

Ethics and Principles of Permaculture

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Prime Directive: The only responsible decision is to take responsibility for our existence and that of our children.

Ethics

* Care for the Earth * Care for People * Redistribute the Surplus

David Holmgren's Permaculture Principles

1. **Observe and Interact:** *"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder"*
2. **Catch and Store Energy:** *"Make hay while the sun shines"*
3. **Obtain a Yield:** *"You can't work on an empty stomach"*
4. **Apply Self-Regulation and Accept Feedback:** *"The sins of the fathers are visited on the children unto the seventh generation"*
5. **Use and Value Renewable Resources and Services:** *"Let nature take its course"*
6. **Produce No Waste:** *"A stitch in time, saves nine"*
7. **Design from Patterns to Details:** *"Can't see the wood for the trees"*
8. **Integrate Rather Than Segregate:** *"Many hands make light work"*
9. **Use Small and Slow Solutions:** *"The bigger they are, the harder they fall",
"Slow and steady wins the race"*
10. **Use and Value Diversity:** *"Don't put all your eggs in one basket"*
11. **Use Edges and Value the Marginal:** *"Don't think you are on the right track, just because it is a well-beaten path"*
12. **Creatively Use and Respond to Change:** *"Vision is not seeing things as they are, but as they will be"*

Mollisonian Permaculture Principles

- **Work with Nature, Not Against:** By working within natural law, we can be most effective
- **The Problem is the Solution, Everything Works Both Ways:** It is all in our own perspective if something is beneficial or not, by gathering knowledge, we can figure out how to make the best of what we have.
- **Make the Least Change for the Greatest Effect**
- **The Yield of a System is Theoretically Unlimited:** the only limit is the knowledge, information, imagination and creativity of the designer.
- **Everything Gardens:** Every living organism has an effect on its environment. It is up to the designer to learn what these things have to contribute and place them in beneficial connection.
- **Relative Location:** Elements in a system are viewed, not in isolation, but for the multitude of functional interconnections that they can have with the other elements of the design to enhance harmony.

Mollisonian Permaculture Principles (cont.)

- **Each Element Performs Many Functions:** By stacking functions, the designer has the forethought against the failure of one or more elements.
- **Each Function is Supported by Many Elements:** Maximizing beneficial connections between elements creates stability.
- **Energy Efficient Planning:** Through thoughtful design, we can make the most from the least. (zone planning, sector planning, slope)
- **Use Biological Resources:** By including a plant or animal in our design, we can increase our opportunities to save energy and increase yield.
- **Energy Cycling:** Each cyclical opportunity in the system increases the opportunity for yield.
- **Small-Scale Intensive Systems:** It's all about scale. Smaller systems are easier to respond to.
- **Accelerating Succession & Evolution:** Natural ecosystems develop and change over time. By observing these systems, we can design for effective restoration and productivity.
- **Diversity:** Functional relationships between elements creates stability and design innovations we never could have thought of alone!

Rosemary Morrow's Permaculture Principles

Rosemary Morrow's Attitudinal Principles

Basic Position	Outcomes
* Work with Nature, Not Against It	* Results in minimum negative impact and long term sustainability
* Value Edges and Marginal and Small	* Small and different can be vital
* See Solutions Inherent in Problems	* Overcomes blockages to design and implementation
* Produce No Waste	* Move towards a closed ecosystem
* Value People and their Skills and Work	* Draws people in, enables, appreciates, and supports them
* Respect for all Life	* The delights of all natural and cultural diversity are valued
* Use Public Transport and Renewable Fuels * Calculate Food Miles	* Move towards people-scaled sustainable urban planning, friendlier places and less pollution * Support local farmers, bioregional produce, lower food costs, truck-free roads
* Reduce Your Ecological Footprint	* Accept responsibility, simplify your life, become more self-reliant * Remember the future & save resources

Rosemary Morrow's Design Principles

Design Principle	Where it applies
<i>* Preserve, Regenerate, and Extend all Natural and Traditional Permanent Landscapes</i>	* Watersheds, valleys, roadsides, remnant forests, ridges, and steep slopes, AND Your Backyard
<i>* Water: Conserve and Increase all Sources and Supplies of Water, and Maintain and Ensure Water Purity</i>	* Catchments, tributaries, wetlands, rivers, lakes, aquifers, springs & estuaries, underground wells, canals, AND Your Backyard
<i>* Energy: Catch and Store Energy by All Non-polluting and Renewable Means</i>	* Look to the natural inherent energies of where you live; Catch by vegetation; Use passive solar design and technology; look to wind, hydro, & solar for power generation
<i>* Biodiversity: Preserve and Increase Biodiversity of all Types</i>	* From rainforest to desert; from invisible to macro; in niches, habitats, seeds, pests, human settlements, religions, knowledge, skills, and attitudes

Rosemary Morrow's Strategic Principles

Strategic Principles	Where it applies
<i>* Focus on Long-term Sustainability</i>	* Careful Thinking
<i>* Cooperate, don't compete</i>	* Share best knowledge and practice
<i>* Design from Patterns to Details</i>	* See the whole picture first
<i>* Start Small and Learn From Change</i>	* Avoids expensive errors
<i>* Make the Least Change For the Largest Result</i>	* Efficient and economical detail
<i>* Make a Priority of Renewable Resources and Services</i>	* Establishes a feedback loop to long-term sustainability
<i>* Bring Food Production Back to the Cities</i>	* Empowers food security and risk avoidance

Resources:

Earth User's Guide to Permaculture. Morrow, Rosemary. Kangaroo Press, Pymble NSW 2006.

Introduction to Permaculture. Slay, Reny and Mollison, Bill. Tagari Tyalgum, 1991.

Permaculture: A Designer's Manual. Mollison, Bill. Island Press, Covelo, CA, 1990.

Permaculture: Principles and Pathways Beyond Sustainability. Holmgren, David. Chelsea Green, White River Junction, VT, 2002.