

## Permaculture Standards and Principles

This work group will look at PC Standards and Principles in a general way and then more specifically at the Permaculture Design Course Standards and Principles.

By standards I mean such things as how many days is a PDC, what is the curriculum, who issues certificates, who is qualified to teach a PDC, and other questions. By principles I am attempting to reach an understanding of how does permaculture ethics come into play as practiced by the permaculture teacher and designer.

The following is a partial agenda for discussion:

- What is a PDC
- Who is qualified to teach a PDC
- How much time is required for a PDC
- What is the curriculum of a PDC
- What exercises are required for a PDC
- What is the price of a PDC
- Who issues the PDC certificate and under what authority
- What is a PC Diploma
- Who is qualified to issue a Diploma
- What are the requirements for a Diploma
- How do PC ethics apply to teachers and designers
- Is PC Capitalism an oxymoron

To be perfectly candid the Permaculture Institute has already developed a standard for the PDC and the Diploma and my interest is in knowing should we have a standard that applies to all teachers and designers? This work group will look at the above and other issues and hopefully reach some conclusions that could be presented to the general body to be further discussed and perhaps adapted.

I believe that a PDC is a certification course that is the first step toward an apprenticeship in permaculture and does not confer the right to teach or to design. Rather it introduces one to the ideas of permaculture and the students may pursue further study to become a teacher or designer. The Permaculture Institute follows a policy that one should have a Diploma of Permaculture before teaching or designing.

I also believe that PDC courses require a minimum of 12 days to reach certificate standards, and 3 weeks would be preferable. The minimum standard of 72 hours face time established by Bill Mollison did not include any hands on exercises, student design, videos, or other extracurricular activity. The 72 hours was intended to cover the basic curriculum of permaculture design.

The standards of the Permaculture Institute is that a teacher of the PDC is ethically bound to certain standards of teaching and of following the curriculum plus any new information or techniques that update the curriculum ie Global Climate Change.

I look forward to this discussion and hope this information is helpful in preparing for the discussion. I am attaching the curriculum of the Permaculture Institute as well as the curriculum of Robin Francis as examples of Curricula that is currently being used.

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