

# Greening Your Home

Help the Environment,  
Save Energy,  
Water and Money.



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## Introduction

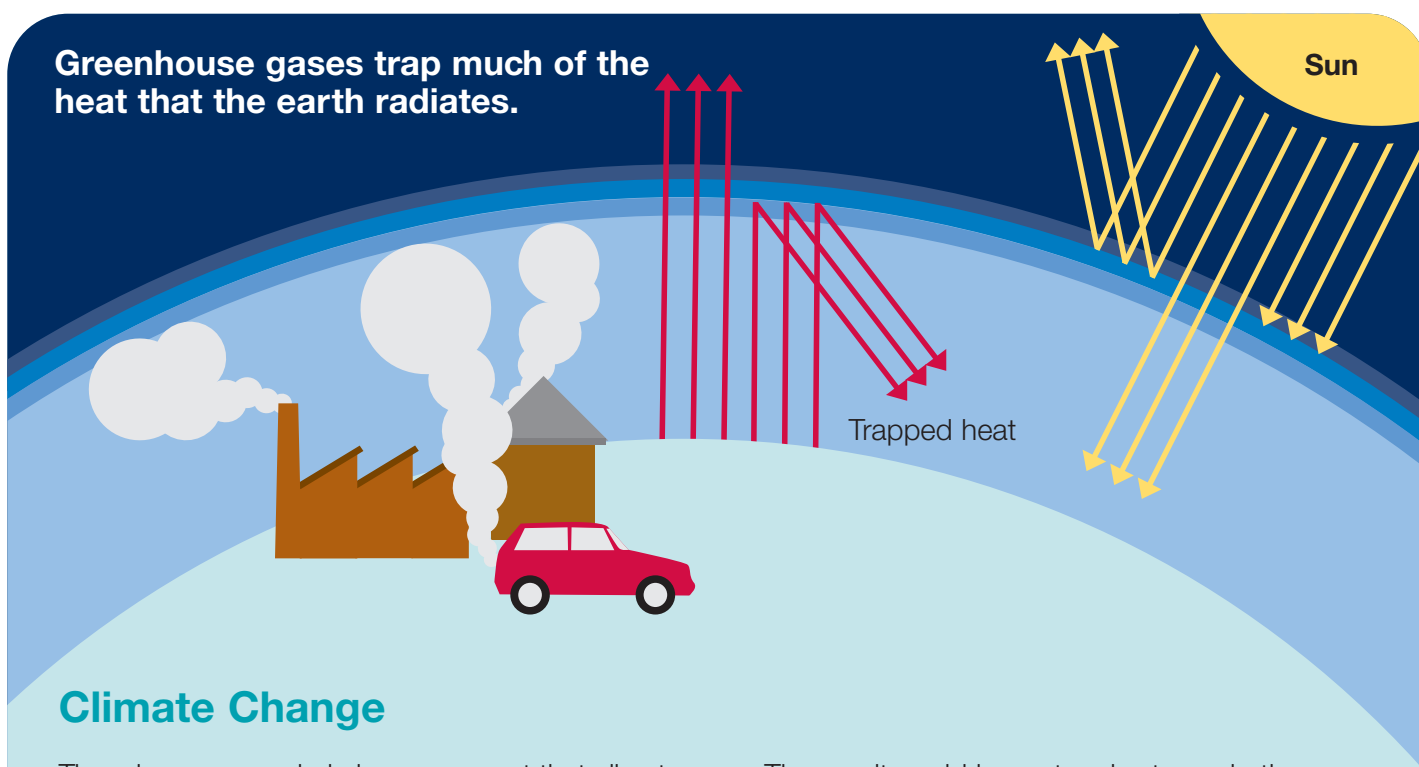
Whatever type of homes we live in, we can all take actions to make them greener, healthier and more comfortable places to live.

Greening Your Home will provide you with information that will help you put into practice ideas and approaches for renovating your home in an environmentally sensitive way. Positive changes can be made in many ways, from changing a light bulb or your boiler to larger scale renovation works, and opportunities will arise over time as you gradually repair, extend, rebuild and replace parts of your home.

The information in this guide will help you to:

- Save energy and money,
- Save water and reduce water pollution,
- Choose environmentally sound materials,
- Reduce your household waste,
- Live in a healthier, more comfortable home,
- Improve your garden and enhance biodiversity,
- Find sources of further information, and
- Find sources of funding for greening your home.

**Greenhouse gases trap much of the heat that the earth radiates.**



## Climate Change

There is now overwhelming agreement that climate change is occurring and that there has been a rise in temperatures in the last 30 years. This is largely due to the increase in greenhouse gas emissions that trap the earth's heat. Over the last 200 hundred years, the burning of fossil fuels – coal, gas, oil and petrol – has increased the concentration of the greenhouse gas Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by one third.

The current prediction is that by 2080, temperatures in London could rise by between 2°C and 6°C, that summers will be drier (rain fall could drop by up to 60%), and winters will be wetter (rainfall could rise by up to 30%).

The result could be water shortages in the summer and wetter winters with an increased risk of flooding.

A significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions originate from generating the energy we use to heat and light our homes, and we are increasingly running a greater number of household appliances. The energy we use to heat, light and power our homes produces 27% of the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We can all do our bit to help reduce this. By being energy efficient we can reduce the energy wasted by our buildings and domestic appliances during their use.

## 1

# Saving Energy in the Home

## Introduction

The energy we use in our homes can have a large impact on the environment. Almost all the energy we use in heating, lighting, cooking, powering our computers and household appliances comes from fossil fuel sources such as gas and oil. Burning of fossil fuel leads to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and contributes to global warming.

There are many opportunities for reducing the energy we use in our homes. The design and fabric of our homes can make a significant contribution. By properly insulating our homes, carefully designing any building works to be energy efficient, and making the most of sunlight, we can help reduce our energy demands, as well as create more comfortable homes to live in. Simple measures such as closing curtains at dusk help stop heat loss. Installing condensing boilers, heating controls and energy saving lightbulbs and appliances reduce energy use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions significantly. Reduced energy use means lower energy bills!

Using renewable energy systems for generating heat and light reduces our reliance even further on energy sources that contribute to climate change. Renewable energy is energy that is obtained from sources that are essentially inexhaustible, unlike fossil fuels, of which there is a finite supply. Renewable energy technologies in the UK include solar photovoltaics (solar PV), solar water heating, ground source heat pumps, small scale wind turbines and biomass heating systems.

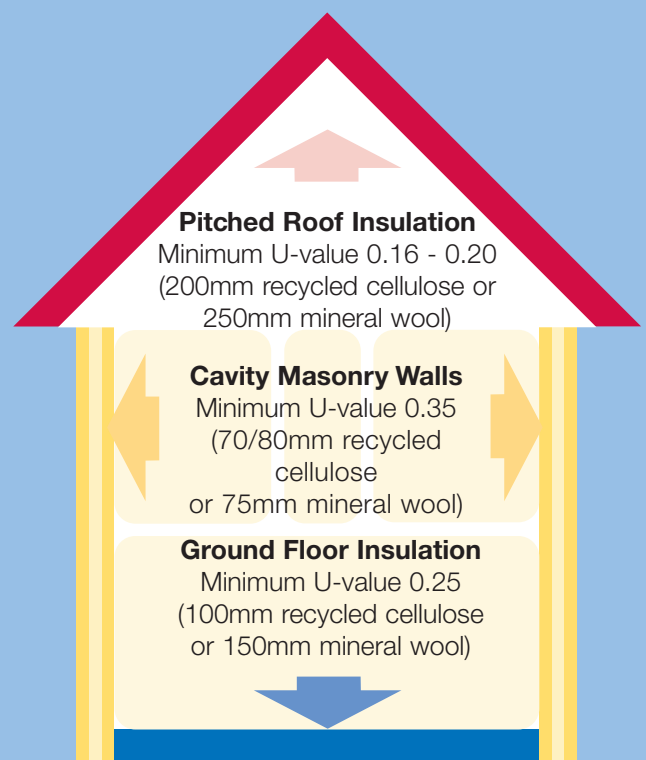
## Design and Fabric of Your Home

### Insulation

Insulation is one of the most important of all energy saving measures. Heat is lost in buildings through the roof, walls, floor and windows, but it can also be lost from hot water storage tanks and hot water pipes. The more heat that is lost from a building, the more energy and money is needed to keep it warm.

Building Regulations provide information on minimum levels of insulation required. Even 50mm extra insulation makes a difference. Any addition of insulation to walls, floors or roof requires an application to be made with Building Control prior to the work commencing (Tel: 020 8489 5504, email: [building.control@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@haringey.gov.uk)).

