1. Observe & interact
"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder"

By taking the time to engage with nature we can design solutions that suit our particular situation.

2. Catch & store energy
"Make hay while the sun shines"

By developing systems that collect resources when they are abundant, we can use them in times of need.

3. Obtain a yield
"You can't work on an empty stomach"

Ensure that you are getting truely useful rewards as part of the work that you are doing.

4. Apply self regulation & accept feedback
"The sins of the fathers are visited on the children of the seventh generation"

We need to discourage inappropriate activity to ensure that systems can continue to function well.

Make the best use of natures abundance to reduce our consumptive behaviour and dependence on non-renewable resources.

5. Use & value renewable resources & services

"Let nature take its course"

By valuing and making use of all the resources that are available to us, nothing goes to waste.
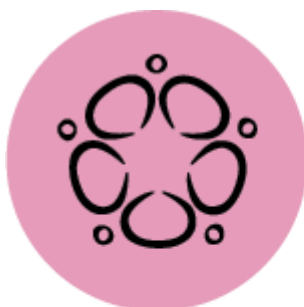
6. Produce no waste

"A stitch in time saves nine"
"Waste not, Want not"

By stepping back, we can observe patterns in nature and society. These can form the backbone of our designs, with the details filled in as we go.

7. Design from patterns to details

"Can't see the forest for the trees"

By putting the right things in the right place, relationships develop between those things and they work together to support each other.

8. Integrate rather than segregate

"Many hands make light work"

Small and slow systems are easier to maintain than big ones, making better use of local resources and produce more sustainable outcomes.

9. Use small & slow solutions

"The bigger they are, the harder they fall"
"Slow and steady wins the race"

Diversity reduces vulnerability to a variety of threats and takes advantage of the unique nature of the environment in which it resides.

10. Use & value diversity

"Don't put all your eggs in one basket"

The interface between things is where the most interesting events take place, these are often the most valuable, diverse and productive elements in the system.

11. Use edges & value the marginal

"Don't think you are on the right track just because it's a well-beaten path"

We can have a positive impact on inevitable change by carefully observing, and then intervening at the right time.

12. Creatively use & respond to change

"Vision is not seeing things as they are but as they will be"