



## Permaculture Lake

In November 2007 the first building phase of an extensive renaturation model in Tamera, Portugal was completed with the creation of a large lake.

Austrian permaculture designer, Sepp Holzer, was the inspiration and planner behind the project.



*Tamera's ground-breaking lake*

The main aims of the lake will be to retain the winter rain for the summer, to combat soil erosion and to create conditions for sustainable fertility. There will be edible gardens and landscapes on its slopes. It will be a regeneration model for desolate landscapes in southern Europe.

Thousands of seeds have been sown, trees planted, and tonnes of heavy 'water shaped' marble boulders (acting as energetic design elements and works of art) have been put in place. Tamera still needs financial support for this project and they are seeking sponsors for the further construction of the lake.

For more details, visit: [www.tamera.org](http://www.tamera.org) or contact Leila Dregger: [leila.dregger@snaflu.de](mailto:leila.dregger@snaflu.de)

## CIFAL Success



*All smiles at a CIFAL gathering*

A two-day workshop on biofuels held in Scotland in November 2007 completed a successful first year of activities for the CIFAL Findhorn training centre.

CIFAL Findhorn is one of a network of 12 training centres internationally under the umbrella of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research that are devoted to providing training in various aspects of sustainability to local government officials and elected representatives.

CIFAL Findhorn has run eight training sessions over the last year, with a strong focus on renewable energy and climate change. In addition, it has hosted delegations of local government officials from Vietnam, Korea and Norway. The seminars are attracting a wide range of participants, including those from outside local government. The biofuels workshop, for example, had participants from Scottish universities, WWF, Practical Action and the private sector.

For more information, contact: [cifalfindhorn@findhorn.org](mailto:cifalfindhorn@findhorn.org)

## Eco-initiative in Transylvania



*The crowds flock to the important market town of Huedin*

Douglas McFarlane and Sara Meaker have set up a company in Romania, Low Impact Living Transylvania (LILTrans) to attract downsizers and environmentalists to come and live in Transylvania.

The aim is to facilitate the formation of an eco-community in the Kalotaszeg region. The region runs along 40 kilometres of railway line from Cluj Napoca, the largest city in Transylvania, to the market town of Huedin.

LILTrans has been in existence for one year and it has bought three traditional properties with around 4ha of attached land.

Doug and Sara hope that those who choose to move to Kalotaszeg will buy property in one of the small villages which dot the region. The aim is that members of LILTrans will use their various skills to be a positive influence on the existing traditional communities. These communities, which are based on smallholdings and local production and consumption, are under enormous threat from corporate capitalism.

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## Damanhur Wins Ecological Awards

Damanhur, the internationally renowned center for spiritual research, located in the Valchiusella Valley, in the Alpine foothills of northern Italy has won two awards under the Foundation for Environmental Education's (FEE) Green Home scheme.

The awards were made in recognition of the high quality of ecological architecture used by two of Damanhur's new micro-communities, or 'nucleos', as they are known.

One of the buildings, Aval, has one of Europe's largest thermal energy powered air purification and central heating systems.

Both Aval, and the other building Prima Stalla, have large

water holding tanks to collect rainwater, which can be used for most purposes. Both generate substantial amounts of electricity using photovoltaic panels, each of which will have a total capacity of 60kW per hour.

The Prima Stalla community was created to enable the Federation of Damanhurian communities to centralise its organic farming activities on one site. It includes a large barn that can hold more than one hundred animals. Many educational programmes about green home guidelines are scheduled for 2008.

For details, contact Macaco Tamerice: [macaco@damanhur.it](mailto:macaco@damanhur.it)

### POSITIVE ENERGY

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## Tamera Pilgrimage



Tamera's peace pilgrimage

For four weeks a group (which numbered 168 people by the end) walked through Israel and Palestine, led by Sabine Lichtenfels and Benjamin von Mendelssohn from the Tamera ecovillage in Portugal.

Collaborations and concrete plans were made towards the creation of the Peace Research Village in the Middle East.

Two representatives of the San José de Apartadó Peace Village in Colombia participated in the pilgrimage. It became apparent through their stories that the injustice that has befallen the Palestinians is not an isolated incident, but rather part of a global inhumanity. A young Palestinian said: "The situation of the people in Columbia is even more difficult and dangerous than ours. If they can work non-violently and seek reconciliation, then we must do the same."

The pilgrimage spent time at a hill top just 9km from Bethlehem, belonging to the Palestinian family, Nasar. This location may come to play a longer-term role in the creation of a peace centre for the region. Their vision is to create an ecological training centre for Palestinians and a meeting point for peace.

