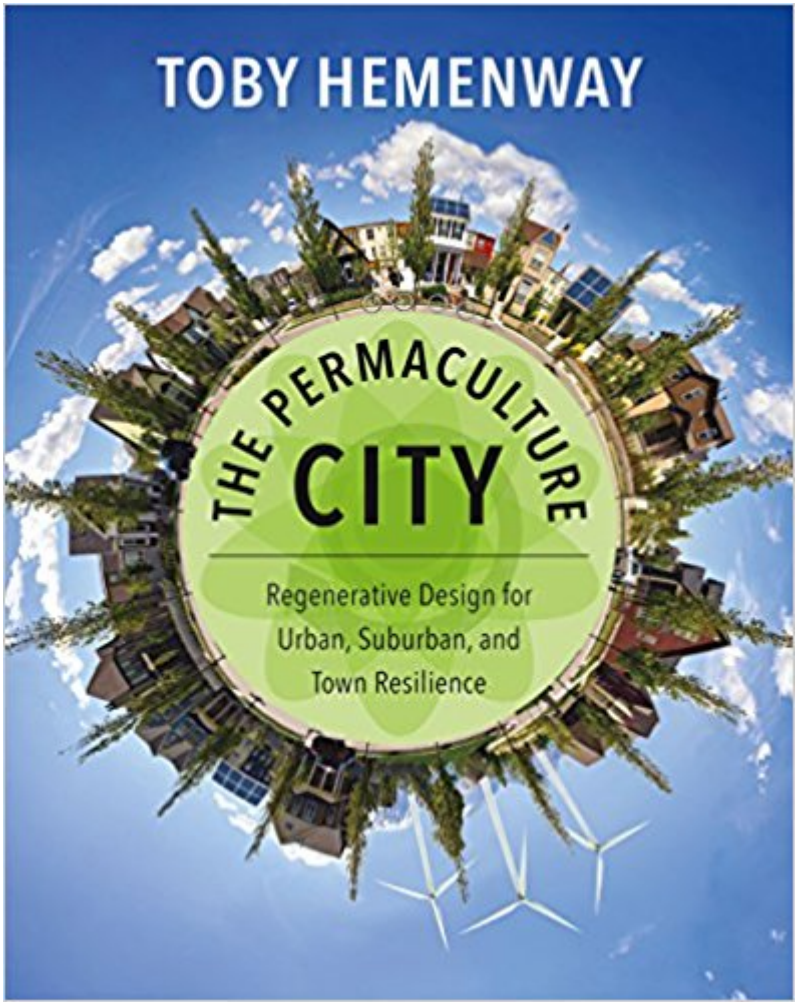
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The Permaculture City: Regenerative Design For Urban, Suburban, And Town Resilience



