

Ecology & Design (Ecological Dimension EDE)

Module **Deep Ecology**

Deep Ecology, a term first coined by Arne Naess, is an ecological and environmental philosophy promoting interconnection and diversity, and endorsing the inherent worth of all beings regardless of their utility to human beings. It involves moving beyond the individualism of Western cultures towards seeing human beings as part of a global ecosystem. The 'Work that Reconnects' is a series of experiential practices pioneered by Joanna Macy drawn from systems theory, deep ecology, Buddhism, Indigenous wisdom and other sources, which aims to:

- Provide people with opportunities to confront feelings of being overwhelmed and powerless relating to the catastrophes the planet is facing;
 - Reframe our pain for the world as evidence of our interconnectedness in the web of life; and
 - Revitalise ourselves to play a part in the creation of a regenerative planet.
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Module **Foundations of Ecology**

In this module we will start to understand the cycles of life and how our water and our air are constantly recycled through the soil, animals, plants and other components of the environment. We will make some forays into the forest to learn how to monitor biodiversity and ecological variables like the size of trees and the diversity of invertebrates. You can expect to both learn pedagogy for explaining these concepts in fun and accessible ways, and monitoring techniques that you can take back to your communities for a wide range of ecological projects.

Module **Eco-crises – Climate Change**

To experience hands-on work is one of the best ways to learn the practical dimension of eco-community reconstruction. Nong Tao is an indigenous 'Pagagayaw' (Northern Thai indigenous ethnic group) community in transition within the context of a modernising Thai society. However, with Elders aware of the negative aspects of modernity, the younger generation are coming back to reconstruct their life with more awareness and more courage to choose the direction of their community, based on their own cultural values. A learning centre was created as a starting point, and there is a lot of potential to contribute to the future vision of the community. During this module, participants will join hands with local youth leaders to participate in local economic activities and the regeneration of their community.

Module Vision Quest – Learning from Nature for Life Empowerment and Wisdom

Vision Quest is an ancient Native American ceremony-based practice to help a person making a meaningful & significant life transition, facilitated by a community and nature. People seek rites of passage in times of significant life transition or to complete earlier uncompleted life transitions. In many traditions the transition from adolescence to adulthood is an important time for initiation; adolescents need the chance to confirm their fitness and willingness to step towards adulthood; mid-life, marriage, divorce, loss, or simply a time of confusion and disillusionment are also common calls to a wilderness rite of passage. These practices facilitate ego-transcendence and an opening to spirit. In doing so, they also bring healing and renewed connections with lost or abandoned capacities for guidance, vitality, and joy. Their goals include bringing back to one's personal power, stability, energy, wisdom, or maturity that is expressed in service to others and to the Earth.

Module Ecological Design

In this module the concept of 'design' has been expanded to be 'co-created design with nature', including not only physical aspects of community but also core values about the purpose of life. Participants will also inquire into forms of human relationships with each other and with nature, and economic practices that will enhance wellbeing of all. Based on a real traditional village in Northern Thailand, the facilitator, community and participants will co-create a vision of this village as an ecovillage as well as co-designing a process of how to achieve that sustainable vision.

- Day 1: What we should know to Design? Understanding People Culture and Place History of community
 - Day 2: Survey the assigned sites. Listen to the people, observing the landscape Analysis and Synthesis: The vision of the project.
 - Day 3: Work in group Design: finding the solution
 - Day 4: Work in group Design: finding the solution
 - Day 5: Present the designs to villages
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