

Session 3: Permaculture ethics

Context: Introduction to Permaculture Design course

Duration: 45 minutes

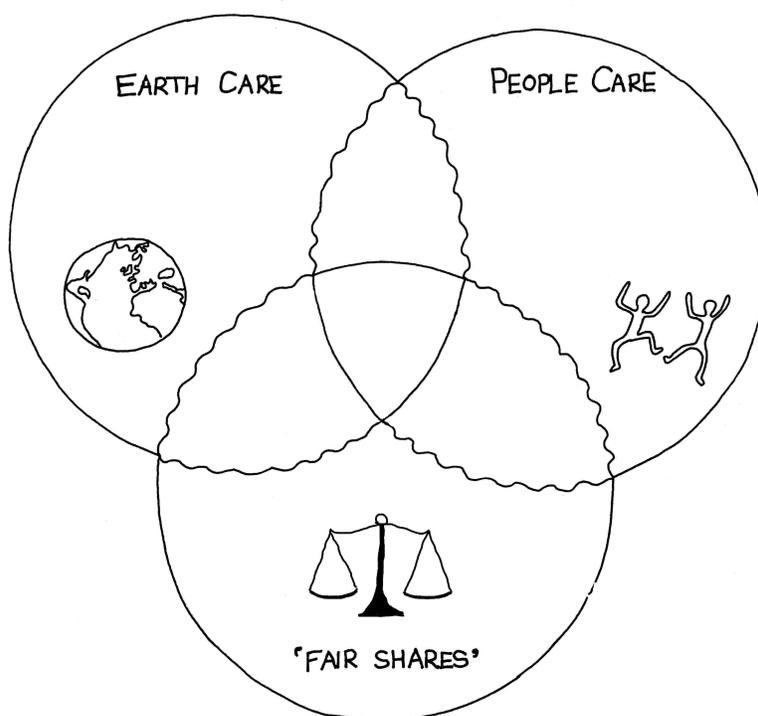
Aims: To introduce the Permaculture ethics and give students an opportunity to apply them to real life choices.

Learning outcomes: By the end of the session, students will be able to:

- State each ethic and give simple examples
- Apply the ethics to food buying choices
- Relate the ethics to design

Method & timings:

15 minutes whole group exercise: draw 3 intersecting circles on the whiteboard or flip chart:



Then ask students to shout out examples of each and fill them in. You might want to start them off with some examples, such as 'organic food', 'sustainable transport' etc. Some examples may relate to multiple ethics. For example, Fair trade could relate to fair shares and people care.

When you've finished, produce a card with a picture of a honey pot on it (See handouts); ask students where they buy their honey from, and how their decision

relates to the ethics. Next, produce the picture of a banana and repeat the question.

20 Minutes small group exercise:

Now split the group into smaller groups of around 4 or 5 people. Give out envelopes or small paper bags containing the printed images of the following foods (See accompanying handout):

- Apples
- Lettuce/salad
- chocolate
- rice
- milk
- fish
- meat
- sugar
- olive oil
- green beans

Also give each group the food matrix handout. For each food, ask them to tick the boxes that correspond to their current shopping behaviour, and discuss what the ideal might be in relation to the ethics discussed previously.

10 Minute whole group discussion: Ask the group to report back any insights they've gained or themes that have arisen during the small group exercise. Map these up on the board.

Resources: whiteboard or flipchart, markers, photo cards & food matrix (see resources\handouts folder)