

Summer



USA

Permaculture Design at Sirius

Study Abroad in Ecovillages

See www.LivingRoutes.org for details on our 4-credit Green Building and Sustainable Design course, also at Sirius, which can be combined with our Permaculture course.



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 relationships between personal, social, and ecological sustainability in the rich context of life at the Sirius Community - an educational Ecovillage in scenic Western Massachusetts. Students also complete a one-week hands-on practicum, putting permaculture into action in neighborhoods, farms, homesteads, orchards, and more.



Students work with real world clients to design and present sustainable systems and solutions.

Program Highlights

- ☀ Become a Certified Permaculture Apprentice
- ☀ Build advanced skills with Dave Jacke, author of the ground-breaking book on Edible Forest Garden Design
- ☀ Visit old-growth forests, Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects, eco-homesteads
- ☀ Work in a team to create an integrated site analysis and permaculture design for a residential "client"

Academic Credit and 2010 Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Course: Permaculture (Natural Resources Conservation 398P)

Summer 2010 (see website)



Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by UMassAmherst.



Sirius Community

Sirius is an Intentional Community of 25 adults and children, based on respect for the individual, cooperation with nature, and spiritual growth. The ecovillage practices sustainable techniques including organic tilth and co-creative gardens, passive and active solar architecture, composting toilets, rain and wastewater cycling, off-grid energy, water catchment, greenhouse bioshelter and season extending techniques. As an educational center, Sirius offers a wide array of workshops, internships, and short courses on sustainable living and design.



Application Deadline April 30
(rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

Costs (subject to change)

Tuition* \$1,800
UMassAmherst credit included
Room & Board ** varies

* There is a \$150 discount for also doing the Green Building course. Need-based scholarships are also available.

** Shared room, camping and commuter options, range from approximately \$330 - \$1030

Faculty

Kay Cafasso, B.S., Environmental Geosciences, Boston College, Natural Building and Solar Home Design Certification, Solar Energy International, Permaculture Design Certification, Naropa University, Permaculture Instruction Certification, Dynamics Ecological Design

Kay Cafasso is a natural builder, a certified permaculture design course instructor, and a designer of ecological landscapes. Kay holds certificates in Solar Home Design and Natural Building Construction and has many years of experience specializing in earth plasters and natural finishes for straw bale and other natural buildings. After documenting ecological design applications in homes and landscapes in arid, temperate and tropical climates worldwide, Kay founded Sowing Solutions, offering education and ecological design and consultation services for homeowners and land stewards. Kay practices what she teaches: thoughtful and holistic design of landscapes, agriculture, dwellings, and communities.

Mark Krawczyk, B.S., Environmental Studies, University of Vermont, Diploma of Applied Permaculture - British Permaculture Association

Mark is a permaculture designer, traditional woodworker, natural builder and community organizer who resides in Burlington, VT. After studying Integral Sustainability with Living Routes in Auroville, India and earning his degree in Environmental Studies, he compiled A Directory of Useful Plants of New England - a comprehensive resource detailing the uses and ecological characteristics of over 115 useful plants hardy to Zone 5. Today, he directs Keyline Vermont, RivenWoodCrafts, and Burlington Permaculture and is an active member of Seven Generations Natural Builders, and EcoSystems Design Inc. Mark's teaching credits include Edible Forest Gardening, Coppice Forestry the Re-vitalization of Urban Landscapes, Lawn to Garden Conversions, Farm Scale Agroforestry, and Keyline Design and Soil Building. At RivenWoodCrafts, he produces chairs, agricultural implements and other useful objects from raw logs and also works as both a natural building educator and contractor, specializing in cob, adobe, wattle and daub, light clay, natural plasters and dry stone construction.

John Gerber, Ph.D., UMass Amherst Faculty Sponsor, Vegetable Physiology, Cornell University

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 a soil profile; self-renewing fertility design; dynamic accumulators and nitrogen-fixers; sheet mulching & composting; green manures, living mulches, and intercropping

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