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Synopsis

Permaculture is more than just the latest buzzword; it offers positive solutions for many of the environmental and social challenges confronting us. And nowhere are those remedies more needed and desired than in our cities. The Permaculture City provides a new way of thinking about urban living, with practical examples for creating abundant food, energy security, close-knit communities, local and meaningful livelihoods, and sustainable policies in our cities and towns. The same nature-based approach that works so beautifully for growing foodÃ¢â ¬â ¢connecting the pieces of the landscape together in harmonious waysÃ¢â ¬â ¢applies perfectly to many of our other needs. Toby Hemenway, one of the leading practitioners and teachers of permaculture design, illuminates a new way forward through examples of edge-pushing innovations, along with a deeply holistic conceptual framework for our cities, towns, and suburbs. The Permaculture City begins in the garden but takes what we have learned there and applies it to a much broader range of human experience; weÃ¢â ¬â„¢re not just gardening plants but people, neighborhoods, and even cultures. Hemenway lays out how permaculture design can help towndwellers solve the challenges of meeting our needs for food, water, shelter, energy, community, and livelihood in sustainable, resilient ways. Readers will find new information on designing the urban home garden and strategies for gardening in community, rethinking our water and energy systems, learning the difference between a Ã¢â ¬Å“jobÃ¢â ¬Â• and a Ã¢â ¬Å“livelihood,Ã¢â ¬Â• and the importance of placemaking and an empowered community. This important book documents the rise of a new sophistication, depth, and diversity in the approaches and thinking of permaculture designers and practitioners. Understanding nature can do more than improve how we grow, make, or consume things; it can also teach us how to cooperate, make decisions, and arrive at good solutions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Booklist- "For the past six years, HemenwayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s acclaimed first book, GaiaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Garden (2009), has been the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s best-selling guidebook on home and garden permaculture. He now continues to champion this environmental philosophy that involves working with nature, instead of against it, for maximum sustainability. Although permaculture practices originally began with small-scale farms and gardens in mind, in his latest work Hemenway presents a much larger vision of applying them to metropolitan settings. In what is more than simply a handbook on finding space to grow fruits and vegetables in the concrete jungle, the author demonstrates just how widely the permaculture net can be cast by including advice on sustainably managing critical urban resources such as water, shelter, electricity, and even community centers. After introductory chapters on permaculture principles and the history and evolution of cities, Hemenway covers the basics of designing urban home gardens before moving on to discuss Ã¢â ¬Å“water wisdomÃ¢â ¬Â• and home energy solutions. An invaluable resource for city planners and dwellers alike, as well as an optimistic exploration of the possibilities for ecological well-being in our future urban landscapes.Ã¢â ¬Â•Library Journal- "Permaculture refers to a method of agricultural design that uses natural approaches. While several chapters address the unique challenges and opportunities in creating an urban garden, Hemenway refers often to his first book,Ã Â GaiaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Garden, the initial major volume published in North America on permaculture principles, for further detail. Here, the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s focus narrows to an urban setting, where permaculture means more than having a sustainable garden but can generate powerful change and community growth. Combining anecdotal stories of local U.S. neighborhoods practicing permaculture principles with black-and-white and color photos, Hemenway describes ways in which urban dwellers can not only create their own backyard oasis but join with their neighbors to build shared spaces in which to produce food, culture, and identity. Valuable tips on water conservation via rain harvesting and graywater collection mingle with advice on reducing energy consumption, producing local energy resources, and decreasing your foodshed and carbon footprints. Notes and index provide a reliable reference for further reading.Ã Â VERDICT:Ã Â An enlightening read for anyone interested in green gardening, environmental ethics, social justice issues, and seeking positive community change.Ã¢â ¬Â•Publishers Weekly- "This eagerly awaited

book from West Coast permaculture expert Hemenway, author of the classicÃ Â Gaia's Garden, pushes permaculture design beyond its usual realm of homesteading and gardening, applying it to the complex systems that make up contemporary urban life. Other permaculturalists are also exploring these ideas, but Hemenway's intelligent, down-to-earth analyses, astute systems thinking, and clear organization offer a particularly comprehensive, open-ended, and sophisticated yet understandable overview to readers who want to discover, evaluate, utilize, and integrate the untapped resources abundant in any city or town. Hemenway focuses on the philosophical, Ã¢â ¬Ëœwhetting appetites' and providing toolkits rather than in-depth instruction, with the goal of teaching readers 'to become adept at a whole-systems approach to living in and finding solutions in cities, towns, and suburbs.' Referencing livable-city innovators such as Jane Jacobs and human-scale design thinkers such as Christopher Alexander, Hemenway shows how permaculture concepts can be stretched and rethought in an urban setting to include not just one's house, garden, and yard but also neighbors, parks, and city agencies.Ã¢â ¬Â•"Many people who are searching for a more fulfilling life, wanting to reduce their ecological footprint and build resilience for uncertain futures, grasp that permaculture might be part of the solution but are often unsure how it applies to their particular situation. For residents of towns and cities in the modern affluent world,Ã Â The Permaculture CityÃ Â shows how permaculture design makes common sense."--David Holmgren, co-originator of the Permaculture concept"Toby HemenwayÃ¢â ¬â„¢sÃ Â GaiaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s GardenÃ Â is the go-to book I always recommend for those interested in permaculture. His new book,Ã Â The Permaculture City,Ã Â is the much-needed urban version, a great introduction and full of important information on adapting permaculture to an urban environment."--Starhawk, permaculture designer and author ofÃ Â The Empowerment ManualÃ¢â ¬Å“The Permaculture City is a triumph in bringing the wisdom of permaculture practices to city dwellers. This book is a Ã¢â ¬Ëœbridge bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢ for greening our urban landscapes. Rich in practical knowledge, Toby Hemenway is a trailblazer in demystifying the art of living sustainably within ecosystems: teaching how YOU can be a collaborative partner in a healthy urban biosphere. This bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s impact will be increasingly significant as we inevitably march toward living in built environments. For urban planners, architects, green builders, and simply citizens who want to enjoy a higher quality of life, The Permaculture City is The Book to lead the way.Ã¢â ¬Â•--Paul Stamets, author of Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the WorldÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Permaculture is applied ecology, and its practice is evolving as society becomes more urbanized. As Toby Hemenway puts it, Ã¢â ¬ËœWeÃ¢â ¬â„¢re not just gardening plants but people, neighborhoods, and even cultures.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ Whether youÃ¢â ¬â„¢re new to

