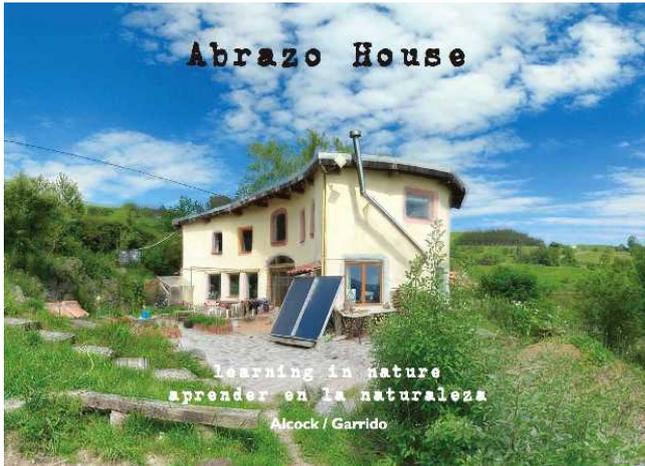




Abrazo House: The Next Step

We are seeking partners to drive the next stage in the development of **Abrazo House** (abrazohouse.org), an ecological education project based in Cantabria, N Spain.



We are looking for a few committed, grounded people who will build on our work since 2006, and lead the transformation of Abrazo House into an economically self-sustaining project that will carry forward our vision of **Learning for Earth Restoration**, running bilingual programmes in English and Spanish that nourish four areas of holistic learning: *Intellectual, Emotional, Spiritual and Practical*.

With our help, support and guidance, you will take full responsibility for setting up and running an autonomous social enterprise based at our unique facilities in a small village near the north

coast of Spain, attracting students of all ages from near and far to courses that offer the best in ecological education, while taking advantage of what our unique region has to offer the world.

This task is not for the faint-hearted. We are looking for partners who are committed to the urgent work of learning for ecological restoration, who are willing and able to do what it takes.

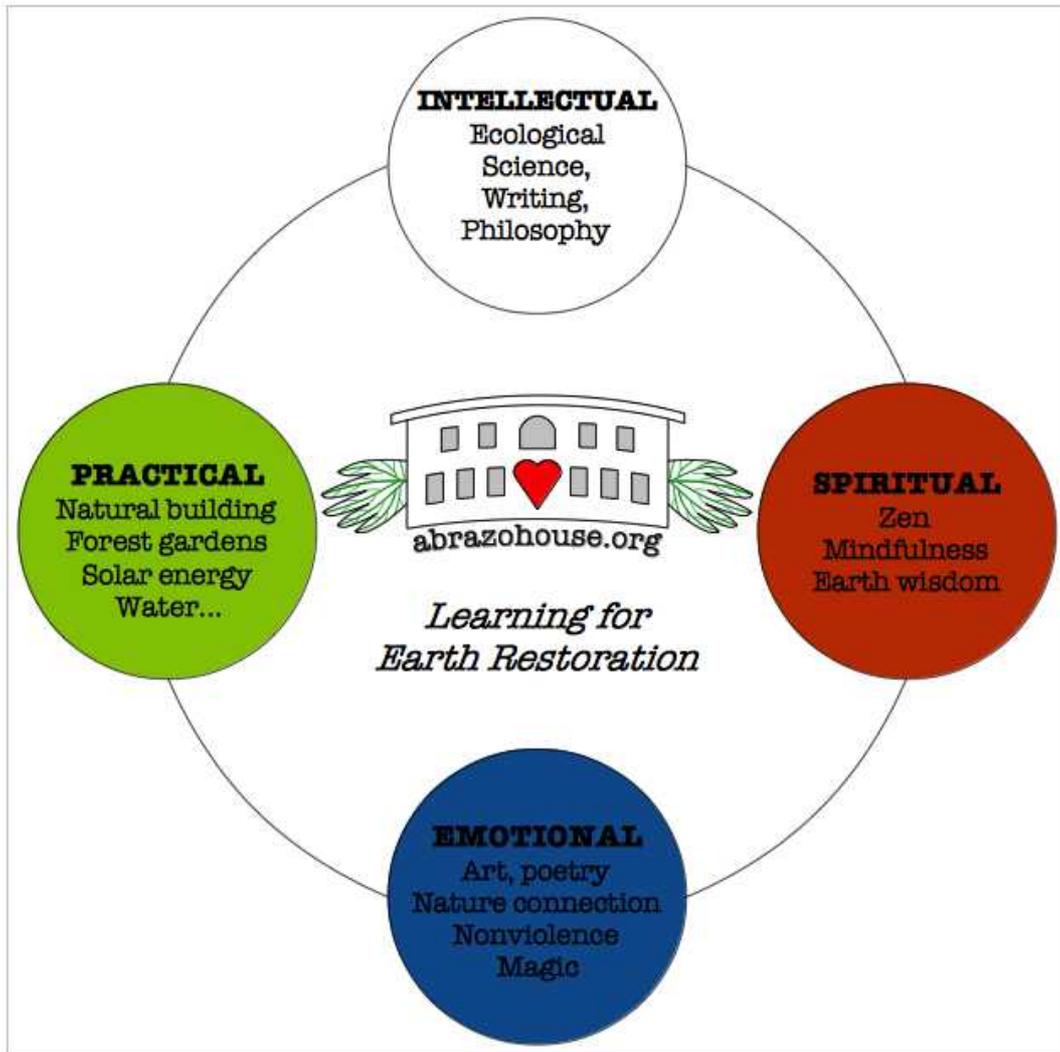
If you think this might be you, read on.

