



CAMASSIA INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
LOST VALLEY EDUCATIONAL CENTER
81868 Lost Valley Lane
Dexter, OR 97431

Learn about sustainable living in a 20-year-old ecologically-focused intentional community in Oregon! The Camassia Institute for Sustainable Communities at Lost Valley Educational Center offers courses that explore what it means to live sustainably as individuals, as a society, and especially as communities—on the scale of a village or neighborhood. Our courses mix classroom learning with design projects, practical hands-on activities, and field trips. See our 2009 courses below. ***Learn more and register at www.lostvalley.org.***

Permaculture & Community: Permaculture Design Course & Ecovillage Living Practicum

2-month summer session: June 16 – August 6

1-month fall session: October 6 – November 3

This course explores dynamically and beneficially integrating human living with the natural ecosystems through the philosophy, principles, and techniques of permaculture. The program covers the material of a shorter permaculture design course, but also has the opportunity for greater breadth, depth, hands-on time, and a variety of different teaching formats. The core permaculture curriculum includes: permaculture ethics, principles, & philosophy * reading the landscape * recognizing patterns * “waste” as resources * water on the land: catching, storing, and using rainwater * growing soil * natural building and retrofitting * appropriate technology * transportation and sustainability * producing food in our yards/neighborhoods/communities; harvesting local/wild food and other resources * sustainable economics * “invisible structures” and social sustainability * rural, urban, and suburban applications

The program also asks, “What is sustainable community?” and explores the question through four aspects of life: the social, the economic, the ecological, and worldview. The course covers how to join and start ecovillages and other communities. Students explore the permaculture of the “inner landscape” and of interpersonal relationships through workshops on personal growth and communication.

Students work in teams throughout the course on design projects focused on sites at Lost Valley, which provide opportunities to immediately integrate what students are learning about permaculture and community.

In the fall session, some of the material on communities is separated out into a supplemental course, described below—Creating Community: Establishing and Maintaining Thriving Ecovillages, Intentional Communities, and Retrofit Neighborhoods.

Creating Community: Establishing and Maintaining Thriving Ecovillages, Intentional Communities, and Retrofit Neighborhoods

November 5 – 10

Can be taken on its own or as a supplement to the fall session of Permaculture & Community

This course examines the question, “What is sustainable community?” through four aspects of life: the social, the economic, the ecological, and worldview. The course covers how to join, start, and maintain ecovillages and other communities. The program’s exploration of all of these topics is informed deeply by permaculture.

The curriculum of *Creating Community* corresponds with the Global Ecovillage Network's Ecovillage Design Education curriculum. The Worldview unit relates sustainable living with a holistic, ecological understanding of and attunement to the world; with joy, celebration, and creativity; and with socially engaged spirituality. The Economic unit considers possibilities and examples of local, sustainable economies; land-based micro-enterprise; right livelihood; and the legal and financial issues of establishing and maintaining communities. The Social unit explores the personal and interpersonal aspects of community and sustainable living, including creating a climate of trust and intimacy; decision-making systems (Lost Valley's consensus-based system provides a case study); resolving conflict; communication; and individual and group well-being. The Ecological unit integrates ecological and permaculture principles with community design. The course's unique setting provides the opportunity to explore the meaning of sustainable living on the scale of a village or neighborhood.

For a month-long course on permaculture and other aspects of sustainable living, as well as a longer community experience, students can take *Creating Community* in conjunction with Lost Valley's fall permaculture course, *Permaculture & Community: Permaculture Design Course & Ecovillage Living Practicum* (Oct. 6 – Nov. 3).

Eco-Homes: An Introduction to Ecological Building & Appropriate Technology

August 18 – September 3

A sustainable future begins in the home . . . literally. With 6.7 billion humans on the planet (and counting), how can we create comfortable homes that will continue to support us and all the living beings around us? How does the home you live in stack up? What alterations, modifications or changes can you make that will make a difference? What can we do today to pave the way for the homes of tomorrow? This two-and-a-half-week intensive offers a broad overview of the elements of home building and design with a focus on sustainability and permaculture principles.

Participants will experience a combination of classroom and hands-on activities, guiding them through several areas of home design and construction. Covering topics such as foundations, wall structures, ventilation, heating, lighting, roofs, water systems and energy systems, the course will present a variety of alternatives and ecological elements. All levels of experience are welcome. This course appeals to owner-builders, prospective new home owners, and individuals just starting out in natural building or appropriate technologies. Experienced builders will be exposed to a range of techniques that they can integrate into their work. Participants will create their own customized eco-home design plan.

Winter Permaculture Design Course

December 1 – 15

This course explores dynamically and beneficially integrating human living with the natural ecosystems through the philosophy, principles, and techniques of permaculture. The course explores permaculture and sustainable living through different formats, including lectures, discussions, hands-on projects, and field trips. Throughout the course students work in groups on design projects focused on sites at Lost Valley, which provides opportunities to immediately integrate what students are learning. The core permaculture curriculum includes:

* permaculture ethics, principles, & philosophy * reading the landscape * recognizing patterns * “waste” as resources * water on the land: catching, storing, and using rainwater * growing soil * natural building and retrofitting * appropriate technology * transportation and sustainability * producing food in our yards/neighborhoods/communities; harvesting local/wild food and other resources * sustainable economics * “invisible structures” and social sustainability * rural, urban, and suburban applications

TAKE THE NEXT STEP INTO SUSTAINABLE LIVING!

Lost Valley is a 20-year-old sustainability-focused educational center and intentional community near Eugene, Oregon. We offer programs on ecological design, sustainable living, and community.

Our courses combine classroom time with hands-on activities. We can help students receive academic credit for some of our programs.

Check out our 2009 courses



Eco-Homes: An Introduction to Ecological Building & Appropriate Technology

Aug. 18 - Sept. 3

This course offers a broad overview of the elements of home building and design with a focus on sustainability and permaculture principles.

Creating Community: Establishing & Maintaining Thriving Ecovillages, Intentional Communities, and Retrofit Neighborhoods

Nov. 5 - 10

This course explores the question, "What is sustainable community?" and covers how to join, start, and maintain communities.

Winter Permaculture Design Course

Dec. 1 - 15

This course explores how to integrate human living into the world's ecosystems dynamically and beneficially for humans and for the earth's other life.

Permaculture and Community: Permaculture Design Course and Ecovillage Living Practicum

Session 1: June 16 - Aug. 6

Session 2: Oct. 6 - Nov. 3

This course explores what it means to live sustainably on different scales: as individuals, as a society, and especially as communities--on the scale of a village or a neighborhood.



Learn more and register at www.lostvalley.org