



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension and
Department of Horticulture

Permaculture Certificate from Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute (FLPCI)

Individuals who completed all coursework to a satisfactory level for the following distance learning courses are eligible to apply for the Finger Lakes Permaculture Design Certificate.

- [Permaculture Design 1: Fundamentals of Ecological Design](#)
- [Permaculture Design 2: Ecosystem Mimicry](#)
- [Permaculture Design 3: Design Practicum](#)

Candidate's application process:

Step 1: Complete coursework.

Confirm your completion of all coursework to a satisfactory level for the above distance learning courses by contacting Michael Burns (mb756@cornell.edu) and stating your intentions to apply for FLPCI certificate. He will confirm your successful completion and notify the board of directors of the Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute of your success and intention.

Step 2: Assemble design portfolio.

Through your distance learning coursework assignments you developed numerous documents related to a specific site. Gather your final site design as well as documents from throughout the three courses that have been particularly valuable in your learning. Please include goal articulation, site assessment, polyculture designs, assessment maps, plus schematic and detail design maps. Put these items together in a **single** PowerPoint, pdf or other visual format as a portfolio. Add a written or voice recorded narration to present the elements of your portfolio.

Step 3: Write an essay.

Write an essay describing your permaculture learning experience. Provide details on the experiences in all aspects of your life that have contributed to your learning of the concepts, skills and attitudes for a permaculture design certificate. Focuses on your significant insights and how they will impact your garden, home, farm or projects in the future.

Step 4: Submit portfolio, essay and donation

Send via email or postal mail your portfolio and essay to the instructor. Please send a donation to the Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute. Most certificate applicants have donated between 50 and 100 dollars. There is no required amount of donation. Even a five dollar donation is appreciated. Visit FingerLakesPermaculture.org to donate online. Checks can be made to "Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute" and mailed to FLPCI c/o Rebecca Cutter, 325 Elm St., Ithaca NY 14850.

Step 5: Presentation to FLPCI board.

Your portfolio will be shared with the board of directors during one of their quarterly meetings. This presentation is not to decide if you will receive a certificate. Any portfolio presented by the instructor is assumed to have already met the requirements. However, board members may request a short (approx. 30-minute) phone discussion about your permaculture design portfolio, essay, experiences, current and future interests, plus any questions you may have. It is meant to be a positive conversation as you are becoming a permaculture colleague. After the presentation of the portfolio you will receive the actual certificate.