

In *Permaculture: A Design Manual* Bill Mollison describes how the three main guiding ethics of permaculture arose from research into the ethical basis of many religious and cooperative groups in an effort to ascertain 'universal principles'. Mollison states that these guiding ethics are necessary to ensure the long term survival of biological ecosystems and the human population that rely on them.

**PRIME DIRECTIVE**  
The only ethical decision is to take responsibility for our own existence and that of our children's.

**ORIGIN**

**PRIME DIRECTIVE**

**ETHICAL BASIS**

**SUGGESTED READING**

## Permaculture Ethics.



**HOLMGREN**

**1. EARTH CARE:**  
*Rebuild natural capital.*  
The earth is a living, breathing entity. Without ongoing care and nurturing there will be consequences too big to ignore.

**2. PEOPLE CARE:**  
*Look after self, kin and community.*  
If people's needs are met in compassionate and simple ways, the environment surrounding them will prosper.

**3. FAIR SHARE:**  
*Set limits to consumption and reproduction, and redistribute surplus.*  
We are provided with times of abundance which encourages us to share with others.

**1. CARE OF THE EARTH:**  
*Provision for all life systems to continue and multiply.*

**2. CARE OF PEOPLE:**  
*Provision for people to access those resources necessary for their existence.*

**3. CONTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS** *time, money and energy to achieve the aims of earth and people care.*

**Setting Limits to Population and Consumption:**  
By governing our own needs, we can set resources aside to further the above principles. The third ethic as expressed in *Permaculture: A Designers' Manual* (1988), which predates *Introduction to Permaculture* (1991).

**DEFINITION:**  
The third component of the basic "care of the earth" ethic is the contribution of surplus time, money and energy to achieve the aims of earth and people care. This means that after we have taken care of our basic needs and designed our systems to the best of our ability, we can extend our influence and energies to helping other achieve that aim. . (from *Introduction to Permaculture*, 1991)

**EXAMPLES:**  
Co-operation;  
Networking and sharing;  
Distribution of resources and wealth;  
Reduction of consumerism;  
Rethinking current notions of growth, progress and development;  
Making a contribution.

**DEFINITION:**

Care of the earth means care of all living and non-living things: soils, species and their varieties, atmosphere, forests, micro-habitats, animals, and waters. It implies harmless and rehabilitative activities, active conservation, ethical and frugal use of resources, and "right livelihood" (working for beneficial systems). (from *Introduction to Permaculture*, 1991)

**EXAMPLES:**

Conservation of Biodiversity;  
Clean air and water;  
Restoration and conservation of forests, habitats and soils;  
Recycling and pollution reduction;  
Conservation of energy and natural resources;  
Appropriate technology.

**DEFINITION:**

Care of the earth also implies *care of people* so that our basic needs for food, shelter, education, satisfying employment, and convivial human contact are taken care of. Care of people is important, for even though people make up a small part of the total living systems of the world, we make a decisive impact on it. If we can provide for our own basic needs, we need not indulge in broadscale destructive practices against the earth. (from *Introduction to Permaculture* 1991)

**EXAMPLES:**

Health and well-being;  
Nourishment with good food;  
Lifelong learning;  
Right livelihood and meaningful work;  
Community belonging;  
Open Communication;  
Trust and Respect.

PERMACULTURE ETHICS  
Mindmap E1

## Practical Ethics

SECOND EDITION

PETER SINGER



Peter Singer's remarkably clear and comprehensive *Practical Ethics* has become a classic introduction to applied ethics since its publication in 1979 and has been translated into many languages. Second Edition published by Cambridge University Press 1993.