

Topia: The Sustainable Learning Community Institute at

**O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE**

Proudly presents

**2008 Permaculture Design Certificate Course**

**“Fundamentals of Permaculture”**

**August 9<sup>th</sup> (eve) – August 23<sup>rd</sup> (am), 2009**

**Costs: Residential (includes meals& accommodations) \$1400**

**Non Residential \$1200**

Location:

O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE, 1565 Baldy Mountain Rd, Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0

Phone: (250) 743-3067 Fax: (250)743-3019 Email: [info@ourecovillage.org](mailto:info@ourecovillage.org)

**Course Description and Content**

The Permaculture Design Course is a 72 hour intensive course combining theory with practical hands on learning. Participants will learn Permaculture design principles & techniques. The course includes lectures, discussions, hands-on, slide shows, field trips and design projects. We will examine the underlying assumptions of the current culture of consumerism and economic globalization, and encourage exploration of ways to contribute to the emergence of a culture of sustainability, compassion and equity. The Permaculture Design Certificate course covers a broad range of subjects to provide a holistic overview of Permaculture systems and sustainable living. Some of the topics/ themes to be covered:

**Evidence for change & the ethics of sustainability**  
**Principles of Permaculture**  
**Observation & landscape analysis**  
**Ecological planning & design methods**  
**Organic food production and food security**  
**Climatic factors in design**  
**Soils: Natural soil improvement**  
**Ecovillages & sustainable human settlements**

**Water: harvesting, conservation and management**  
**Agroforestry & forest gardening**  
**Integrated animal systems**  
**Appropriate technologies/renewable energy systems**  
**Mapping & design exercises**  
**Techniques and design strategies for both urban & rural applications**

**Permaculture Design Course Graduates**

“*Permaculture*” is a copyrighted word. Only upon satisfactory completion of this course is an internationally recognized “*Certificate of Permaculture Design*” issued. Graduates are then eligible to use Permaculture in the promotion of designs, teaching and landscaping. Following at least two years of applied work, you are eligible to apply for a Diploma of Permaculture Design through the International Permaculture Institute.

## Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

- **Learn about harmonious integration of land and people in such a way that the needs of food, energy and shelter are met without diminishing the natural world**
- **Develop design skills including mapping, site analysis and assessment, and site design**
- **Develop ecological observation skills, learning to arrange and design landscapes that work in symbiosis with nature's rhythms**
- **Understand and apply Permaculture design, organic gardening, and natural building techniques into the creation of a Permaculture design project**
- **Experience & learn about the critical skills of observing, listening, opening and receiving**

Students who complete this course will be able to assess human landscapes and dwellings and then provide design solutions towards living sustainably. With practice and mentorship students will develop design skills that may lead to a meaningful livelihood. All students who complete this certification course leave with a much deeper understanding of their impact on the planet and each other, and with the critical thinking skills to lessen or improve that impact.

Participants from over 60 countries in all regions of the world and from all walks of life have called the Permaculture Design Course “life-changing , transformative, and enormously affirming”. In the lively company of a diverse group of engaged and motivated women and men with a common interest in the future of humanity, learning is rapid, multidimensional, and long lasting.

Following the course, people have accomplished the following:

- **Embarked on new farming practices**
- **Found ways of dramatically reducing energy consumption**
- **Begun land-based ventures & small businesses i.e Nurseries, landscape design consultancies, etc.**
- **Realized goals towards self-sufficiency**

City dwellers have found that even with little or no land, Permaculture shows them how to work with their home to produce food, reduce energy needs, live more ecologically and in closer connection with their communities.

Educators, farm advisor's, international development workers, garden directors, builders, master gardeners, and landscape architects have all reported that what they've learned in this course has become a foundation for their work.

Farmers, nursery owners, foresters and livestock farmers have all found that Permaculture design has multiplied their incomes, reduced their work, and improved the health of their shock.



# Permaculture Design Course Application

Please fill out this registration form and mail with a non-refundable registration fee of \$250 (AND full tuition payment if within 4 weeks of the course) to:

## O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE

Box 530  
Shawnigan Lake, BC  
V0R 2W0 Canada

**Cancellation Policy: Workshop fee will be refunded in full (minus \$100 administration fee) if notified at least 1 month prior to the workshop start date, following that any refunds will be prorated, with cancellations two weeks prior to the program having no a full program payments forfeited. (this policy is used within reason and there may be exceptions).**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Information: Please outline any medical condition that we need to be aware of.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Food issues (though we may not be able to serve all issues):

\_\_\_\_\_

I am vegan                      I am vegetarian                      I eat meat & fish

I request: \* Eco GuestHouse (\$50 single/\$65 double) \_\_\_\_\_  
\* meals if staying offsite (\$7 meal or \$20/day) for which days \_\_\_\_\_

We are asking everyone to car pool, as parking is limited and to encourage carbon reduction.

