How to Go Off-Grid Checklist

1. Initial Planning
   ☐ Get financials in order
     ☐ Create a budget
     ☐ Reduce unnecessary living expenses (new clothes, cable TV, eating out, etc.)
     ☐ Start saving
     ☐ Pay off debts
   ☐ Research off-grid lifestyles
   ☐ Research local laws about off-grid living
   ☐ Decide how far you want to go off grid (electricity, water, sewage, etc.)
   ☐ Decide how remote you want to live
   ☐ Think about your health and how it will factor into off-grid living
   ☐ Define WHY you want to go off grid
   ☐ Think about what skills you already have (carpentry, gardening, first aid, etc.)
   ☐ Consider ways to make money while living off grid

2. Start Producing Your Own Food
   ☐ Learn about gardening
     ☐ Start a garden at your current home – choose just a few plants for starters
     ☐ Learn about other gardening methods, such as: permaculture, greenhouses, hydroponics, and aquaponics
   ☐ Learn how to hunt
     ☐ Get a hunting license
     ☐ Get a gun
     ☐ Set up practice area or go to range
     ☐ Learn about animal behavior and tracking
     ☐ Learn how to butcher animals
   ☐ Learn about raising animals for food
     ☐ Take a tour of a small farm
     ☐ Volunteer/apprentice on a farm

3. Learn to Preserve Food
   ☐ Learn how to pickle produce (lacto-fermentation and vinegar method)
   ☐ Learn how to can produce
   ☐ Learn how to dry and smoke meat
   ☐ Learn how to make a root cellar

4. Buy Your Property
   ☐ Choose an area to live
   ☐ Prioritize your needs, such as accessibility, access to water, whether there are neighbors, soil quality, and natural resources on the land
5. Plan Your Off-Grid Home

- Consult with an engineer or architect who specializes in green homes
  - Learn about green homebuilding methods and materials
  - Decide how large your home needs to be
  - Consider how to expand home later, if necessary
  - Decide whether you want to build the home yourself

- Plan the layout of the property
  - Consider sunlight exposure, access to water, well locations, waste disposal areas, gardens, sheds and outbuildings

- Plan your plumbing and water supply system
  - Research rainwater harvesting systems
  - Determine whether you want to use a compost toilet, latrine, and/or septic tank
  - Hire a geologist to locate well locations on your property

- Plan your electric system
  - Decide whether you want to be completely off grid or still connected
  - Decide if you want to use solar power, wind power, or both
  - Research whether you can gain any rebates for going off-grid
  - Consult with a solar power engineer
    - Calculate your energy requirements
    - Calculate equipment needs

- Plan your heating system
  - Decide what type of insulation you will use
  - Decide what heating system you want to use (wood stove, wood furnace, solar heating, power generators, coal, animal dung as fuel)
  - Secure access to heating fuel

- Build a root cellar

- Plan transportation methods
  - Learn auto mechanics
  - Consider bikes, motorbikes, quad bikes, 4WD vehicles, or other forms of transportation suited for the area

- Reassess your budget
  - Plan for building expenses, permits, tools, labor, machinery, repairs, and other startup costs
  - Prioritize costs
  - Make a project plan for your off-grid home
    - Include an itemized list of expenses per project
    - Determine what projects you will do first

6. Moving Into Your Off-Grid Home

- Construct your home
  - Decide at what point you will move in
  - Consider living there on weekends in an RV or tent if you can’t completely move in right away

- Water and plumbing
  - Install toilet system
  - Drill well
- Set up rainwater harvesting system
- Set up greywater harvesting system
- Set up a solar shower

- **Heating**
  - Install heating system
  - Start stockpiling fuel for the winter

- **Electric**
  - Install solar system
  - Get generator
  - Practice reducing energy use

- **Waste**
  - Start a compost pile
  - Learn to reuse and reduce waste

- **Start your garden**
  - Calculate how much food you need to plant to survive the winter
  - Decide what types of foods you want to grow
  - Design your garden
  - Budget for and buy any tools you need
  - Plan crops by season
  - Plant an orchard for fruits and nuts
  - Start sprouting seeds for your first crop
  - Learn to maintain and repair tools

- **Get chickens**
  - Build a chicken coop
  - Buy heat lamps for chicks
  - Buy chicks and raise them indoors
  - Move chicks to their coop when the weather is warm

- **Get livestock**
  - Build pens, fences, and pastures
  - Build a barn if necessary
  - Go to livestock fairs to start learning about breeds
  - Consider how you will transport livestock
  - Buy your livestock
  - Learn veterinary care

- **Build greenhouse**
- **Build aquaponics system**

- **Stay healthy**
  - Learn first aid
  - Learn natural remedies
  - Set up a medicinal garden
  - Stay active and eat healthy to prevent disease

- **Be happy because you are living off the grid now!**