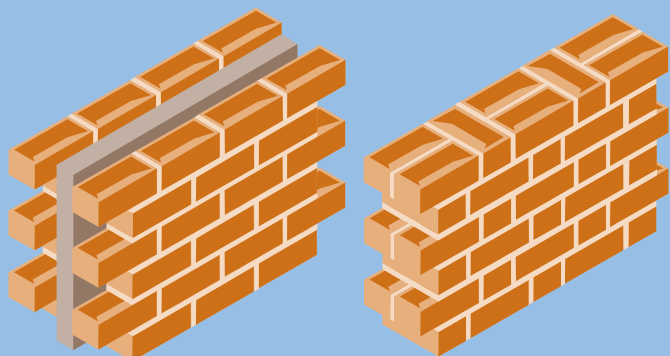
### Minimum Insulation Requirements Under Building Regulations



### You Can Do More!

The figures shown here are the minimum levels of insulation you should have. You can go higher than these minimum levels. Extra insulation means that your home becomes more energy efficient and you pay less for heating it.

## Wall Types



Cavity Wall

Solid Wall

## Walls

Walls can lose more heat than any other part of your home (up to 35%). The way you can insulate depends on the type of walls your property has – either cavity wall or solid wall insulation.

**Cavity Wall** means the wall has a gap between the inner and outer wall. This provides you with an opportunity to insulate the gap, which is an inexpensive way of reducing heat loss by up to 60%. Cavity insulation works must be checked by the Council's Building Control department (Tel: 020 8489 5504).

**Solid Wall** insulation is slightly more complicated and expensive, and can be achieved through internal or external wall insulation. External wall insulation consists of insulation and weatherproof render or cladding. Works should be done by a qualified energy efficiency installer (please see [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) for details of how to find one), and external works may require planning permission (please check with the Council's Planning Department. Tel: 020 8489 5269).

## Insulating Your Roof and Loft Space

Your home may already have some loft insulation, but if the material is thin it will not be saving as much energy and money as it could. Fitting proper loft insulation is the most cost-effective way of saving energy. If everyone installed 27cm loft insulation we would save enough money to pay the energy bills of around 880,000 families for a year.

## Floor Insulation

If you have any gaps between your floorboards and skirting boards, you can reduce heat loss by sealing them with the application of a regular tube sealant, like the silicon sealant used around the bath. It is also worth insulating underneath the floorboards at ground floor level.

## Draught Proofing

There is a range of effective draft proofing measures you can use to help insulate your home:

- Fix brush seals to exterior doors and letterboxes, and tape to ill-fitting doors,
- Put aluminum foil behind radiators to reflect heat into the room, and
- Use shutters for windows and/or thicker curtains that do not drape over radiators.

## Hot Water Tanks and Pipes

By insulating your hot water tank and pipes you will retain hot water for longer, and save money on heating it. Insulate pipes if you can – especially between the boiler and the hot water cylinder.

- If your tank has less than 75mm of insulation, you will save energy if you fit another jacket over the existing one, or replace it.
- You should insulate pipes in the loft to stop them freezing and bursting in the cold weather.

## Ventilation

Do not forget about ventilation when insulating your home – it is needed to help prevent condensation and for cooling your home during hot spells. Using 'passive' ventilation is the best way of ventilating a building, as it does not require the use of energy. Examples of passive ventilation include anything from simply opening a window to installing trickle vents in your window heads.

Windows should have varying sizes of opening to allow ventilation to be varied without compromising security and safety. A trickle ventilation slot built into a window head is sufficient for minimum level ventilation for bedrooms and the living room. The installation of a fireplace will also require its own ventilation.

For kitchens and bathrooms, warm air and pollution from indoor cooking processes makes it very important to ventilate these areas well. Low-level mechanical ventilators for bathrooms and kitchens are a requirement under Building Regulations.

## Improving Window Performance

Windows control how much heat and light is let into your home, but they can also let a lot of heat out when temperatures are colder outside than inside. The orientation, size, and type of window can all affect the level of comfort in your home.

If you are replacing windows or building an extension, it is beneficial to maximise the size of the windows in the southern parts of your home in order to make better use of the sun's energy. However, large windows can also lead to the loss of heat to the outside as well as increasing the likelihood of summer overheating. Major increases in glazed areas can give diminishing returns unless the window is highly insulated to prevent heat loss and provided with a shading measure (such as eaves and/or screens) to prevent excessive heat gain. A ratio of around 8% window to floor area should be used for south facing windows to achieve the appropriate level of solar gain. Windows on northern parts of your home should be smaller and well insulated, unless they are required for cooling purposes.

Choosing effective double or even triple glazing will ensure that both heat and light are let into the building, but that the loss of heat is reduced. Double glazing can cut heating loss through windows by 50%, which will reduce the need for energy use. Installation of high performance glazing can also cut down on noise and condensation.

You require approval under Building Regulations to replace windows and doors. Windows should be installed either by a contractor approved under the Fenestration Self-Assessment scheme ([www.fensa.co.uk](http://www.fensa.co.uk) Tel: 020 7645 3700) or following approval by the Council's Building Control department (please check with the Council's Building Control department for further advice. Tel: 020 8489 5504).

Before installing windows of a different design to the existing ones, check whether planning restrictions apply to your home. This would be the case if you live in a flat. If your property were a listed building, listed building consent would also be required.

## Low-E (emissivity) Glass

This is a special type of double glazing with a transparent coating fused to the inner side of the pane, which reflects heat back into the room. This material acts as a thermal mirror. Low-E glass keeps warmth inside during the winter and keeps heat outside during the summer. It also screens out the sun's ultraviolet rays, which helps to reduce fading of carpets and curtains. Low-E glass can significantly reduce heat loss, giving an effect similar to triple glazing for less cost.

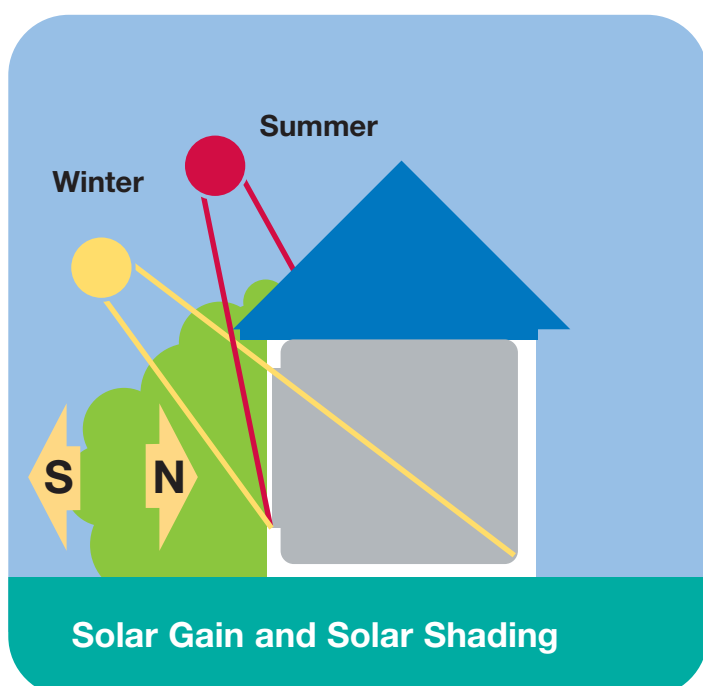
Optimum efficiency can be achieved by using Low-E glass in conjunction with an inert gas, such as argon or krypton injected into the gap between the two layers of glass. In colder weather, Low-E/Argon or Low-E/Krypton helps minimise heat loss. In warmer weather, it reflects radiant heat and helps reduce UV damage to furniture, fabric or flooring. Low-E/Argon or Low-E/Krypton glazing can help lower energy bills and keep indoor temperatures pleasant all year-round. This can only be achieved when window units are factory-sealed and these are now readily available.



## Making the Most of Sunlight: Passive Solar Energy

The sun is the source of nearly all energy on earth. We use this energy all the time as it enters through the windows and warms the fabric of our homes. This is known as “Passive Solar Energy”. If you are considering building an extension to your home, or converting your loft, they can both be designed to make the most of the sun’s energy. The sun’s energy is free to use and will help to reduce your energy bills!

- Good orientation and layout allows you to make the most of sunlight both for warming extensions and providing natural light to rooms. But be careful to position extensions so that they do not cut out natural sunlight to the rest of your home or to your neighbours.
- Orient your extension to the south where possible. This will allow you to utilise the sun’s energy to improve its comfort and warmth.
- Skylights and windows on the southerly facing sides of buildings bring more free warmth from the sun into your home – especially in the winter. It is also important to consider including some shading, such as eaves and blinds, so that the rooms do not overheat in midsummer.
- Thermal massing (providing structural elements with a high mass) helps to maximise the benefits of passive solar gain and helps to reduce temperature fluctuations within the building. These elements will absorb heat during the day and release it slowly during the night, when it is cooler.



**Conservatories and sunspaces should be separated from the main building to reduce heat loss and improve performance**



### Conservatories and Sunspaces

Conservatories and sunspaces can play an important part in improving the energy efficiency of your home, for instance, by adding an extra layer of ‘insulation’ to external walls and windows. But they must be designed and used properly so that you can gain the maximum benefit from them and avoid excessive heat loss.