permaculture or a seasoned Ã¢â ¬Ëœpermie,Ã¢â ¬â„¢ The Permaculture City is essential: it captures the explorative state of the art in readable, often delightful prose. And, like all good permaculture books, it is eminently helpful at solving a myriad of practical problems in the home and garden.Ã¢â ¬Â•--Richard Heinberg, Senior Fellow, Post Carbon InstituteÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Toby Hemenway combines the skill of a storyteller with the vigour of experience and insight. He shows us an urban landscape with gardens, food, energy systems, and architecture that can ensure genuine sustainability. Beyond these vital elements, he also creates a template for a new kind of city: a human scale collection of village communities where quality of life is valued above quantity of output. With the majority of the human race becoming city dwellers, this is vital information for a more collaborative, intelligent, and resilient urban landscape, one that will enable us to face serious challenges now, and in the future.Ã¢â ¬Â•--Maddy Harland, co-founder and editor of Permaculture magazine and Fellow of the Royal Society of ArtsÃ Â "Toby Hemenway is among the true visionaries who can turn vision into practical action. The Permaculture City is a landmark book that will be used for decades as a compass and field guide to regenerate our world and communities. Toby depicts the virtuous circle people are already creating across the country and world, from small acts an individual can take, to larger systemic changes that only communities and societies can make. This is the gospel of building resilience from the ground up, and Toby is a true hero of our ageÃ¢â ¬â ¢he shows us weÃ¢â ¬â„¢re all invited to the party.Ã¢â ¬Â•--Kenny Ausubel, cofounder and CEO of BioneersÃ¢â ¬Å“Half the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s people now live in cities, and as Toby Hemenway convincingly demonstrates, they can be at the very forefront of the revolution in how we live. This book will thrill you!Ã¢â ¬Â•--Bill McKibben, author of Deep EconomyÃ¢â ¬Å“I'm someone with a strong bias towards country living and I've always thought that the phrase 'urban permaculture' is oxymoronic. I've often thought master planners should be working to revive small towns, not build more cities. Toby Hemenway has shown me the error of my ways. The function of a well-conceived city, he says, is to inspire. His book inspires.Ã¢â ¬Â•--Albert Bates, president, Global Village Institute for Appropriate Technology"We stand at a crossroads where long-held societal beliefs are shattered and assumptions fall before knowledge and reality. Human civilization is in the balance. Few people have grasped the significance of the moment in the way that Toby Hemenway has. His voice is particularly important at this time.Ã Â The Permaculture CityÃ Â is his attempt to understand what we are confronted with and to skew the discussion toward sustainability. There is no doubt that his message is timely and relevant. Read this book like the life of your children depended on it Ã¢â ¬Â¦ because it does.Ã¢â ¬Â•--John D. Liu, director of the Environmental Education Media Project and visiting fellow at the Netherlands Institute of

Ecology"What a great, accessible, and timely book! The Permaculture CityÃ Â is a must-read for anyone who loves where they live, wishes to deepen their relationship and pleasure in and with it, and realizes that our food, water, and community resilience may depend upon it. Toby Hemenway offers great guidance for applying the lens of intentional design to increasing food self-reliance (and pleasure!), improving water efficiency and usage, and growing community, three elements that promise to improve the quality of relatedness to place as well as resilience in the face of weather and other uncertainties. "Whether the topic is gardening in a window box or creating a community garden, catching and channeling rainwater, or redesigning an edible landscape around a suburban home, this timely book offers everyone a window into the joy and longterm fulfillment of permaculture."--Nina Simons, co-founder of Bioneers and founder ofÃ Â EverywomanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Leadership

Toby Hemenway was the author of the first major North American book on permaculture,Ã Â GaiaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture, as well asÃ Â The Permaculture City. After obtaining a degree in biology from Tufts University, Toby worked for many years as a researcher in genetics and immunology, first in academic laboratories at Harvard and the University of Washington in Seattle, and then at Immunex, a major medical biotech company. At about the time he was growing dissatisfied with the direction biotechnology was taking, he discovered permaculture, a design approach based on ecological principles that creates sustainable landscapes, homes, and workplaces. A career change followed, and Toby and his wife spent ten years creating a rural permaculture site in southern Oregon. He was associate editor ofÃ Â Permaculture Activist, a journal of ecological design and sustainable culture, from 1999 to 2004. He taught permaculture and consulted and lectured on ecological design throughout the country, and his writing appeared in magazines such asÃ Â Whole Earth Review,Ã Â Natural Home, andÃ Â Kitchen Gardener. Toby passed away in 2016. Visit his web site atÃ Â www.patternliteracy.com

Beginning in urban areas regenerating dead systems into life giving systems with a wholeness perspective using permaculture design..... Principles..... Tools..... Problems into solutions.....

