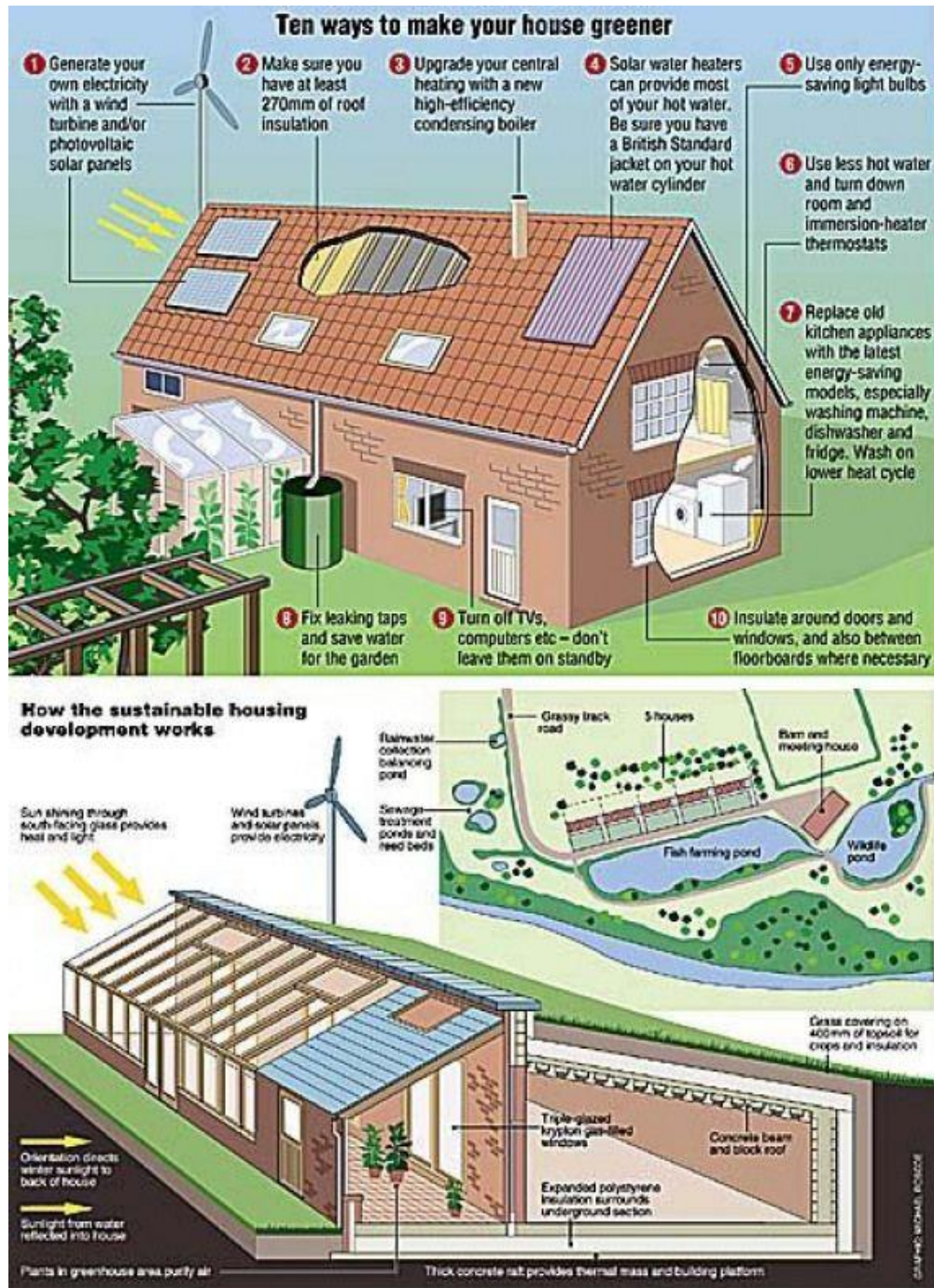


# Eco-Homes

We are in a climate emergency. Buildings are a significant culprit for carbon emissions – accountable for 35% of total global energy consumption. Building an eco-house has never been easier; what was once a niche within the homebuilding sector has now become the focus of many new builds, especially for self-builders.



Some examples of the ways in which homes can become more eco-friendly

## What Does an Eco House Have?

An eco house could include some or all of the following:

- High levels of insulation
- High levels of airtightness
- Good levels of daylight
- Superior double or triple-glazed windows
- Passive solar orientation — glazing oriented south for light and heat, and minimum north-facing glazing to reduce heat loss
- Thermal mass to absorb that solar heat
- Brise soleil, deep overhangs, air conditioning and other features to manage overheating
- Heating and/or hot water provision from a renewable source (such as solar panels, heat pump or biomass)
- A healthy indoor environment, which may include a mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) system in a highly airtight home
- Specifying electricity from a 'green' supplier
- Renewable energy systems, such as solar PV and solar thermal
- Natural materials and an avoidance of plastics
- Rainwater harvesting and greywater collection
- Living off-mains.

Improving the standard of our buildings is not restricted to new constructions. There are many ways in which our existing housing stock can be made more eco-friendly. Many householders are considering how to retrofit their homes through achieving higher insulation levels, upgrading to energy-efficient appliances, or implementing cutting-edge technologies.

There are now many firms who provide advice and assessments of what may be possible. Defining a clear plan helps in managing expectations and finances as well as ensuring a smooth and well-coordinated process that meets your goals.

One of our local residents has embarked on a journey to build their own eco-home and have agreed to let us follow their progress during the coming years. George and Sarah will share pictures of the build and how they are progressing.

Click this picture link to their page, which we will update as the project evolves:

