

Session 1: Introductions

Context: Introduction to Permaculture Design course

Duration: 45 minutes

Aims: To introduce students to the course and each other

Learning outcomes: At the end of the session, students will have an understanding of the course format, be aware of domestic considerations (toilets, fire exits etc.) and know the names of some fellow participants.

Method & timings:

10 minutes: introductory talk. Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, explain specifics of venue – location of toilets, fire exits, refreshments, 'rules' (e.g. no need to put your hand up to go to the toilet!). Quick overview of course programme/timetable.

25 minutes: introductions exercise – listening and introducing each other. Students are put into pairs – preferably with someone they don't know; each person is given 2 minutes to introduce themselves to their partner. The partner listens carefully and takes notes if they want. After 2 minutes they swap over. Now do a go-round, asking each person to introduce their partner to the group.

10 minutes: brainstorm/discussion - what do we already know about permaculture?

Resources: Flipchart/white board, markers.

NOTES: Large groups may take longer than 25 minutes to perform introductions; the brainstorm/discussion can be shortened or even dropped if necessary. Similarly it can be lengthened if you have a small group that gets through the introductions very quickly.