Amazing book with very helpful and diverse information and I love how he breaks ideas down so it is easy to understand, but not unnecessarily. I recommend this book to everybody and is useful if you are designing a small yard to a few acres or are interested in how we can make cities more

sustainable and energy efficient.

This is a truly amazing book that can change your mental framework going forward. I love how the author addresses all aspects of life through the permacultute lens. I highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to create a change in culture, whether that be political, ecological, or economical.

Excellent look on how to scale permaculture for an urban setting.

The gold standard for Urban PC texts. Toby will be missed.

Great book

A+ all the way!

(Disclosure: this review was previously posted on Examiner.com)When Toby Hemenway and his wife moved to the country to live a bucolic life in a sustainable, environmental way, what he learned was quite the opposite of being more environmentally sound.In fact, their ecological footprint turned out to be far larger than if they lived in the city. They needed a car to go anywhere, services and stores were beyond walking distance miles away, and their social lives were severely limited. When Hemenway added up the impact of his country lifestyle, he had to admit there was a better way to live a greener life ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ move back to an urban area, and later, write a book about it.Ã Â The Permaculture City: Regenerative Design for Urban, Suburban, and Town ResilienceÃ Â is that book.The Permaculture City integrates the concepts and practices of permaculture within an urban setting. Granted, the city is often the last place one thinks of as environmental, but Hemenway says, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The human-nature bond can be lost in cities if we're not careful, and I think we go somewhat insane without it. Cities can help keep their surrounding regions both ecologically and economically healthy by fostering connections that are intended to do that, rather than ignore or simply exploit their surroundings.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•According to Hemenway, a truly healthy city incorporates a diversity of offerings that address the physical, social, and emotional needs of the dweller; his book bridges the gap between city and country, and is rich in the history of how our current urban models came about, where they went wrong, and how they can be changed and improved.HemenwayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s strength is his ability to overlay historical fact to bring

greater clarity to the current problems plaguing the modern urban space. From the very first chapter, he walks the reader through the life cycle of cities and their evolution in response to social change; this gives the reader a clearer perspective on the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“whyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“howÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• behind the transportation and social dynamics of urban environments. His book is chock full of examples and explanations that illustrate each chapterÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s purpose, often going beyond the basic details so the reader has no choice but to understand what Hemenway is so passionately writing about.The social capital, or the human interactive value, of urban areas is a strong focal point of the book. Hemenway highlights the ideas of Jane Jacobs, William Whyte, and Kevin Lynch, individuals who strove to integrate and not isolate the elements that comprise a well-rounded city, while weaving permacultural aspects throughout. His suggestions truly honor JacobsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“village in the cityÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• concept that the most vibrant ecosystem in the urban environment is the human one. When asked about the motivating factors behind writing The Permaculture City, Hemenway stated: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“the most interesting work in permaculture, to me, was being done in citiesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦growing food is easy compared to learning how to work with other people constructively.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•But Hemenway includes that toolset as well; chapters 3 and 4 of the book are essentially a permaculture design course (PDC), covering the basics from designing a small backyard garden space to implementing energy efficient changes that can save money and improve oneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s quality of life. Hemenway offers intense, effective environmental options for the urban homeowner, with everything scaled down to individual lot size.The integration of urban areas with the surrounding bioregion is also highlighted. Ancient civilizations integrated their services and fuel production, transport and defensibility into a cohesive whole that enabled them to have resilience and stability, even in times of war and famine; Hemenway discusses how that ancient wisdom can be applied to our modern cities, which are often geometric with little to no thought about how the human experience integrates into the model. City dwellers would have a considerably different user experience if land developers and city planners had copies of The Permaculture City as mandatory reading. What determines whether a city is successful in being an overall great place to live often does not come down to cost; it comes down to a design the meets human needs and builds social capital.This is not HemenwayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s first book rodeo; heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a well-known heavy-hitter in the Permaculture world, and has a significant list of published material, such as GaiaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture, and other works. His writing style is straightforward and clear, and The Permaculture City is not a coffee table picture book that trades information for eye candy. Hemenway has done

his research, skillfully delineating the ways an individual can change their environmental impact even while living in a concrete jungle, and illustrates it all with strong visuals. In short,Ã Â The Permaculture City: Regenerative Design for Urban, Suburban, and Town Resilienceis an excellent resource for anyone not living in the countryside but wants to do right by Mother Nature. Now you can get your green on, even in NYC.

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