

## Donna Cusano

Donna enjoyed a successful career as an artist and art instructor for 27 years. In 2013 she was introduced to permaculture through her volunteer work with Transition Town Media and immediately enrolled in a permaculture design certification program with Melissa Myles in Kimberton, PA. From there she took instruction in organic gardening from Ben Weiss at Pendle Hill and immersed herself in farming and organic gardening. Between 2014 and 2015 she enrolled in an herbalism course, and worked for Kimberton Whole Foods and Farm to You Market where she furthered her knowledge of local food production, distribution, and the many organic and non-GMO products and resources available in the Philadelphia Region.

Through her work with Transition Town Media, Donna has served as recording secretary, co-coordinator of the Food Working Group, member of the Steering Committee, co-facilitator of the “Outreach Special Forces” working group, and is currently the lead coordinator of the Time Bank Media Initiative. Donna takes the lead as the most active member of Time Bank Media, and has logged 223 exchanges and 396 total hours exchanged.

She is a strong advocate for “Social Permaculture” which takes the principles of creating a regenerative society in the physical sense (making gardens, containing water) and moves them into the social and invisible systems. Rather than focusing energy on the private realm (backyards and homes) Social Permaculture focuses on the public realm (community gardens, businesses and governance). Donna feels our most rewarding work lies in transforming our social, economic, and other systems of interdependency into those that are regenerative for both humans and the planet.