

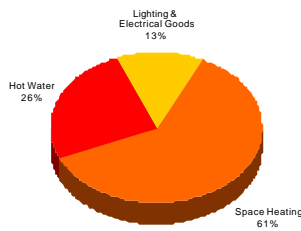
Ecorenovation on a Budget

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Editor



Greening the Home

31% of all energy used in the UK is used in the home.



A poorly insulated 1970s UK home uses 13,000kWhr of energy each year for space heating. A modern home with reasonable standards of insulation uses 4,000kWhr.



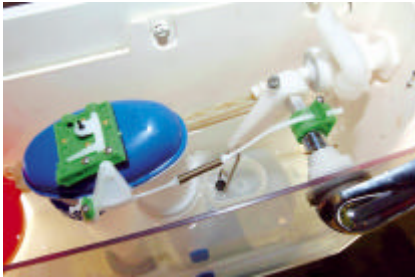
Low tech options like draught-proofing and insulation preserves heat and saves money



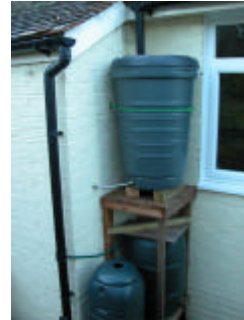
330W of solar PV feeds a 720Ah battery bank and a low power ring main via an inverter plus a flat panel solar hot water system.



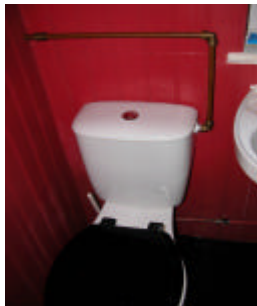
We use 150 litres per day on average and we flush our loos with treated drinking water



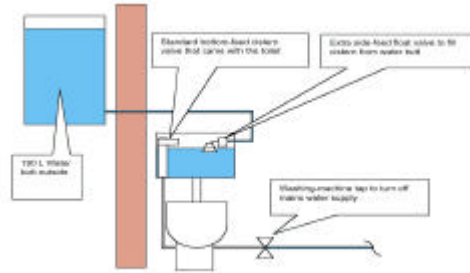
We can also retrofit existing toilets: this Interflush device uses only what is required every time



Or even a simple rainwater flush system for a downstairs toilet?



The feed goes straight into the loo from the outside but can be switched back to mains in dry spells (or when the butt freezes)



Rainwater harvesting is a must, especially to fill pond. Locate a butt nearby.



How about a water butt cascade?



Or a water diverter from the bathroom?



Andrew's Dunsleyheat Yorkshire stove is Clean Air Act exempt and heats both space (radiators) and water with its backboiler. It is backed up by the solar thermal panels.



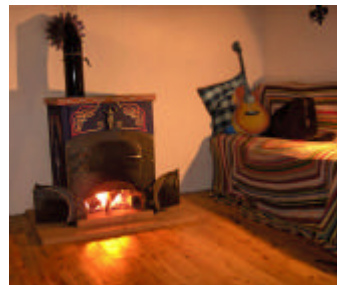
A masonry woodburning stove reduces gas and oil bills. This example is home made out of paving slabs.



and here's the cut list



Here's the parts laid out before construction



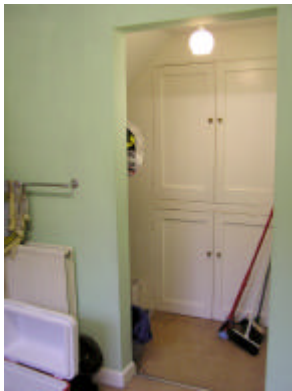
The finished stove is painted with stove and acrylic paints. An inexpensive and attractive option



