

GAIA Education
Ecovillage Design Education Curriculum
Dimension 5 – Principles of Group Design

PRINCIPLE: A statement of fundamental purpose or character; a first or primary consideration; the essence of the solution; the reference point if things start to get lost...

- Limit group to 4 or 5, no more than 6. That way, everyone gets a chance to actively participate.
- Designate Facilitator. Facilitator manages and rotates discussion, makes sure everybody's ideas get heard.
- Take turns between 'go around' and 'free flow' forms of discussion.
- If stuck, try silence for a few moments; then come out with 'popcorn' style.
- Encourage discussion of ideas rather than opinions. Facilitator draws out ideas with pointed questions.
- Take turns alternating between whole group and sub-groups. Take turns working in pairs, then coming back to the whole group.
- Rotate Facilitator role during different sessions.
- Take notes and provide summary.
- In Symposium as a whole, alternate discussion between plenary and groups.