



## “Sustainable Conservation – Heading for Harmony”

---

### **Biography: Ms. Kim Thompson, The Deanery Project**

Kim has been pioneering development of straw bale construction and other natural building methods through design/builds and dedicated building research in Atlantic Canada since 1993. As a sessional instructor with Faculty of Architecture, Dalhousie University since 1998 she investigates with students (and others through public workshops), a wide variety of low impact, affordable, and environmentally responsible construction techniques through hands-on community-centred projects.

She has produced a variety of resources on natural building systems including booklets, videos, articles and curriculum guides for schools exploring art and community through natural building. Permaculture design and Transition Town principals are important lens' which help guide her research and development program.

Kim is a founding member and currently Executive Director of the Deanery Project (<http://www.thedeaneryproject.com>). Located in Ship Harbour, Nova Scotia (1 hour east of Halifax) this beautiful, ocean front property offers place-based experiential learning focused on environment, art and community. Since its launch in 2011 it has been providing a remarkable model of how communities can reinvigorate themselves by understanding, respecting and enabling their local natural and human resources. Energy planning and innovation are at the heart of this venture.