The next vision meeting for the Peace Research Village will take place in spring 2008 along with a community course specifically for Palestinians. At that time, a solar plant will be built on the site as a gift.

For more details, visit: [www.tamera.org](http://www.tamera.org) or contact Leila Dregger: [leila.dregger@sna](mailto:leila.dregger@sna)

## Land Share at Portuguese Eco-initiative

Three couples have so far combined finances and formed a Land Trust to purchase a site as shared land and to create private dwellings in Portugal.

The property is next to Odemira and consists of 10 acres of beautiful land, woodland, and natural wild areas in the Portuguese National Park.

The land and buildings are currently in early stages of cultivation and renovation. Additional investors are sought to complete the full secure ownership of the site by purchasing the fourth building plot and an equal share of the land.

For more details, contact: [ecolife@rainbowtradingpost.com](mailto:ecolife@rainbowtradingpost.com)

## Dutch Ecovillage Wants New Members

The Dutch community, Vlierhof, is looking for new community members who can further develop its international community.

During the Spring of 2008 a new building will be ready and the community, based next to the German border, wants to attract new members to live and work in the community.

In particular, they are looking

for people who can help set up the International Center for Communication and Consciousness: to help with marketing, public relations, fund raising, organising the kitchen and household and to co-ordinate volunteers.

For further information visit: [www.vlierhof.org](http://www.vlierhof.org) or contact Anutosh: [anutosh@vlierhof.org](mailto:anutosh@vlierhof.org) or Annelies [annelies@vlierhof.nl](mailto:annelies@vlierhof.nl)

## UK Sustainable Community Seeks Investors

The group running Trelay Farm, near the north coast of Cornwall, is currently seeking new off-site investors or residents – with money.

The farm was acquired in April 2007 by a non-profit company called SWESE Trelay (South West England Sustainable Enterprises Trelay Ltd). It is being run as a Sustainable Enterprise Community, a mini ecovillage consisting of a 30 acre smallholding.

The group of 11 founder members have established a lively community which lives in a low impact, sustainable manner and aims to approach self-sufficiency in renewable energy, water, sewage, fruit, vegetables and possibly milk, meat, fish, eggs and honey. They live on co-housing principles with

private rooms or cottages, and communal spaces. Their vision is for 12 - 15 living spaces accommodating up to 30 residents, with additional accommodation for visitors and temporary workers.

Eventually there will be a variety of Sustainable Enterprise businesses based at the site, such as renewable energy consultancy, an eco-hostel, courses and crafts.

Jackie Carpenter, one of the founder members, says, "New enthusiastic people are invited to join our embryonic community or to give us financial support; there is plenty of opportunity to make your own sustainable dreams come true here!"

For further details view: [www.trelay.org](http://www.trelay.org)

## Japan Hosts 2nd Ecovillage Conference

The second International Ecovillage Conference was held in Japan, November 2007, with a packed crowd of environmental activists, university professors, students and Japan's green press.

The conference was hosted by the Permaculture Center of

Japan and the BeGood Café, both non-profit organisations which promote ecological sustainability in Japan.

Green-Power TV have posted interviews and highlights, view them at [www.green-power.tv](http://www.green-power.tv)

For information, contact Jun Shikit: [shikita@begoodcafe.com](mailto:shikita@begoodcafe.com)

## Co-housing Film

A new film on co-housing, *Voices of Cohousing. Re-building Villages in the City*, partly financed by GEN-Europe, has been released.



The film, 59 minutes long in English with a choice of subtitles in other languages, tells the story of the co-housing movement through the voices of many people living in co-housing settlements across Scandinavia and northern Europe. It looks at many aspects of life co-housing style and provides an excellent introduction to those who are new to the subject.

For more information view: <http://notsocrazy.net> or contact [cohousing@notsocrazy.net](mailto:cohousing@notsocrazy.net)

## New Ecovillage Film

The Portuguese ecovillage, Tamera, has launched a new, English-language film, *The Solarpowervillage and the Idea of the Global Campus*.

The aim of the film is to raise the international profile of these two initiatives born in Tamera.

The Solarpowervillage, which is the brainchild of designer Jurgen Kleinwächter, is a global model village for food and energy self-sufficiency and community knowledge.

Meanwhile, the Global Campus is a concept emerging from various Tamera-linked initiatives around the world.

For more details, visit: [www.tamera.org](http://www.tamera.org) or contact Leila Dregger: [leila.dregger@snaflu.de](mailto:leila.dregger@snaflu.de)

### SUBMISSIONS

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