- Conservatories work best if they are on the southerly aspect of buildings and are free from over-shading by trees and other structures.
- High and low level opening vents and blinds need to be provided to help reduce excessive summer and afternoon heat.
- Conservatories should be separate from the main building. Walls, windows and doors facing into the conservatory should be insulated to the same standard as any other external part of your home.
- Conservatories should not be heated (other than background heat to prevent frost damage).

## Planning Permission

If you are carrying out development works, such as adding a conservatory or extension, converting your loft, replacing your windows or installing a solar panel, you may need to obtain planning permission from the Council.

In some cases, small domestic extensions and loft conversions to houses (but not flats, maisonettes or flat conversions) do not require formal planning permission provided they meet specific criteria, which are called permitted development rights.

Permitted development rights for domestic extensions (including conservatories, dormer windows and other roof additions) are dependent on a number of issues including their volume and position, and also the type and size of your house (for example, a detached, semi-detached, or terraced house). Development rights may also be affected if your property is located in a Conservation Area.

Planning policy guidance and the criteria against which these types of development will be assessed may be obtained from the Council's Planning Department (Tel: 020 8489 5269). Further information on permitted development rights and the requirement for planning permission can be obtained from the Planning Portal website ([www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)).

## Building Control

Whether or not you require planning permission for your work, you will usually need to obtain Building Regulation consent. This includes issues of fire safety, accessibility for people with disabilities, structural stability, water penetration, sound and thermal insulation, ventilation, sanitary provision, drainage, flues and boilers, stairways, conservation of fuel energy and glazing safety. Further advice can be obtained from the Council's Building Control department (Tel: 020 8489 5504, email: [building.control@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@haringey.gov.uk)) Information can also be found on [www.haringey.gov.uk/index/housing\\_and\\_planning/buildingcontrol.htm](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/housing_and_planning/buildingcontrol.htm)

## Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

Although a number of the ideas in this guide can be applied to enhance the environmental performance of historic buildings, the special character of these buildings, particularly those that are listed, needs to be considered to ensure that any works undertaken complement their historic character.

This is particularly relevant if you are considering altering wall surfaces to provide better insulation, replacing windows or renewable energy installations. Detailed information can be found on these issues in the Council's publication, *Use of Renewable Energy Systems: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas*. It can be accessed online at [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk). English Heritage have also produced a range of leaflets called 'Framing Opinions,' which include advice on draught proofing traditional windows (please call English Heritage on 0870 333 1181 to order a copy).

Any works that alter the character of a listed building would require listed building consent. This is a separate process to obtaining planning permission. This would include works such as refacing external walls, replacing windows and installing external boiler flues. Please contact the Council's Design and Conservation Team for further advice on listed buildings and conservation areas (Tel: 020 8489 5275).



## Use of Energy Efficient Systems

Using devices and systems that are more energy efficient is a simple and very effective way of reducing energy consumption in your home. Below are examples of easy changes you can make to save money and energy.

### Condensing Boilers

Boilers account for around 60% of all domestic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Using a high efficiency condensing boiler with heating controls to provide domestic heating and hot water could significantly cut your home's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

An energy efficient condensing boiler converts more than 88% of its fuel into heat, compared with 'standard' boilers that convert up to 65% ([www.sedbuk.com](http://www.sedbuk.com) Tel: 01242 677877). Replacing an old boiler (more than 10 years old) with a high efficiency condensing boiler will save you around 1/3 on your heating bills, and as the current lifespan of a boiler is 10-15 years, a condensing boiler would make a huge difference to your heating bills over time. If everyone with gas central heating installed a new condensing boiler, we would cut emissions by 11.8 million tonnes. We would also save £1.2 billion per year on our energy bills and enough energy to heat over 3 million homes for a year.

Under current Building Regulation legislation, you are required to install an energy efficient condensing boiler whenever you install a new boiler or replace an existing one (please check with the Council's Building Control department for further details. Tel: 020 8489 5504).

### Heating Controls

You can install heating controls that allow you to control the temperature in different parts of your home. These can be included as an electronic timer control for your boiler, room thermostats for your main living area and thermostatic valves on all your radiators. You can save energy by reducing the temperature at which hot water is stored by using a water tank thermostat and setting it at the lowest temperature that will give you the hot water that you need. 60°C is ideal for a hot water tank.


## Lighting

In most homes lighting accounts for 10 to 15% of the electricity bill. It is easy to cut wastage by simply turning off lights and adjusting blinds and curtains to let in more natural light. When lighting a room, use energy saving light bulbs. If everyone in the UK installed one energy saving light bulb, we would save enough CO<sub>2</sub> to fill the Albert Hall nearly 2,000 times.

Make sure you choose a good quality energy efficient bulb or light fitting by looking for the Energy Efficiency Recommended Logo. Energy can also be saved on domestic security lighting. A 150 watt bulb is adequate for responsive security lighting rather than 250-300 watt usually sold. According to the Institute of Lighting Engineers, a continuous low level illumination (around 9w) is considered a suitable level to act as a crime deterrent. Solar powered outside lights are also now widely available.

## Appliances

Modern appliances are generally more efficient than older models. They use less energy and therefore cost less to run. "A" rated models are the most efficient, and "G" rated the least, and although more efficient models can be more expensive, they will save their extra purchase price over their lifetime. Look out for the Energy Efficiency Recommended Logo and the EU energy label – both will advise you of the energy efficiency of an appliance. You can also fit a SavaWatt to your fridge-freezer and save up to 20% off running costs ([www.savawatt.co.uk](http://www.savawatt.co.uk) Tel: 01789 490 340).

Energy		Fridge-Freezer
Manufacturer Model		
More efficient		
A		A
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		
Less efficient		
G		
Energy consumption kWh/year <small>Based on standard test results for item</small>		325
<small>Actual consumption will depend on how the appliance is used and where it is located</small>		
Fresh food volume l		190
Frozen food volume l		126
Noise (db(A) re 1 pW)		★★★★
<small>Further information is available in product brochures</small>		

## Generating Your Own Energy: Renewable Energy

The source of energy used in buildings is a very important factor when trying to reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a building. Electricity that is produced by gas or coal-fuelled power stations has a high level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with it, whereas a renewable energy source results in little or no CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Using renewable energy systems for generating heat and light reduces our reliance on energy sources that contribute to climate change, such as fossil fuels, and can help make a big difference to the energy efficiency of your home. As a homeowner, you can consider the installation of a variety of renewable energy sources, be it a solar hot water heating system, photovoltaic panels, a ground source heat pump or a biomass boiler. Renewable energy is as reliable as energy from more traditional sources and using it does not mean that you have to change your lifestyle or your appliances.

Renewable energy has a number of benefits that positively impact on you as a consumer and the environment:

- A local and replenishable resource,
- Less dependence on non-renewable fossil fuels,
- Less carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and
- Cleaner air.

Before installing any such systems, an application is to be made with Building Control prior to the work commencing (Tel: 020 8489 5504, email: [building.control@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@haringey.gov.uk)).

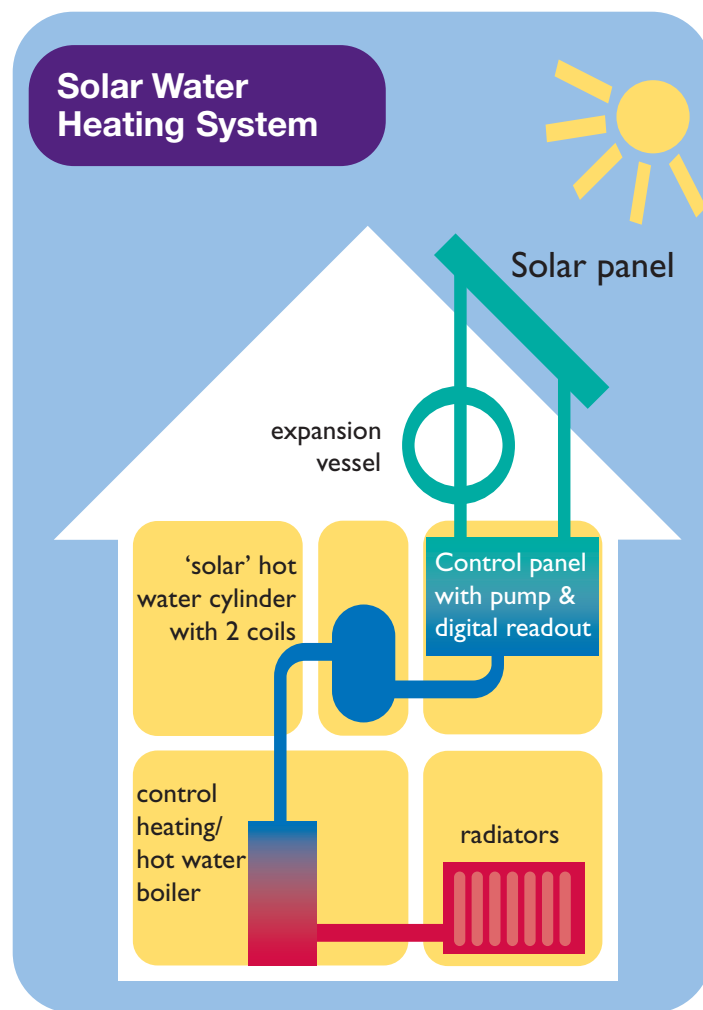
### Solar Energy Systems

You can make the sun work even harder for you by installing special collectors to harness its energy.

