Sombra* by Ben Haggard; with permission from the publisher: Center for the Study of Community, 4018 Old Santa Fe Trail • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 • 505/982-2752. Copyright © 1993. All rights reserved.