Permaculture

March 3, 2021

What Is Permaculture?

- Permaculture was coined as a term in the 1970s by David Holmren and Bill Mollison, two Australians dedicated to the sustainable use of land.
- Permaculture is a term used to describe an intentional system of agriculture and settlement that aims to reflect the interrelationships and sustainability of natural ecosystems.
- Permaculture can be seen in contrast to intensive agriculture, which eventually leaves land unfit for farming, gradually reducing the amount of land suitable for human habitation.
- Permaculture is an attempt to best use land so that generations in the future can continue to make use of the land in productive manners, allowing for personal subsistence.
- It draws from several disciplines including organic farming, agroforestry, integrated farming, sustainable development, and applied ecology.
- Permaculture lies on three ethics: care for the earth, care for people and fair share.

Principles of permaculture as described by David Holmgren

- **Observe and interact —** by taking the time to engage with nature we can design solutions that suit our particular situation
- **Catch and store energy** — by developing systems that collect resources when they are abundant, we can use them in times of need
- **Obtain a yield —** ensure that you are getting truly useful rewards as part of the working you are doing
- **Apply self regulation and accept feedback —** we need to

discourage inappropriate activity to ensure that systems can continue to function well

- **Use and value renewable resources and services –** make the best use of nature's abundance to reduce our consumptive behavior and dependence on non-renewable resources
- **Produce no waste –** by valuing and making use of all the resources that are available to us, nothing goes to waste
- **Integrate rather than segregate –** by putting the right things in the right place, relationships develop between those things and they work together to support each other
- **Use and value diversity –** diversity reduces vulnerability to a variety of threats and takes advantage of the unique nature of the environment in which it resides