

How to Go Off Grid

A Self-Sufficient Living Checklist

www.offgridpermaculture.com

This checklist is designed to help you get started living off grid, and details a 12 step process to building a self-sufficient lifestyle. More details on each step in the original article:

https://offgridpermaculture.com/Beginners/How_to_Live_Off_Grid_A_Checklist_for_Self_Sufficiency.html

1. Work toward living debt free
 - Write out income and expenses
 - Develop a budget
 - Downsize to cut expenses
 - Save money
2. Learn useful skills, including —
 - Canning
 - Cooking
 - Gardening / farming
 - Electrical
 - Mechanical
 - Wood cutting
 - Foraging / hunting
3. Find Off Grid Land
 - Plan for how much you can spend or how big of a down payment you could make
 - Determine what area/state you want to move to

- Avoid common off grid land mistakes
 - Road access in the winter
 - Has water access
 - No zoning restrictions
 - No covenants / HOAs
 - Has south facing slopes, if any
 - Is not susceptible to natural disasters
 - Is not likely to be in the path of urban development
 - Use every means available to search for affordable land
 - Make an offer and close
4. Develop a water source
- Plan your water usage
 - How much do we use per day, month, year
 - What do we use the water for: drinking, washing, flushing, irrigation?
 - Will this change one we go off grid? In the next five years?
 - Identify a source(s) – creek, spring, well, grey water, or rain water
 - Develop a water transport system
 - Gravity feed pipe?
 - Pump?
 - Bucket?
 - Open channel?
 - Consider seasonal availability to identify the need for water storage
 - Test water safety
 - Install purification systems if necessary
5. Construct an off grid house, tiny home, cabin, cob house, or yurt
- Identify how much you can afford
 - How much work can you do, and what skills you have
 - Plan for how you will live during construction, including if the construction takes much longer than planned.

- Choose the site of the home. The home site:
 - Gets some sun, but not too much
 - Is not in the path of runoff or seasonal flooding
 - Is sheltered from wind
 - Is near where I need to work daily
 - Leaves room for gardening, livestock, and food production
 - Accumulate materials
 - File for appropriate permits
 - Ask for help or hire professionals
 - Start construction
6. Set up appropriate waste management
- Identify what you need
 - How many people will use?
 - Strangers or just family?
 - Children?
 - Indoor vs outdoor?
 - Determine how much you can spend
 - Construct your composting toilet, out house, composting system, septic, or biogas generator
 - Develop a yearly maintenance plan
7. Plan for free heating / cooling
- Identify your needs and sources
 - Determine how much passive heating and cooling will work for you
 - Calculate how much energy you need
 - Plan and build a place for fuel storage
 - Install stove, furnaces, and air conditioners
8. Install solar, micro-hydro, or wind power
- Calculate how much power you need
 - Determine what your best energy resources are

- Plan on appropriate off grid energy system
 - Install off grid energy system
 - Develop a maintenance and replacement plan
9. Plant your garden / food forest
- Determine how much food you need to grow
 - Plan a garden space
 - Begin amending the soil
 - Put up fences and beds
 - Build up irrigation
 - Develop an planting / harvest calendar
10. Bring in chickens and other livestock
- Choose the most beneficial livestock
 - Plan and build the barn / coop
 - Plan ahead when and how you will harvest the animals
 - Make the best use out of them for clearing and sustaining the farm
 - Buy in young animals
11. Build up your winter food supply
- Plan for how much food you need to save
 - Build a pantry and/or root cellar
 - Get adequate tools for food processing
 - Harvest — can, dry, or store food
 - Stock up on things you can't grow
12. Establish community
- Plan how you will handle emergencies
 - Make room for fun and entertainment
 - Give back to the community