There are two main types of collector:

- Solar systems for heating water, and
- Photovoltaic cells that convert light energy to electricity.

If you are replacing or installing a new heating, hot water or energy system, why not consider solar energy as an environmentally sound alternative?



In many cases, fixing solar panels to the roof of a single dwelling house is likely to be considered 'permitted development' under planning law with no need to apply for planning permission. Exceptions include conservation areas and listed buildings. Panels should not be installed above the ridgeline and should project no more than 200mm from the roof or wall surface. If you wish to install a solar panel on your roof. Building Regulations will also apply please contact Building Control prior to the work commencing (Tel: 020 8489 5504, email: [building.control@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@haringey.gov.uk)).

## Solar Water Heating Systems

If you have a southerly-facing roof then it may be worth considering solar water heating. Though more expensive than traditional systems, a solar system can preheat water entering a conventional system and cut fuel bills considerably. They are particularly appropriate in large family homes that use large quantities of hot water. A carefully designed system can provide up to 100% of your heated water needs through most of the summer, and even in winter on a cloudy day could still provide up to 20% of the heat required for hot water. Current costs for installation are in the region of £3000 per system; however, this is likely to decrease over time and costs approximately £1500 if installed by DIY.

## Photovoltaic Cells

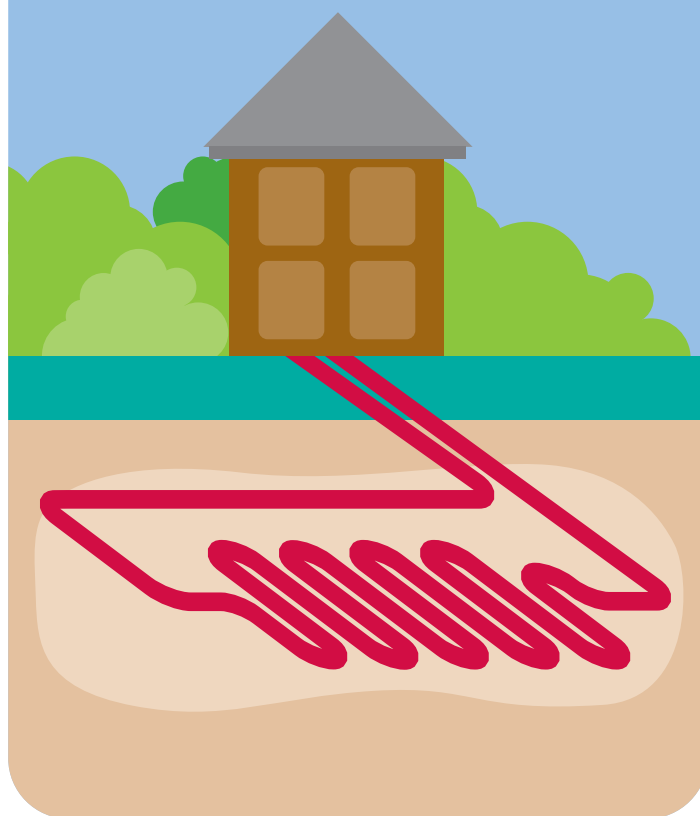
Photovoltaic (PV) cells convert light energy into electric energy, and need only daylight to work, rather than sunshine. The greater the intensity of the light, the greater the flow of electricity, and no greenhouse gases are generated.

While the installation of a photovoltaic system can seem expensive, the price of units will come down as more and more people install them; and power companies are now starting to buy back any excess or off peak energy generated by PV cells. PV cells come in a variety of shapes and colours, ranging from grey 'solar tiles' that look like roof tiles, to panels and transparent cells that you can use on conservatories and glass to provide shading as well as generating electricity.

Current costs are in the region of £6000 for a roof panel system. Government grants may be available for up to 50% of the cost of installation (please see the grants and funding section on page 11 for further information).

Before installing solar panels or photovoltaic cells please check whether planning restrictions apply to your home. This could be the case if you live in a flat, if you are located in a conservation area, and would be the case if your property were a listed building. It may also depend on whether the solar panels/PV cells project beyond the slope of your roof. Please check with the Council's Planning Department (Tel: 020 8489 5269).

## Ground Source Heat Pumps for Heating and Cooling



## Ground Source Heat Pumps

The earth's surface acts as a huge solar collector, absorbing radiation from the sun. In the UK several metres below the surface, the ground maintains a constant temperature of 11 to 13°C. In winter, this temperature is warmer than the air above it.

Ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) are used to extract this heat and transfer it to a building through pipes, where heat is required. In the summer months the ground temperature is cooler than the air on the surface. The function of a GSHP can be reversed and used as a cooling mechanism, drawing heat out of a building.

GSHP systems require space around a property to bury pipes into the ground to absorb the heat, but when installed the systems are invisible and have minimal maintenance requirements. For every unit of electricity used to pump the heat, three units of heat are produced.

## Biomass

Biomass is recently formed organic matter, such as logs, wood pellets and chips or pellets derived from non-wood products. CO<sub>2</sub> is released during the generation of energy from biomass, but this is balanced by the CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed during the fuel's production, resulting in a carbon neutral process.

There are two main ways of using biomass to heat your home; stoves or boilers. Stoves provide space heating fuelled by logs or pellets. Some models can be fitted with a back boiler to provide water heating. Boilers connected to central heating and hot water systems are suitable for pellets, logs or chips.

Log burners require manual loading but may be unsuitable for some situations, whilst pellet and wood chip systems are automatic, but can be more expensive. Current costs range from between £1,500 and £3,000 for stand alone room heaters to between £4,000 and £12,000 for automatic hot water/central heating boilers. Once installed biomass boilers are typically very efficient, reaching efficiencies of 80% and above.

If you are thinking of installing a biomass boiler, consider the following points:

**Fuel:** It is important that you have somewhere to store the fuel, have access to the boiler to stoke it, and have a local fuel supplier.

**Flue:** This must be specially designed for wood fuel appliances.

**Building Control:** Ensure you comply with all safety and Building Regulations (see Part J of the Building Regulations).

**Smokeless Zone:** Wood can only be burnt on exempted appliances under the Clean Air Act. This mainly applies to domestic appliances.

**Planning:** If the building is in a conservation area, is a listed building, or is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), then planning permission will probably be required for the flue (please contact the Council's Planning Department (Tel: 020 8489 5269).



## Wind Energy

To work efficiently, wind turbines require a smooth, steady air flow. This means that the performance of a turbine is dramatically affected by the local terrain. Any trees or buildings in the path of the wind will drastically reduce the available energy, and create turbulent conditions which increase wear and tear on the turbine. For these reasons wind energy potential can be low in most urban areas.

If you do wish to install a wind turbine, planning matters such as visual impact, conservation area/historic buildings issues and noise may need to be addressed before the turbine can be installed. Please contact the Council's Planning Department for details (Tel: 020 8489 5269). Building Control will also need to be consulted before work commences if the turbine is to be fixed to the building (Tel: 020 8489 5504, email: [building.control@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@haringey.gov.uk)).

## Energy Saving and Renewable Energy Grants and Funding

There may be grants available to provide assistance with energy saving measures and renewable energy devices. The following can provide information about funding.

**Low Carbon Buildings Grants** The Low Carbon Buildings Programme is funded by BERR, the Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform. It provides grants for renewable energy technologies in homes. Individuals can apply for grants of up to £2,500 towards the cost of installing a certified product by a certified installer. To find out more about the grant programme, visit [www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk) (Tel: 0800 915 0990). For more information on certified products and installers, please contact the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) at [www.greenbooklive.com](http://www.greenbooklive.com) or 0845 6181 514.

**Warm Front Grants** are available to assist with insulation or heating improvements in homes, particularly for those who are vulnerable to fuel poverty. Please visit [www.warmfront.co.uk](http://www.warmfront.co.uk) or call 0800 316 2805 for more information.

**The Energy Saving Trust** website has a section called Generate your own energy, which provides details on renewable energy technology and a database of grants available to help meet the cost of installation. Please visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/generate-your-own-energy](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/generate-your-own-energy) or call 0800 512 012.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

**www.bre.co.uk** The Building Research Establishment. Can provide advice on integrating renewable energy sources into buildings (Tel: 01923 664000).

**www.bwea.com** The British Wind Energy Association (Tel: 020 7689 1960).

**www.cat.org.uk** The Centre for Alternative Technology – who can provide books, leaflets and fact sheets on all aspects of solar energy (Tel: 01654 705950).

**www.energysavingtrust.org.uk** The Energy Saving Trust is a non-profit organisation that provides free and impartial advice on how to save money and fight climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions from your home. Their website provides comprehensive information on renewable technologies, energy loss reduction and energy efficient productions (Tel: 0800 512 012).

