

Intro to Permaculture - Permaculture Ethics Video Transcript

Music

As I've mentioned before, Permaculture is an ethically based design system. There are three ethics at the core of Permaculture, and the first one is Earth Care, where we are directed to protect natural systems and rebuild degraded ones. The fact is, the Earth is a living, breathing interconnected ecological whole, and if we don't take care of keeping water clean and abundant, soils rich and healthy, forests intact and bio-diverse, and air clean and breathable, then we will not have the conditions for our own life.

The next ethic is People Care. If we design with the health and well-being of people in mind, then people have the security and stability to take good care of the lands they live in. People in intact and robust communities are empowered and can make good choices. So People Care is at the core of a Permaculture design.

The third ethic is called Fair Share, and it relates to limiting consumption and putting surplus back into the first two ethics of Earth Care and People Care. It's just not sustainable for a small amount of people to accumulate more and more wealth while many around them don't have enough. The imperative is to take excess wealth and use it to help others, and invest it into restoring the natural capital of the Earth's ecosystems. You could say that this massive free open online course is taking the surplus of Oregon State University and giving it back to the world community in the form of this educational offering.

You can not have a stable and enduring civilization that does not address equity, the distribution of resources, and the causes of poverty as they relate to land degradation and pollution.