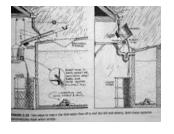
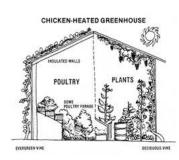
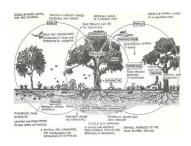
What is Permaculture?











Permaculture is a style of design that mimics nature. Permaculture practitioners experiment with ancient and indigenous methods of living that sustained large populations of people for centuries. They use plants, animals, soil, water, wind, and sunlight, to accomplish the same tasks as do synthetic fertilizers, fossil fuels, and other pollutants. Today these methods are most commonly applied to food gardens, but they are used to meet all basic needs – shelter, clean water, energy, medicine, technology, and human organization. Permaculture is often called "holistic" because focus is on the full picture – the waste of one system may feed the needs of another, closing loops instead of creating problems (for example, household wastewater may be used to irrigate crops).

What are examples of Permaculture methods?

Permaculture marries design and function (art and engineering) – tapping into the creative human spirit to meet basic needs. Methods are highly-diverse, localized, and always changing. Thus experimentation is encouraged to find what works best on a particular site, given particular resources of that site. A few examples might be:

- using pigs & chickens to till the garden using clay soil, sand, and wood, to build
- saving seeds to plant next year's crop
- catching rain water for household use
- companion planting crops
- sourcing materials on-farm
- passive solar energy for heat
- · composting animal and human waste
- reusing discarded materials to build
- · exporting zero wastes off-farm

Does Permaculture mean living without modern conveniences like cars and tv?

Permaculture folks do not simply attempt to live in the past. Rather, they seek to combine the best of today's technology with the most appropriate sustainable practices of our wise elders. We are surrounded with proof that today's methods of growing food, supplying energy, treating sickness, etc., are destructive, greed-motivated, and ready to collapse. That doesn't mean nothing is worth saving; it only means we need to reprioritize and reformulate our practices. Permaculture is the attainable ideal of sustainability—a system that provides for all life without sacrificing the natural world.

Where does the word come from?

Australians Bill Mollison and David Holmgren coined the term "Permaculture" in the late 1970's. Mollison went on to publish the *Permaculture Designer's Manual* – which we consider our "bible" in many ways. Permaculture design courses (PDCs) are certification programs many people attend to become indoctrinated into permaculture thinking. PDCs are expensive, however, and we had no problem learning for free from the internet and through many affordable publications.

To learn more, see what **Workshops** we are offering at Red Beet Row, as well as the **How To** section of our website www.redbeetrow.com