**www.edfenergy.com** EDF Energy provides information on how you can save energy and money in your home (Tel: 0800 051 1905).

**www.nef.org.uk** Part of the EDF energy company, the National Energy Foundation provides information on how individuals and organisations can reduce their carbon emissions through energy efficiency and the use of sustainable energy sources. They have useful tips on energy efficiency and steps you can take to reduce your carbon footprint (Tel: 0800 111999).

**www.nationalinsulationassociation.org.uk** The National Insulation Association (Tel: 01525 383313).

**www.solarforlondon.org.uk** A London based initiative aimed at bringing solar water heating systems to London homes (Tel: 020 7089 6989).

**www.lowimpact.org** Low Impact Living Initiative (LILI) provides factsheets on how to reduce your energy consumption and has specific information on ground source heat pumps, solar panels and solar water heating systems.

**www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk** The Biomass Energy Centre provides information and advice on biomass energy technologies.

**www.lcca.co.uk** London Climate Change Agency oversees carbon dioxide reduction measures across the city. Their website has information on the overall targets and strategies for London.

# 2

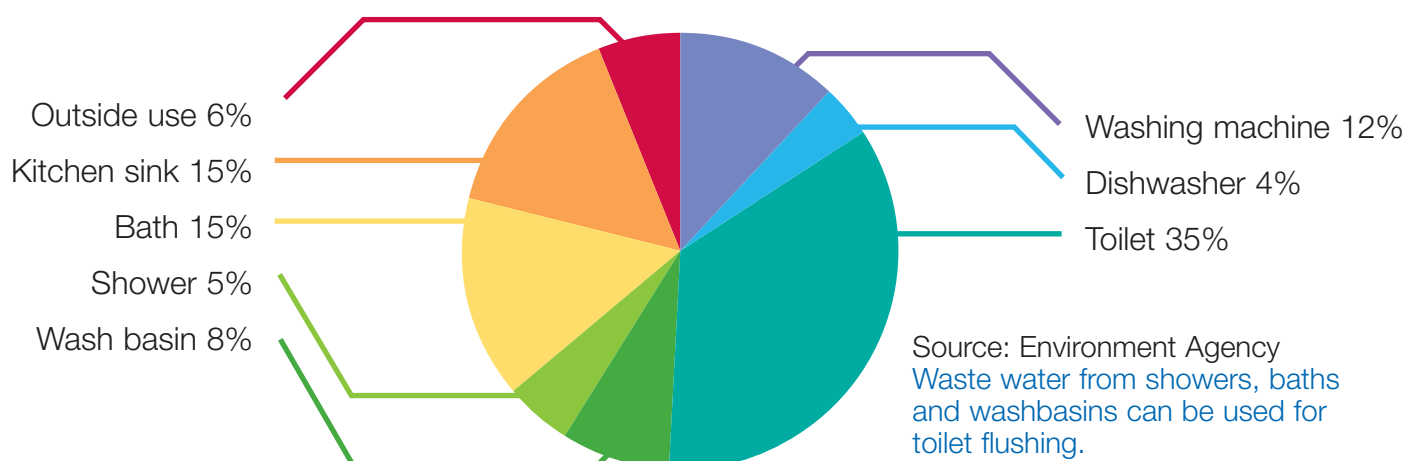
## Saving Water

### Introduction

Water is an essential resource. Although the supply of fresh water in the UK appears to be plentiful, there are issues that affect us all. There is increasing contamination of groundwater (water below the surface of the ground), rivers, lakes and oceans and there is the over-use of water. Fresh water is not a limitless resource. Households are the biggest users of water (55% of all water used in the UK) and use an average of 150 litres of water per person per day, of which 35% is flushed down the toilet

There are ways that you can reduce your water consumption at home, and you can also look at ways of collecting water for use around the home and garden. If your water is metered, reducing your fresh water consumption will also save you money.

### Average Household Water Use



## Minimising Water Use

### Showers and Taps

A dripping tap could waste as much as 140 litres a week! When installing or replacing water fittings such as showers and taps, choose models that have water saving features. These can save up to 80% of the water used in 'ordinary' taps. And remember, a quick shower uses a third of the water of a bath.

### WCs

WC cistern dams reduce the amount of water required to fill a toilet after each flush. This is done either by reducing the total volume of a cistern by placing a solid object in it or by placing a container in a cistern that retains some of the water, preventing a full volume flush. You can also replace your existing toilet with either a dual or low flush toilet. Dual flush toilets use either 3 or 6 litres per flush, low flush toilets use 4 litres, compared with old style cisterns that use 9 litres per flush. A waterless compost toilet may also be an option. For more information, please visit [www.lowimpact.org/factsheet\\_compost\\_toilets.htm](http://www.lowimpact.org/factsheet_compost_toilets.htm)

Before installing any new WC systems, an application needs to be made with Building Control prior to the work commencing (Tel: 020 8489 5504, email: [building.control@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@haringey.gov.uk)).

### Washing Machines and Dishwashers

New washing machines are much more water efficient and use about half the water of the average older washing machine. Similarly, dishwashers are becoming more water efficient. Be sure to check the EU labels when purchasing these new appliances (please see the section on appliances on page 7 for details).

## Harvesting Rainwater

Rainwater can be collected and used to water the garden and wash the car. Rainwater collection systems can be simple or complex depending on your needs, but in domestic cases a simple water butt connected to the rainwater drains that collect water from your roof will be all that you need. Please be advised that rainwater butts can fill very quickly, even if connected to the outflow from a small roof. An over-flow bypass valve should be fitted to allow any excess water to be discharged into the rainwater drainage system.



## Greywater Recycling

Greywater, the waste water from baths, showers and washbasins (but not WCs), can be collected in a household-scale reuse system and treated to a standard suitable for WC flushing. Based on the average household water use figures (see pie chart), greywater recycling could give potential savings of around a third of daily household water demand.

Greywater is usually clean enough for flushing the toilet with only basic disinfectant or microbiological treatment. Untreated greywater can also be used for garden watering if used immediately after it is produced. Whilst it is never appropriate to dispose of chemicals or wash out painting equipment in domestic basins or baths, particular care is needed when water is to be recycled through a greywater system. Further advice on such systems can be obtained from the Water Regulations Advisory Scheme ([www.wras.co.uk](http://www.wras.co.uk) Tel: 01495 248454), and the Environment Agency ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) Tel: 08708 506506).

Any replumbing of the home requires an application to be made with Building Control prior to the work commencing (Tel: 020 8489 5504, email: [building.control@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@haringey.gov.uk)).

## Controlling Rainwater Run-off

It is important to think about where the rainwater goes that falls on our properties. If there are a lot of paved or hard surfaces on and around your home, the water will run off these rather than being absorbed into the ground, placing additional strain on existing storm-water drainage systems.

Rain can pick up contaminants off the paved surfaces such as car oil, litter and heavy metals from cars. As run-off generally drains into rivers and streams, these contaminants affect water quality and wildlife in our waterways.

Permeable surfaces, which allow rainwater to drain freely into the ground, are the best option for paved areas. In addition to wood chippings and grass, you can use brick pavers or recycled permeable concrete that allows water to flow through them. The use of gravel is not recommended for semi-hard paths since the sourcing of gravel can have adverse impacts on natural habitats and landforms.

Households are the biggest users of water. We use an average of 150 litres of water per person per day. 35% of this is flushed down the toilet.

## Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)

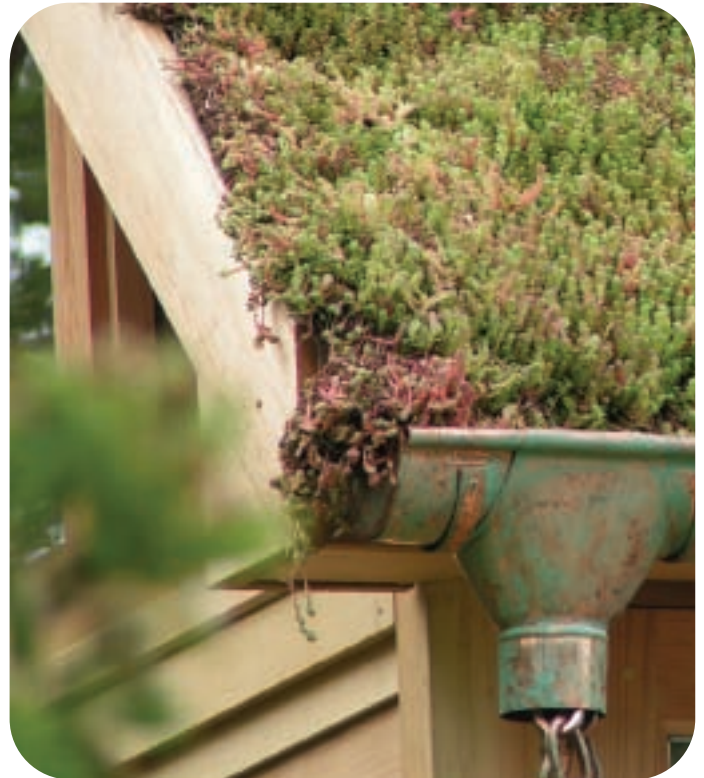
Sustainable urban drainage systems seek to control rainwater and surface water run off, as well as potential pollution, as close to its origin as possible before it is discharged to a watercourse in the ground.

