



## About LAND centres

### What is a LAND centre?

LAND centres are England based permaculture projects, who show, explain and describe to volunteers, visitors, and an interested public, how the principles and ethics of permaculture are applied to their project.

Each centre forms part of an England wide cooperative network. In this network projects act as nodes of permaculture in practice for their region. At the Permaculture Association we see the demonstration network like a permaculture university, where each project is part of a bigger permaculture campus. Each project has different knowledge and skills to offer like the different schools of a university campus. Unlike a normal university however, which tends to be in a localised area, the permaculture university has a wide distributed campus all over England. This distributed campus means that more people, from all walks of life can learn the principles and ethics of permaculture in a practical way. It also means that there is a way for the Permaculture Association to prove that permaculture works, by collecting information and research from different learning centres. This means that LAND centres are very a important resource, not only by providing a place where people can learn about permaculture in a practical way but by acting as the primary source of permaculture research. The development of a national demonstration network is essential to implementing our research and education strategies.

The demonstration network is also key to developing stronger local groups, networks and organisations. Permaculture is all about what we do locally, and the LAND project seeks to support local action.

### Why apply to be a LAND centre?

As a LAND centre, your project is part of the national network of model permaculture projects which make up the 'permaculture university'. LAND centres connect with visitors, volunteers, an interested public and other projects/community groups through a cooperative network. This cooperative network demonstrates permaculture in practice and promotes learning about the ethics, principles and practical techniques. There are a variety of benefits and different types of support offered by the LAND project for learning centres:

#### Benefits

- LAND centres are provided with a web profile, including an offers and requests space for posting volunteer opportunities, seeking support from others etc. The web profile acts as an opportunity for projects to 'show and tell' to other LAND centres, potential visitors/volunteers and the network as a whole. It will be easy to use and the resulting connection with the network dispels the feeling of isolation that many permaculture projects are faced with.
- Official LAND centres benefit by belonging to a national network initiated by the Permaculture Association. This provides increased credibility and higher profile coupled with a large visitor and volunteer base where like minded people can meet, share skills and engage with each other. As a result LAND centres act as beacons for permaculture in practice to permaculture practitioners, budding designers and the general public.
- LAND centres will be actively promoted to people that enquire to the Association about permaculture.
- LAND centres will be able to host group visits, and will receive payment for the visits (via the Group Visit Scheme).
- There are some funds available for special design needs.
- LAND centres have access to skill sharing and training events.

#### Support offered

The LAND project offers support for LAND centres, for food growing/community groups and for the general public. The LAND project also seeks to support projects to develop their own services and activities for their local community.

#### **Support for LAND Centres:**

- One-to-one project development support, including site development, interpretation support and materials. This will be from the network coordinator, learning coordinator and in some cases by permaculture designers working in the network.
- Design support for specific design issues that will improve the site for visitors and volunteers.
- Regional skills sharing and networking events – locally organised within an agreed specification.
- Training to deliver local presentations and introductory courses on the permaculture approach to local food.
- Extensive new website services, including an offers and requests system, volunteer posting, user profiles, 'organic groups' functionality enabling people to set up their own email and discussion groups.
- Advice by phone and email via the national office
- Support for LAND centres to become venues for skill sharing and training events.

#### **Support for food growing / community groups:**

- Grants for groups to visit LAND centres of relevance to their situation. 25 visits per annum for last three years.
- Interested groups will be connected to appropriate training and will be able to attend regional skill sharing and networking events.
- Those wishing to join the network will then be supported as above.
- Year round volunteering and visiting opportunities.
- Website – access to a wide range of case studies, You Tube films, information and networking contacts.
- Advice by phone and email via the national office

#### **Support for the general public:**

- Website
- Year round volunteering and visiting opportunities.

#### **Services provided by demonstration projects for their local community, as a result of the LAND project:**

- Introductory courses and presentations about the permaculture approach to local food.
- Increased volunteering, learning and visiting opportunities with permaculture based local food projects.

#### **Who can apply to be a LAND centre?**

- Any land based permaculture group or project can apply to be a LAND centre. It is important to note that your project needs to be accessible to visitors and volunteers. It doesn't have to be open every day, but once a year would not be enough!
- The LAND project uses and values diversity which means that we are looking for a variety of different types and scales of project to join the network. This is a great opportunity for the permaculture network to show how permaculture principles and ethics can be applied in a variety of different situations.
- At the moment only projects in England can apply, but we are working to get funding to extend the project to Scotland and Wales.

#### **How does the work of LAND centres contribute to the Permaculture Association?**

The work that LAND centres do as part of the permaculture learning and demonstration network is very valuable to the Permaculture Association. Every monitoring and evaluation form filled out by projects counts towards our funding targets and is analysed by the LAND team. This also allows us to provide better support for your individual project development needs. Work completed by visitors and volunteers at LAND centres also contributes to the association's 'in kind' targets set by 'The Local Food Fund'.

Most importantly though, is the education and research potential of a national demonstration network. We will work to develop this potential both within each site and across the network as a whole over the next four years.

**Version 7 / 09/01/12. We welcome your feedback and comments on all materials, resources and services. If you can help to improve the document, please let us know, by contacting the network coordinator [network@permaculture.org.uk](mailto:network@permaculture.org.uk)**



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