It's tempting to rip out an old kitchen



But it is amazing what some paint and an FSC worktop can do



The removal of a wall can also create useful space in a small room



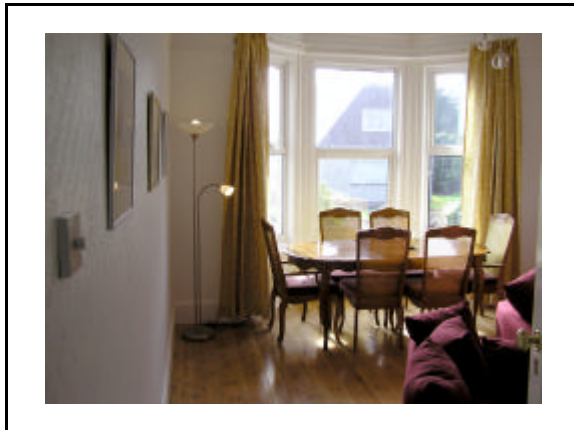
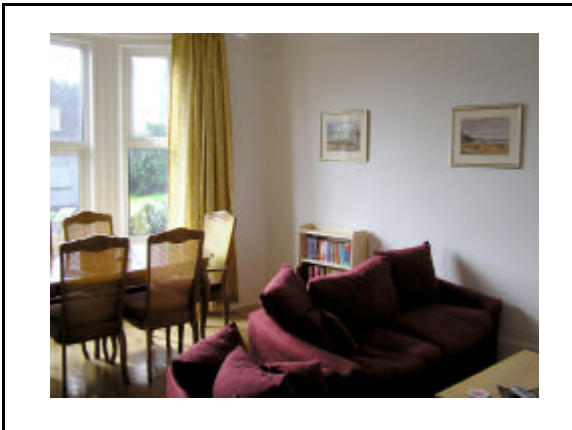
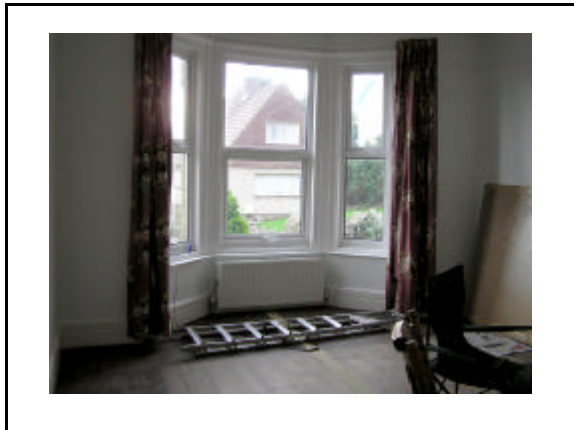
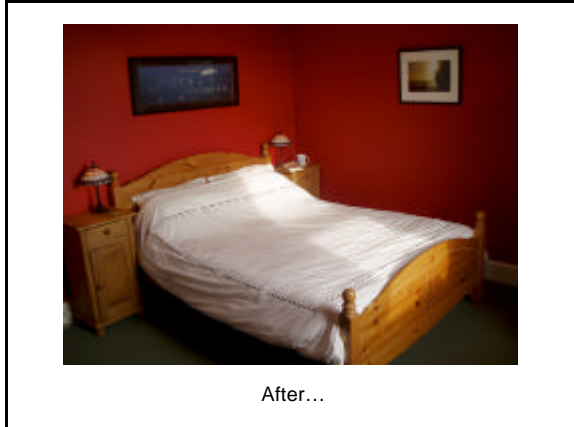
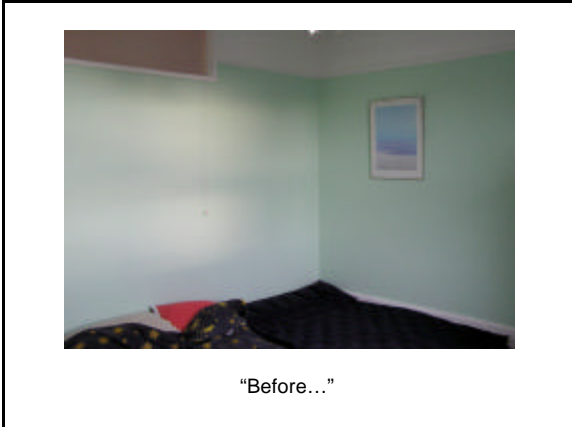
Important when you don't have anywhere to sit in the kitchen



Victorian wood floors are an eco-renovators dream



Floor: Osmo Polyx Oil
Skirting: Green Paint gloss
Walls & radiator: Green Paint satin emulsion





Eco-renovating a leaking tar and pitch roof.

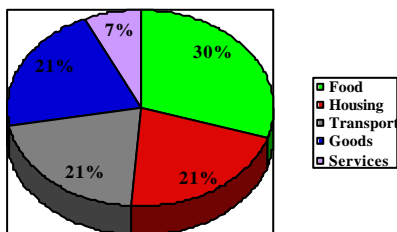


After stripping the roof, we laid a membrane over the existing chipboard, added sifted top soil & planted drought resistant sedum.



The sedum roof doesn't take long to establish and is popular with birds who forage for worms in the mulch material and collect nesting material in early spring.

The Garden



Grow food inside and outside as much as possible. Our food can add up to up a third of our ecological footprint.



From this tiny garden it is possible to produce the equivalent of 15 tonnes of food per acre with only four hours work a week. Note use of vertical space.



We can grow unusual and very tasty types of fruit. Asian or Nashi Pear is usually found in Waitrose.



Composters can be made from virtually anything.



The tractor tyres in the background make an excellent composter and a microclimate for tomatoes.



Plants can also provide useful seasonal shade as well as provide food.



“The important question to me is how I want to live my life. When I ask myself that question I physically feel the force of life within me, that force which forms an unbroken thread from the first cell that budded into life billions of years ago. I don’t want to break that thread. I don’t want to quietly accept that we’re living at the end of the World. I want to devote the years that are left to me on Earth to life rather than death.”

Patrick Whitefield
From 'Turning Down the Heat', PM55



Thank You

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