

# Design

## APLD Design Sustainability Series



Designing sustainably means applying the means available to us to protect the resources we have and leave as small of a footprint as possible. From Vegetation, Soils and Water, through Energy and Materials, we need to consider the Environmental Service each design and installation provides.

### Checklist for Designing a Sustainable Landscape:



Discuss your clients' needs and desires.



Ask your local suppliers which products are renewable resources, as well as where they originate from – this includes any plant material as well.



Perform a site analysis which among other items includes: evaluate soil type and mycorrhizal health, watershed and drainage patterns, existing plants, presence of local animals and their current interactions with the site, and materials to be repurposed.



Be curious about new materials and techniques and ask questions so you have a good understanding of them.



Develop a garden layout which fulfills the clients' desires while enhancing the natural systems found on the site. Consider how these systems could be improved or how any current problem areas could be turned into an advantage.



Encourage the client to choose a contractor who has the knowledge and desire to install your sustainable garden design in a sustainable manner.



Consider materials for the installation which will build biodiversity and have as small of an energy and material use footprint as possible.



Discuss any necessary garden maintenance with the client and remind them to go out and enjoy all the benefits their new garden will bring.



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