Traditional urban drainage systems consist of underground pipes, which are designed to drain as much water away from sites as quickly as possible. SUDS seek to provide an alternative to traditional drainage systems and address environmental issues by replicating natural drainage systems. At a very simple level, SUDS include using rain water butts in your garden or using permeable material for hard surfacing around your home. For larger development proposals, it is possible to develop complex systems that collect and store rainwater to allow gradual infiltration or controlled release. Techniques involve creating swales, balance ponds, permeable surfaces, filter drains and soakaways.

The benefits of SUDS can include:

- Reduction of flooding,
- Protection or enhancement of water quality,
- Recharging of groundwater as well as,
- Provision of a habitat for wildlife in urban areas.

Further information on SUDS can be found at [www.ciria.org.uk/suds](http://www.ciria.org.uk/suds) (Tel: 020 7549 3300).



## Green Roofs

Green roofs are purposefully designed roofs that incorporate a vegetative element ranging from low growing mosses and lichens to more intensive plants such as shrubs and even trees! Green roofs help regulate water flow from a roof by slowing down the flow rates. They also provide a valuable wildlife resource and even help regulate the temperature of the building beneath. The advantages of a green roof are wide and varied, and include the following:

- Low maintenance is required with little or no artificial irrigation.
- Improved rainwater management: volume and rate of rainwater run off from the roof is reduced dramatically.
- Reduction in sound transmission through the roof.
- Improvement of air quality by removal of carbon dioxide, by release of oxygen and water vapour, and absorption of pollutants.
- Reduction of the 'urban heat island effect'.
- Provision of a habitat for wildlife.

Further details on benefits can be found at [www.livingroofs.org](http://www.livingroofs.org). Please note that the recovering of a roof requires an application to be made with Building Control prior to the work commencing (Tel: 020 8489 5504, email: [building.control@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@haringey.gov.uk)).

## Water Pollution – Where Does Waste Water Go?

Any substance entering surface water drains is likely to end up in the streams and brooks of Haringey.

Washing your car outside your house, or connecting your washing machine to the wrong drainage system leads to water pollution. You can do your bit to make sure that your day-to-day activities do not add pollution to our streams and rivers.

**In your house**, it's possible that some drains may be misconnected and wrongly discharging into the surface water drainage system rather than foul waste water drainage system. When connecting a washing machine, dishwasher, hand wash basin, bath, sink or toilet, make sure that it goes to into the foul waste water system. Never connect pipes from these appliances into the rain water roof pipes or gullies.

You can check where the water goes by lifting a manhole (if present) in your garden and then run taps, operate a washing machine or flush a toilet. If the water is not entering the foul wastewater sewer system, an appropriate connection to the foul drainage should be made to ensure that the waste water does not find its way into the borough's streams and brooks.

More information on drains can be obtained from the Council's Building Control Department (Tel 020 8489 5504).

**In your garden**, excess fertilisers and pesticides applied to gardens and lawns wash off and pollute our streams and rivers. So use pesticides and fertilisers sparingly. Better still, try organic gardening.

**Washing your car** on your street will send detergents, grease and oil down the drains all the way to borough's streams and brooks. Use a commercial car wash, especially the ones with facilities to treat and recycle its wastewater. Never dump engine oil or other fluids down the drains.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### **[www.livingroofs.org](http://www.livingroofs.org)**

A UK resource for green roof information and research.

### **[www.ciria.org.uk/suds](http://www.ciria.org.uk/suds)**

Information provided by CIRIA on using Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to help control water run-off and improve water quality of run-off (Tel: 020 7549 3300).

### **[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)**

For further information on saving water (Tel: 08708 506506).

### **[www.thameswater.co.uk](http://www.thameswater.co.uk)**

Provides advice on how to decrease water consumption in the home.

### **[www.lowimpact.org](http://www.lowimpact.org)**

Low Impact Living Initiative (LILI) provides factsheets and on green roofs how to reduce your water consumption.

### **[www.wras.co.uk](http://www.wras.co.uk)**

Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (WRAS) (Tel: 01495 248454).

## 3

Efficient  
Use of  
Resources

### Introduction

A lot of the materials used in our homes have environmentally harmful production methods. Where possible we should seek to use materials that are independently certified as being less harmful to the environment, and natural products for flooring and paints. Similarly, when carrying out home improvements, decoration, or when undertaking bigger projects such as building an extension, converting a loft or building a conservatory, we should consider using environmentally sensitive materials.

The waste generated from our homes can have a significant impact on the environment. Currently a large proportion of domestic waste ends up in landfill or is burned in waste incinerators. This can be reduced by carefully looking at the amount of materials we order when carrying out building and improvement works, how much packaging products come in, and identifying those materials that can be reused or recycled where possible.

### Sustainable Materials

- Where possible, obtain recycled materials including bricks, roof tiles and slates, and crushed concrete, as well as using materials from within your home. Local salvage yards or demolition sites can be a source of ready materials. Check with the Architectural Salvage Index (01483 203221) and also the Salvo Network ([www.salvo.co.uk/index.html](http://www.salvo.co.uk/index.html)) to ensure that salvage has been obtained ethically.

- Use local materials from local suppliers and use products made from recycled materials. 'Local' has been defined by the National Association of Farmer's Markets as an area within 50 miles of a major urban centre. However, take care when securing a locally sourced product as it may lead to a compromise in the environmental quality of the product – a balance needs to be sought. Also ask suppliers whether they will take back any unused or waste materials.
- The Building Research Establishment (BRE) has published a 'Green Guide to Housing Specification'. The guide contains typical wall, roof, floor and other construction materials listed against a simple environmental performance rating scale running from A (good) to C (poor). This can be viewed online at [www.thegreenguide.org.uk](http://www.thegreenguide.org.uk). You must register to access the guide, but it is free of charge. A hard copy can also be ordered at [www.brebookshop.com](http://www.brebookshop.com) for £40.

### Paints and Finishes

- Use paints that are water or vegetable oil based since these have lower health and environmental impacts than oil-based paints and varnishes, which give off volatile organic compounds.
- If you must dispose of your old paint you can contact the Corporation of London on 020 7332 3433 to arrange a free collection. Please do not pour the paint down the drain or throw it in your waste bin.

### Wood

- Avoid tropical hard woods (including plywood) unless they are clearly labelled as being wood from a well-managed source. Make sure that all wood is from an independently certified source such as the Forest Stewardship Council (please see [www.fsc-uk.org](http://www.fsc-uk.org) for further information). Softwood in the UK is likely to be treated with preservatives. However, it is possible to find European non-treated softwoods – such as pine and birch plywood. Semi-durable wood such as larch from certified sources is another alternative.



- Wood can be used that is unfinished (not painted or varnished) and can then be treated using natural oil and wax, that allows the wood to breathe, which helps stabilise relative humidity in the home.

### Windows

- Use timber windows and doors as they are considered to have less environmental impact than other options. WWF-UK have collated research on the costs and benefits of wooden and u-PVC windows called 'Window Of Opportunity', which is available from their website [www.wwf.org.uk](http://www.wwf.org.uk) or via telephone (Tel: 01483 426444).

### Insulation

- There are numerous ecological concerns associated with conventional insulation materials (such as glass wool, mineral/rock wool, polystyrene, rigid urethane foams, vermiculite and wood wool) from their manufacture through to their disposal.
- Alternatives to conventional insulation materials include sheep wool and cellulose. These are both effective insulators and are great for DIY enthusiasts, as they are more appealing to handle than rock wool or mineral wool. Other natural materials include cork board, recycled newspaper and flax.

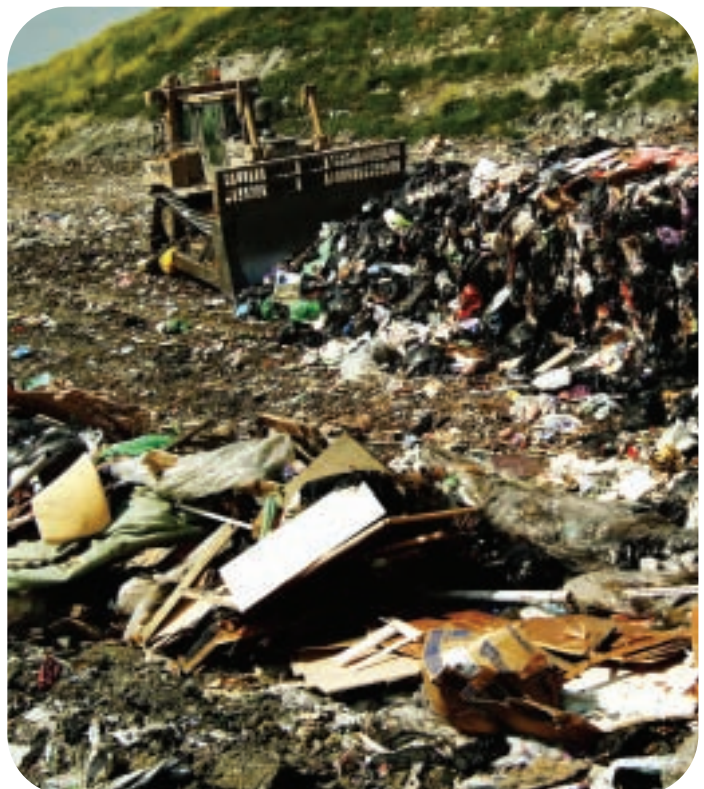
Where possible we should seek to use in our homes materials that are independently certified as being less harmful to the environment.

