



"I didn't know I could learn so much and have so much fun in such a short time" - Living Routes Alumna, Summer 2003



USA

Permaculture at Sirius

Summer Institute in Sustainable Living (3 weeks)

Learn how to create sustainable, productive, and beautiful human environments using natural ecosystems as models. Permaculture is an evolving and expanding design system for ecological living, integrating plants, animals, buildings, people, and communities. Through experiential, participatory and classroom learning, participants explore the relationships between personal, social, and ecological sustainability in the rich context of life at the Sirius Community - an educational and spiritual Ecovillage in scenic western Massachusetts.



Field Study

- Visit old-growth forests, Community-Supported Agricultural (CSA) projects, eco-homesteads
- Learn about green building techniques, renewable energy, and sustainable organic agriculture and their viability in different settings
- Work in a team to create an integrated site analysis and permaculture design for a residential "client"

Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through the University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Course: Permaculture (Plant and Soil Sciences 398P)

Summer July 23-August 13 (approximate)

Sirius Community

Sirius is an intentional community of 35 adults and children, based on respect for the individual, cooperation with nature, and spiritual growth. The Ecovillage practices sustainable techniques including organic tillth and co-creative gardens, passive and active solar architecture, composting toilets, rain and waste water cycling, off-grid energy, water catchment, greenhouse bioshelter and season extending techniques. As an Educational Center, Sirius seasonally offers a wide array of workshops, internships, and short courses on sustainable living and design.

Application Deadline (rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

June 1

Costs (approximate)

Tuition *	\$1,200
College Credit	\$335
Room & Board **	\$275-800

** Some need-based scholarships may be available*

*** Shared room, camping, and commuter options*



Faculty

John Gerber, Ph.D., UMass - Amherst professor of sustainable agriculture

Dave Jacke, M.A., Professional ecological landscape designer, land use planning and permaculture consultant, educator; and author of Edible Forest Gardening

Jono Neiger, M.A., Forest Biology and Landscape Design Permaculture teacher and designer since 1996; forest biology degree and an M.A. from Conway School of Design

Course Topics

Reading and Designing the Landscape

Design principles and skills; Land assessment for optimal, multi-functional use; Patterns and cycles of nature; Seat-of-the-pants engineering and site mapping skills; Design drawing and presentation skills

Water in Permaculture Design

Water catchment and storage; Keyline management; Ditches, swales, dams, and ponds; Aquaculture in streams, ponds, and tanks; Grey and black water treatment and use

Building Healthy Living Soil

Reading to soil profile; Self-renewing fertility design; Dynamic accumulators and nitrogen-fixers; Sheet mulching & composting; Green manures, living mulches, and intercrops

The Cultivated Ecosystem

Low-maintenance ecological garden and orchard design; Ecological pest management; Small livestock; Rotational poultry and animal forage systems; Agroforestry systems and forest gardens

Ecological Shelter

Integrated, energy efficient design; Alternative and least toxic building materials; Appropriate technologies

Community Strategies

Regional economics; Urban-suburban restoration; Village and community design