



Strokestown, Co. Roscommon
www.earthcare.ie

Accredited
Permaculture Design Certificate Course

February - October 2024

Accredited and certified by the [Permaculture Association Britain](#).

- February 17th & 18th
- March 23rd & 24th
- April 20th & 21st
- May 18th & 19th
- June 22nd & 23rd
- July 27th & 28th
- August 24th & 25th
- September 21st & 22nd
- October 26th & 27th



Strokestown, Co. Roscommon
www.earthcare.ie

Course Outline

The [Permaculture design certificate course \(PDC\)](#) is an international standard in Permaculture training. It is a wide-lens introductory course which leads to further study/training and/or specialisation in any one area of Permaculture. (See below for progressional pathways)

This PDC course is delivered by Hannah Mole of [Earthcare Permaculture Design](#) together with guest tutors from, and site visits to, expert practitioners in each of the fields.

This course is being offered as an alternative to the typical 2 week residential format. It is designed to be hyper-local in order to provide an accessible route into Permaculture Design for people who

- need more flexibility of schedule than a typical residential course
- would like to explore a livelihood in Permaculture Design and related disciplines
- prefer or need a more hands-on and applied, 'apprenticeship style' learning format
- live in the 'catchment' area of Earthcare's work and projects – County Roscommon and surrounding areas.
- would like to connect in with local community of like minded people and projects

This is a unique opportunity to complete a Permaculture Design Certificate course in the workplace, with teaching and mentoring from an experienced Permaculture design practitioner, in a one-to-one and small group (max 12 participants) setting.

This PDC course is structured around real-life in-progress design projects. [The course curriculum](#) is delivered in an applied setting together with reflective assignments, and one independent design project undertaken by each participant.

This PDC course runs one weekend per month from February - October 2024
The required participant commitment over the 8 months is:



Strokestown, Co. Roscommon
www.earthcare.ie

- 18 days attendance- a blend of action led learning, apprenticing, hands on work and regular reflective practise.
- 20 hours online curated course content - video and reading
- Small manageable 'homework' tasks
- Completion of a small design project individually or in groups

Certification is awarded on completion of these commitments within the 8 month time frame.

Course content:

This Permaculture Design Certificate course covers the accredited course curriculum certified by the PAB. Full details of the curriculum are [here](#).

The course gives a baseline grounding in:

- **Essential natural systems literacy** - soil science, basic ecology, reading the landscape, natural patterns, plant identification
- **Permaculture principles & ethics** and how to apply them to landscape and social/organisational design work
- **Design skills** - Site surveys, working with clients, analysing needs, mapping, systems & elements choice and placement, budgeting, implementation, project management
- **Practical skills** - Food growing, Perennial systems establishment and care, Soil care, Water management, Basic DIY skills etc
- Introduction to
 - Community development through designing and facilitating community led projects,
 - Off grid energy system
 - Eco-building
 - Regenerative livelihoods - setting up a Permaculture Design consultancy and/or small businesses in related fields

Who can apply?

This PDC is designed for participants who would like to explore applying Permaculture Design in their own sites/gardens, local communities and livelihoods.



Strokestown, Co. Roscommon
www.earthcare.ie

Essential criteria - *Please do not apply if you do not meet these essential criteria.*

Participants must

- Have a preference for a hands-on and applied, 'apprenticeship style' learning format
- Live in the 'catchment' area of [Earthcare's](#) work and projects - County Roscommon and surrounding areas.
- Have a reasonable ability and willingness to communicate well about your needs, participate fully, take responsibility for your own time keeping, travel arrangements and food (lunches).
- Equip yourself with outdoor waterproof clothing that can tolerate the elements for when we are learning out on sites.

No previous Permaculture Design experience is required, but a passion for nature, the environment, community, and an interest in design is essential.

Note: We are very happy to discuss formats and options for participants who need to be flexible about their availability to complete the course. For example if you need to work around public transport times, childcare availability or physical ability. However as places are extremely limited, we will only consider participants who are fully committed and motivated to engage with the course.

Course fees

€ 1800 / 1400 / 1200 sliding scale depending on income level.

- Social welfare recipients- we encourage you to ask your case officer to access your [TSG grant](#) which will cover up to €1000 of the course fee.
- Non-grant funded participants can set up a monthly payment plan if needed.



Strokestown, Co. Roscommon
www.earthcare.ie

We are currently seeking bursaries to cover fees for participants who need it and are not able to access any grant funding. And we welcome any offers of funding or sponsorship to enable these places.

Application process

To participate in this course you will need to

1. Read fully [the details of this course](#) and contact us with any clarifying questions ***before applying***
2. Complete [the application form](#)
3. Arrange payment/plan or grant funding ***Must be fully agreed and completed before the start of the course time*** *Social Welfare recipients please enquire with your case officer about accessing the [Training Support Grant](#) (TESG) to cover your course fee, this can take some time to process so please do not delay.*

Next steps - progression pathways

(complimentary options which can be undertaken together or separately following completion of your PDC)

- [Accredited Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design](#) - The apprentice undertakes a series of small design projects independently which are reviewed by the tutor (Hannah Mole) and assessed by the Permaculture Association. 2 year duration. Accredited.



Strokestown, Co. Roscommon

www.earthcare.ie

- **Apprenticeship with [Earthcare Permaculture Design](#)** - Apprentice maps out own pathway via the local community of resources, guided by EPD. 1 year duration. Non accredited
- **Self Employment or Employment-** Potential Role in Permaculture design and related disciplines and/or start up your own Permaculture design micro/business, via supports offered by [Roscommon Leader partnership](#).

Areas of growth/opportunity

The need and demand for Permaculture Design and related disciplines at this point in time well exceeds the numbers and availability of skilled service providers. In recent years at Earthcare Permaculture Design we have seen the number of enquiries received continually increase, and the scale of projects and desire for Permaculture design and instalments exceed the capacity of the very few designers at work across the country. Facing into a climate uncertain future and a biodiversity collapse present, skilled practitioners are urgently needed and the public and private demand is available to fund this.

Graduates of this course and subsequent trainings will find avenues of work and self employment in:

- Landscape Restoration,
- Regenerative Farming,
- Eco and edible landscape gardening,
- Community led food and biodiversity projects,
- Education in Nature (forest schools, school gardens etc)
- Native and functional plant nurseries
- Eco-forestry
- And more