### Flooring

- Most woollen and synthetic carpets are dyed with synthetic dyes, made from a range of chemicals. Consider using linoleum, cork, grasses, bamboo, straw and sisal as alternatives, or ensure you are selecting a 100% natural carpet.
- For underlay, you can use underlay boards manufactured from compressed wood fibres.

### Household Waste

- Each household in Haringey produces an average of approximately 0.83 tonnes of waste per year. Around 25% of this is recycled or composted, but the remainder has to be disposed of through energy-from-waste incineration and landfill. You can contribute to reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill or incineration by reusing and recycling as much as possible.
- When carrying out home improvements or undertaking building works, the amount of waste going to landfill or incineration can be reduced by looking carefully at the quantity of materials ordered and the options for reusing or recycling them later on. There are facilities at the Reuse & Recycling Centres in Hornsey and Tottenham to recycle rubble, metal and untreated wood, and many other items may be of value to someone else so consider advertising them through a 'swap shop' website or magazine.



## Recycling Household Waste in Haringey



### Green Box Collections

Many properties in Haringey are eligible for weekly green box collections. All residents with a green box can recycle the following materials:

- Paper (including envelopes, directories, Yellow Pages, newspapers and magazines)
- Glass bottles and jars (rinsed, with lids removed)
- Food tins and drink cans (rinsed)

Most residents can also now recycle plastic bottles and cardboard in their green box, as well as food waste and garden waste in special containers provided by the council. To find out what you can recycle on your road, please telephone 020 8885 7700.

### Public Recycling Bring Sites

If you live in a block of flats, in a flat above a shop or in a house without a front garden, then you may not be able to receive a green box collection. Haringey Council is providing most blocks of flats with dedicated recycling facilities for paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, tins/cans and glass bottles/jars, and all residents have access to the network of 75 on-street bring banks which now accept the same range of materials.

To find out where your nearest bring site is visit [www.recycleforlondon.com](http://www.recycleforlondon.com) or telephone 020 8885 7700.

There are also a number of bins for newspapers and magazines outside tube and rail stations across the borough.

### Reuse & Recycling Centres

There are two Reuse & Recycling Centres for residents to use in Haringey:

35 High Street, Hornsey, N8 7QB

Park View Road, Tottenham, N17 9AY.

The centres are open 8.30am to 4pm on weekdays and 9am to 4pm at weekends (closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday).

The centres are open to residents only (no businesses), and accept a wide range of materials for reuse and recycling, including all electrical and electronic equipment, batteries (car and household), building rubble (domestic only), cans, cardboard, clothes, cooking oil, drink cartons, energy-efficient light bulbs, engine oil, fluorescent tubes, glass, green garden waste, mobile phones, paper, plastic bottles, printer cartridges, shoes, scrap metal and wood (untreated). There are also containers for general waste, including bulky items.

## Bulky Waste and White Goods Collections

The following bulky items can be collected for free: car batteries, car tyres, computers and monitors, dishwashers, fridges and freezers, gas cylinders, ovens and cookers (not microwaves), and televisions.

Other bulky items, such as furniture, can be booked for collection at a charge of £16.84 (as of 2008) for up to six items. Alternatively they can be taken to the Reuse & Recycling Centres.

For more information or to book a collection please telephone 020 8885 7700.

## Real Nappies

Eight million disposable nappies are thrown away every day in the UK, ending up in landfill sites where they take hundreds of years to decompose. Many parents who use reusable cloth nappies find that they can reduce their household waste by up to a half and save money as well. Real cotton nappies are practical and easy to use, and will work out cheaper than most disposables.

Haringey residents can receive a voucher for £54 towards the purchase of real nappies through Real Nappies for London. For further details visit [www.realnappiesforlondon.org.uk](http://www.realnappiesforlondon.org.uk) or telephone 020 7324 4709.

## Further Information About Recycling

Please visit [www.haringey.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/recycling), e-mail [recycling@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@haringey.gov.uk), or telephone 020 8885 7700.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### [www.constructionresources.com](http://www.constructionresources.com)

Construction Resources Ltd. Ecological builders' merchant and building centre stocks alternative paints and finishes and provides independent advice (Tel: 020 7450 2211).

### [www.greenbuildingstore.co.uk](http://www.greenbuildingstore.co.uk)

Specialises in environmentally sensitive building products (01484 854 898).

### **Green Building Handbook Volumes 1 and 2**

provide a guide to building products and their impacts on the environment. It can be ordered from [www.routeledge.com](http://www.routeledge.com) for £90.

### [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)

Waste & Resources Action Programme: the Government's waste minimisation, recycling and market development programme (Tel: 0808 1002040).

### [www.recycledproducts.org.uk](http://www.recycledproducts.org.uk)

A guide to products available in the UK that contain recycled materials. The database provides a very comprehensive listing of recycled products (Tel: 0808 1002040).

### [www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)

Provides information on recycling at home and in the garden, including information on buying recycled goods (Tel: 0845 3313131).

### [www.londonremade.com](http://www.londonremade.com)

Funded by the London Development Agency to promote recycling and the procurement of recycled and resource efficient products. The website provides links related to recycling and recycled materials (Tel: 020 7061 6360).

### [www.recycleforlondon.com](http://www.recycleforlondon.com)

Helps identify your nearest recycling facilities (Tel: 0845 3313131).

## 4

# Improving Your Garden

## Introduction

Your garden can make a positive contribution to the environment and biodiversity. Gardens provide us with an opportunity to interact with the natural environment. Sometimes our efforts at maintaining and improving our gardens are misguided. We can end up using too many pesticides and wasting too much water.

But it does not have to be like that.

There are a number of ways that you can improve your garden space and promote wildlife, whilst saving water at the same time. Your garden can also provide you with the opportunity for composting household waste, which can then be used to improve the soil in your garden.

## Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the amazing range of life on earth, including all species of plants and animals and the variety of habitats in which they live. There is a wealth of insects and animals that live in gardens, which can be encouraged by creating a pleasant environment for them. Maximising the amount and variety of plants in your garden can help to encourage wildlife, as does minimising the amount of hard paved surfaces. Why not consider the following ways of improving your garden and enhancing biodiversity?

## Promoting Wildlife

- Consider adding a pond to your garden – it will attract frogs, toads, dragonflies and sometimes even more exotic wildlife like newts.
- Use plants that provide nectar for insects.
- Create some quiet wild patches in your garden to encourage wildlife, such as log piles for insects, and fruit, seeds and nuts for birds.
- Attract birds into your garden by putting out bird food and a saucer full of water on a bird table, and put up nesting boxes in safe spots.
- Leave some of your tidying up until the spring. Birds can eat the seeds of some flowers over winter and ladybirds like to shelter in dead flower stalks.
- Plant a hedge – a mixed hedge can provide colour and interest, plus food and shelter for wildlife.
- Consider planting a tree if you don't already have one. Trees filter air pollution, shelter birds and act as air conditioners, keeping areas shaded and cool.

Be sure to carefully consider what shrub or tree you plant. Some species could adversely affect the structure of your or your neighbour's house with subsidence. Please contact Building Control for advice on this matter (Tel: 020 8489 5504, email: [building.control@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@haringey.gov.uk)).

## Organic Gardening

- The best way to control pests in the garden is not by using pesticides; it is by encouraging their natural enemies. For example, birds, frogs and hedgehogs eat slugs and snails, and ladybirds and hoverfly eat greenfly and their eggs.
- Slug pellets kill more than just slugs. They can kill hedgehogs, which eat the slugs, and can even kill household pets as well as birds.
- Grow disease-resistant varieties of roses and other plants. They are widely available now and will mean you do not have to use so many pesticides.
- Try growing some fruit and vegetables. You might be surprised at how much you can grow in a small space. If you do grow vegetables, plant some flowers amongst them. Plants like marigolds and poached eggplants attract ladybirds and hoverfly, which eat greenfly and other pests.
- If there are a lot of trees near your garden, use the leaves in autumn to make your own leaf mould.
- Mulch your garden plants with grass clippings. This keeps down weeds, improves your soil and saves water by preventing the ground from drying out so fast.

Plant a hedge – it can provide interest as well as a shelter for wildlife.

Collect rainwater in a water butt and use it to water your garden.

Use a watering can instead of a sprinkler.

Avoid using pesticides. Control pests by encouraging their natural enemies.

