

The Slow Ecology Manifesto

We shall take our time to see the connections within nature and ourselves. To be idle at times, savouring the slanting rays of the sun across landscapes; to languish in honeyed indolence in the dappled shade of woodlands. Being with nature we open ourselves up to a more-than-human world. We slow down our frenzied rushing that often simply accelerates the destruction of nature.

By slowing down, we re-orientate ourselves, choosing a wiser trajectory. We are part of one single interconnected global community, and humans are just a thread in the web of life, intimately joined to all other species on the planet. So, we pledge to do as little harm as possible to the natural world and other people.

Slow Ecology relinquishes grand visions of command and control over global ecosystems. It advocates a bottom up, community-focussed approach. Social and ecological problems are entwined and addressed not by centralisation in far off governments, but through empowering local agency and action. We will help to identify solutions through measured and inclusive deliberation.

Slow Ecology does not shun technology but reflects deeply on values and ensures our technological development is aligned with these.

Most importantly, we find joy in the natural world and other people, taking ample time to understand and celebrate our origins. We encourage a sense of reverence and awe, which we recognise to be the true wellspring of creativity and health.

Three key principles of slow ecology are:

- 1) Taking time to reconnect with nature, letting that slow knowing guide our most effective actions.
- 2) Reflecting deeply to ensure environmental technologies are aligned with our values.
- 3) Engaging in deliberative community-based approaches to solving interlinked environmental and social problems.

For those with a career in ecology:

We will consider and do our utmost to minimise the impacts of our research in terms of materials used and damage to life caused, perhaps even deciding not to proceed if that is the ethical thing to do. We will think deeply about our travel and resource use impacts. We will avoid supporting research paradigms that ignore demands placed on the environment through unsustainable consumption, or we are simply complicit in the problem. And finally, we will endeavour to share our awe of the natural world with younger generations, encouraging them to look in slow wonder at this beautiful planet.