

# Ecovillage Training

February - March

There is an increasing and urgent global need for viable, sustainable human settlements.

Ecovillages provide environmental, social, economic and spiritual sustainability, and an enhanced quality of life for all.

Ecovillage communities are cohesive social structures, united by common social and/or spiritual values. Working with the simple principle of not taking more away from the Earth than one gives back, ecovillages are consciously diminishing their ecological footprint.



Ecovillage principles apply equally to urban and rural settings, to both developing and over-developed countries.

The Ecovillage Training provides a practical forum for learning, and for developing action plans. It draws on the experience and expertise developed within the Findhorn Ecovillage over the past 44 years, as well as on many other local and international initiatives.



Findhorn Ecovillage has the lowest ecological footprint for any community in the industrialised world, just half the UK national average.

The Ecovillage Training teaches concepts, tools and techniques for creating sustainable human settlements. It lasts for a month and may be attended as a whole, or for one or more of its theme based weeks.

Topics covered include:

- \* Permaculture design
- \* Local organic food production
- \* Renewable energy systems
- \* Cooperative social economies
- \* Group building and global networking
- \* Deep ecology, earth restoration and environmental art
- \* Ecological building and engineering

We invite you to join the ecovillage movement. Thousands of individuals and hundreds of ecovillage initiatives and existing ecovillages have joined the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) since its creation in 1995, becoming what has been called the Habitat Revolution.

**THE MONTH - LONG TRAINING INCORPORATES THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED PERMACULTURE DESIGN CERTIFICATE SYLLABUS.**

## WEEK 1 - PEOPLE CARE

**THE NEW PARADIGM - DESIGN FOR SUSTAINABILITY, DEEP DEMOCRACY, BUILDING EFFECTIVE GROUPS**

We introduce ourselves and our projects to one another as we build group respect and understanding. Sustainable design concepts guide us in creating our action-oriented learning environment. We explore the immediate surroundings of the Findhorn Ecovillage and the emerging new paradigm. We examine the impact of the human species upon planet earth and, using the tools of Deep Democracy and Deep Ecology, explore next steps towards a sustainable future.

## WEEK 2 - FAIR SHARE

**ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY AND RIGHT LIVELIHOOD and EARTHSHARE, FOOD AND FARMING**

We explore how we can live well on the Earth - providing for our needs in a way that respects our community, communities on the other side of the world and the ecosystems that support and sustain us. The Findhorn community provides us with tools and examples, including Britain's oldest and largest community supported agriculture (CSA) scheme, a community bank and currency and a range of other social enterprises. We visit small community farms and study the production methods employed. We explore the values underlying concepts such as right livelihood and voluntary simplicity, that are needed to walk more gently on the Earth.

## WEEK 3 - EARTH CARE

**HUMAN SETTLEMENTS and WILDERNESS ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION**

Ecovillages aim to restore the balance between the four elements: earth, air, fire and water, returning humans to a sustainable relationship with all other communities of life. This week explores the design and construction of settlements which fit harmlessly into the landscape, and into the climatic regions of programme participants. Included is an exploration of ecological restoration and the protection of wilderness.

## WEEK 4 - DESIGN PROJECTS

**DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE, INTEGRATING & HARMONISING OUR HUMAN FOOTPRINT**

The final week weaves together the various threads explored during the training. We draw on the human, physical and spiritual resources of the Findhorn Ecovillage to create practical designs for new initiatives that we can implement in our home environments.

## RECOMMENDED VISIT

**ISLE OF ERRAID - [www.erraid.com](http://www.erraid.com)**

The island of Erraid is an almost self-sufficient community of people living within an unspoiled and inspiring environment. Living and working with the community there, gives an opportunity to experience the Findhorn Ecovillage on a small scale and to integrate knowledge gained in the training. There will also be plenty of time for personal space and reflection.



## The Findhorn Foundation and Community

### A new model for holistic and sustainable living

- \* At the heart of the largest single intentional community in the UK
- \* Linking spiritual, social and economic domains
- \* A pioneering ecovillage since 1985
- \* A major centre of adult education serving 14,000 visitors a year from over 50 countries

### Ecological footprint is half the national (UK) average

- \* 55 ecologically-benign buildings
- \* Four wind turbines
- \* A biological Living Machine sewage treatment system
- \* UK's oldest and largest Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) system
- \* Numerous solar water heating systems
- \* Comprehensive recycling scheme
- \* Publisher of UK's first technical guide to ecological housing
- \* Our own bank and community currency

**Over the past 40 years the Findhorn Foundation Community has diversified into more than 40 different businesses and initiatives, providing a model for a vibrant, living, local economy.**

*"An ecovillage is a human scales full featured settlement which integrates human activities harmlessly into the natural environment, supports healthy human development and can be continued into the indefinite future."*

Robert Gilman



### Bookings

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