About Abrazo House

Since 2005, we have been working to create a project for ecological learning based in a small village in northern Spain. During this time we have worked principally in the practical realm, informally, with volunteers, creating several buildings at very low cost, using mainly recycled and natural materials; testing and applying appropriate technologies, and converting 0.8ha of pasture into a diverse, productive edible landscape.

We have found inspiration in diverse places from groundbreaking organisations in different realms of activity, including Cob Cottage Company, Schumacher College, Embercombe, Dark Mountain and Plum Village, as our practical view of education for sustainable living has expanded into a holistic vision of Learning for Earth Restoration (see below).

But until now Abrazo House has always been a part-time, non-money-making project in which our mission has shared time and space with our external paid work and family and other commitments. Now it's time to take the next step in our journey, and make the transition to an economically self-sustaining, full-time education centre. Which could be where you come in.



Learning for Earth Restoration: our vision

The Next Step

In 2017 we are expanding to a second site in the same village, just 200m from Abrazo House, where we have started two new buildings that will serve as the base for a fully autonomous education centre running both residential and non-residential educational programmes with an ecological ethos. These could include school visits, university field trips, wilderness retreats, hands-on practical workshops, volunteering openings, and in-depth residential courses that take advantage of the unique benefits offered by our location, facilities and identity. These include:

- Fully bilingual in English and Spanish
- Beautiful handmade passive solar buildings in a stunning setting
- Low overheads: no mortgage, zero heating costs, low cost of living
- Worldwide contacts accumulated during many years
- Excellent transport links: 35min to Santander; 50min to Bilbao.
- Proximity to wilderness areas including mountains (Picos de Europa, Pyrenees), wetlands, woodlands, beaches with excellent surfing, caves with paleolithic art, postmodern cities
- Superb local food and drink

Who we are looking for

We are looking for partners—who could be individuals, groups or established social organisations—with experience in the field of ecological education, who are inspired by a similar vision to ours and have the drive to make a contribution to learning for earth restoration, within our region of northern Spain. We are looking for people who are self-confident and reliable: people who have worked on themselves. You will need to have a fairly fluent level of both Spanish and English and be willing to live here.

You will be responsible for setting up a new social enterprise on the foundation of our decade of work in mostly informal learning. We will provide accommodation and the necessary support and guidance to make this project work until you are able to stand on your own two feet financially. Ideally you would plan to start running educational programmes in September 2017. We expect that the new enterprise will rent the facilities, with the possibility of transferring them to co-op ownership within a few years.

For further information

Please see our website (abrazohouse.org). Especially recommended is the [e-book](#) about the first ten years of the project.

What next

If you think this might be for you, please send an email to ralcock@euskalnet.net including details of your experience and your ideas.

Abrazo House, December 2016