I would like a ride from \_\_\_\_\_ I can offer a ride to \_\_\_ people from \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this workshop? \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMITMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES:

### Participants will:

- Complete full payment for program or workshop one month prior to the program start.
- Complete the site fees payment for your program upon receiving this letter (please send in Canadian funds).
- Be responsible for engaging in the learning community.
- Be self-responsible around liability for health, safety, and have your own health insurance
- Seek support and feedback whenever you feel necessary.
- Participate in rotating task schedule for all the activities/chores which create and support OUR daily living needs.
- Actively engage in creating your own learning process. Take responsibility for getting your educational needs met through clear and effective communication of your needs with the staff and teachers.

### O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE and Program Leaders will:

- Provide a workshop/learning community space, which is, to the best of our ability: safe, nurturing, educational, and supportive.
- Provide food and supplies for 3 meals per day (shared chores) & emergency phone contact.
- Provide a full-featured learning experience from a variety of instructors and locations.
- Furthering the learning community experience by offering up our skills and abilities, & by referencing/linking participants to a wide variety of other human and/or material resources.
- Offer participants support in making personal and professional choices around boundaries/limitations, which may enhance the learning process.

## SECTION 3 - AGREEMENTS

Please check each box indicating you have read and agree with each statement.

- 1. I have **read and familiarized myself** with “*O.U.R. Ecovillage Information Handbook & Visitor’s Guide*”. It is available at the main office upon your arrival or at the kitchen wash up sink.
- 2. While participating in the Learning Community at O.U.R. Ecovillage, I agree to **conduct myself in accordance with** *O.U.R. Guiding Principles* and *O.U.R. Drug & Alcohol Policy*.
- 3. I will **honor my agreements** regarding applicable or arranged **site costs**, as outlined above during my time at O.U.R. Ecovillage.
- 4. I am familiar with the Safety and Emergency Procedures outlined in *O.U.R. Information Handbook & Visitor’s Guide*. I will **act in a safe and responsible manner** at all times, and will not hold O.U.R. Community Association (or O.U.R. Ecovillage residents) liable for any injury I sustain or damage to my personal property. **I agree to sign a “Liability Form”**.

- 5. I agree to take **personal responsibility** regarding all aspects of this agreement, including checking in with others regularly to ensure mutual agreements are upheld.

Workshop Participant conduct/dismissal:

Registered participants are expected to conduct themselves responsibly, with due consideration for the setting, the purposes of the OUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (OCA), and for others at O.U.R.ECOVILLAGE (e.g. food production program Interns, natural building program Interns, residents, staff, other short term students, volunteers and visitors). Participants must be committed to fulfilling the course requirements and participating fully in program activities. If an Participant is, for whatever reason, unable to live up to these commitments OCA reserves the right to renegotiate the participants involvement, including dismissal from the program.

Misconduct of particular concern includes but is not limited to: (1) acts affecting the safety of any individual, (2) damage to property, (3) theft, (4) disruption of routine farm, school and community activities, instruction, or programs of the Society, (5) insufficient attendance (6) violation of the Drug and Alcohol policy.

In the event that a student is dismissed from OCA written notice will be provided.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Intern

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director, O.U.R. Community Assoc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am aware that construction activities, building materials, hand and power tools, and any and all work sites can be dangerous and there is a risk of personal injury.

I acknowledge that OUR ECOVILLAGE/OUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, COBWORKS, Elke Cole, Brandy Gallagher, Trent Berg and the staff, students, volunteers and residents of these organizations are not responsible for my personal injury caused as a result of the use, misuse, malfunction, attempt to repair or any other operation of hand or power tools, working with animals, machines or as result of any activities which I may be involved in through any aspect of OUR ECOVILLAGE (on or off site). I undertake these activities at my own risk and acknowledge that these organizations and individuals cannot be held liable whatsoever for these activities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS AGREEMENT FOR YOUR REFERENCE**