From June onwards, let your grass grow a bit longer. It will stay greener for longer without the need for watering.

Consider adding a pond to your garden.



Add a compost bin. Compost can be used to improve your soil.

Try growing fruits and vegetables.

Plant a tree (if you do not already have one) – it will filter pollution and provide shelter for birds.

Attract birds to your garden with bird food and water on a bird table, or nesting boxes in safe spaces.

Ask your garden centre about the species of plants that require less water. It will save you time as well as water.

Use permeable hard surfaces.

- Peat is a finite resource. Many wildlife habitats are now threatened by peat extraction. There are many alternatives to peat. Some of these, like garden compost and leaf mould, you can make yourself. Others, like mushroom compost, are widely available and often cost less than peat.

## Water Use in Your Garden

- Consider installing a water butt to collect water from your roof to water your garden.
- Greywater can also be used for all but the most sensitive of garden plants.
- Try not to use sprinklers. If you must water your garden, remember infrequent watering is better than regular sprinkling as it encourages the roots to search for water.
- From June onwards, let your grass grow a bit longer. It will stay greener for longer without needing to be watered.
- Choose plants for their drought tolerance, for their compatibility with your soil and their intended position. You can ask your local garden centre or plant shop for advice.



## Composting

Composting is an inexpensive, natural process that transforms your uncooked fruit, vegetable and garden waste into valuable food for your garden by returning important nutrients and minerals to your soil. Finished compost is great for using on flowerbeds, vegetable plots, and mixing into planters, and can really make your garden bloom. If used as mulch, it can also help suppress weeds, and retain moisture in the soil. You can install a compost bin in your garden and recycle your garden and organic kitchen waste – and even your neighbours' garden waste if they do not want it. Throwing it away or burning it is simply a waste of a useful resource. By composting at home you also reduce the amount of rubbish you put out for collection.

If you do not have enough garden compost to fill a compost bin, then you can use a worm bin to make small quantities of good compost.

Compost bins are available to Haringey residents at discounted prices through the national Recycle Now campaign. Various sizes of bin are available, and delivery to your home address is free.

For more information please visit [www.recyclenow.com/compost](http://www.recyclenow.com/compost) or telephone 0845 077 0757.

Residents on many roads can also put grass, leaves, twigs, cuttings, small branches and other green garden waste out for a regular collection by the council. To find out if this service is available to you then please visit [www.haringey.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/recycling) or telephone 020 8885 7700. Alternatively green garden waste can be taken to the Reuse & Recycling Centres on Park View Road, N17 and Hornsey High Street, N8.

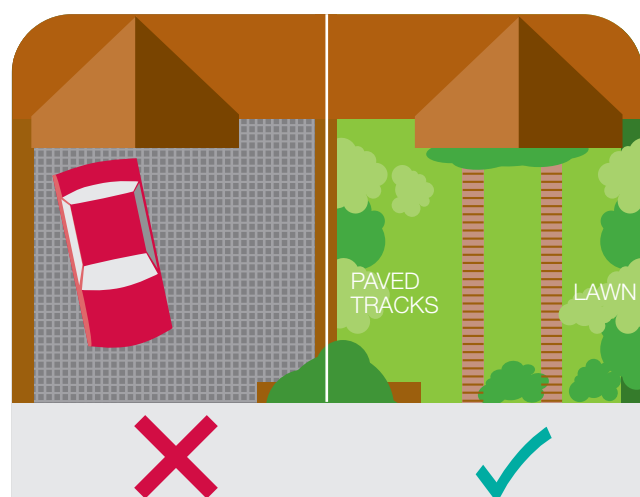
## Balconies, Roof Terraces and Window Boxes

However small your space is for gardening you can still follow many of the tips above. Avoid using peat in containers, do some composting – try a wormery. You will need to protect plants from wind and dehydration on balconies – group pots together to cut down on water loss in the summer. If you are in a block of flats, try to persuade your neighbours to green their balconies at the same time as yours, and then you will provide a more worthwhile resource for blackbirds, bumble bees and butterflies.

## Front Gardens and Off Street Parking

There is an increasing trend of people paving over front gardens to allow for off street parking for their cars. Disability access often means that this is the only option for some people, but the loss of garden space (and street trees) should be avoided if possible. If you do provide for parking, please make sure that environmental considerations are taken into account.

- Lay hard surfaces only on areas needed for parking. In most cases all that is needed is just paved tracks to take the car wheels.
- Use permeable hard surfaces where possible.
- Lay hard surfaces on a gradient to allow surface water to run onto soft landscape areas.
- A cut off drainage channel should also be incorporated into the design to stop surface water from discharging across the public footway.
- Planting areas should be laid out round the parking space. Some types of shrub are particularly suitable for front gardens: Laurustinus (*Viburnum tinus*), Forsythia, Lavender, Fishbone Cotoneaster and Honeysuckle. Some trees that are suitable are Golden Robinia, Mountain Ash and Common Almond. Please contact Building Control for advice on subsidence if you are planting near any buildings or hard surfaces (Tel: 020 8489 5504, email: [building.control@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@haringey.gov.uk)).



Avoid, if possible, turning your front garden into a car park. If you have to use your front garden for off-street car parking, try laying hard surfaces only on areas needed for parking and keep as much greenery as possible. In most cases all that is needed is just two paved tracks to take the car wheels.

Further details and an application form for vehicle crossovers can be obtained by calling the Council's Highways team on 0208 489 1300. Please note that you will need planning permission to pave more than 5m<sup>2</sup> of your front garden with non permeable materials. In addition to the 5m<sup>2</sup> rule, there are other circumstances that require planning permission. Please contact the Planning Department by calling 020 8489 5269.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.haringey.gov.uk/biodiversity\\_action\\_plan.doc](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/biodiversity_action_plan.doc)

The Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan. Pages 28 - 34 provide details of the Gardens Habitat Action Plan (Tel: 020 83486005).

[www.lbp.org.uk](http://www.lbp.org.uk)

The London Biodiversity Partnership for their Private Gardens Habitat Action Plan (Tel: 020 7932 2241).

[www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

The London Wildlife Trust for their Wildlife Gardening Pack (Tel: 020 261 0447).

**London Ecology Unit Handbook: Building Green**

by Jacklyn Johnston and John Newton provides much detailed advice on using plants on roofs, walls and balconies and paved areas.

[www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/biodiversity](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/biodiversity)

**How to Make a Wildlife Garden**

by Chris Baines (Frances Lincoln), a book on gardening and wildlife.

**Wildlife gardening: A Practical Handbook**

by Fran Hill, (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust).

**The Royal Horticultural Society has** produced advice on parking in front gardens, which is available at: [www.rhs.org.uk/learning/research/gardeningmatters](http://www.rhs.org.uk/learning/research/gardeningmatters)

[www.lowimpact.org](http://www.lowimpact.org)

Low Impact Living Initiative (LILI) provides factsheets on organic gardening and composting.

Haringey's SPG 1b provides guidance on parking in front gardens, including when planning permission is required. This can be found on the Council website [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk)

**Guidance on permeable surfacing of front gardens**, published by Communities and Local Government, outlines national policy on paving front gardens. This can be downloaded from their website, [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planning-and-building/pavingfrontgardens](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planning-and-building/pavingfrontgardens)

## 5

Further  
Information**How to Find Green Builders,  
Architects and Other Professionals****The Sustainable Building Association**

publishes directories of practitioners and suppliers.

Tel: 0845 4569773

[www.aecb.net](http://www.aecb.net)

**Green Book Live** provides a free online database of products and services that can help reduce your impact on the environment.

Tel: 01923 664 100

[www.greenbooklive.com](http://www.greenbooklive.com)

**The Green Register of  
Construction Professionals**

is the first of its kind and is a listing of architects, engineers and tradespeople who have demonstrated a commitment to sustainable building practices.

The CREATE Centre

Smeaton Road

Bristol

BS1 6XN

UK

Tel: 0117 377 3490

[mail@greenregister.org.uk](mailto:mail@greenregister.org.uk)

[www.greenregister.org.uk](http://www.greenregister.org.uk)

**The Royal Institute of British  
Architects (RIBA)**

Client Services holds a database of architectural practices that includes environmental expertise, ecological architecture and sustainable design. They can identify practices with these skills and can provide free advice.

66 Portland Place

London

W1B 1AD

Email: [cs@inst.riba.org](mailto:cs@inst.riba.org)

Tel: 020 73073700.

[www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com)

**For further information about  
this guide, please contact:****Planning Policy, Design &  
Conservation Group**

Haringey Council

639 High Road

Tottenham

London

N17 8BD

Tel: 020 8489 5269

Fax: 020 8489 5552

Haringey has also published a guide called *Use of Renewable Energy Systems for Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas*. This document can be downloaded at [www.haringey.gov.uk/renewable\\_energy\\_systems.pdf](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/renewable_energy_systems.pdf)

For more information on Haringey Council's sustainability policies, please see *The Greenest Borough Strategy*, available at [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk)

*Greening Your Home* is also available in PDF from [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk)

## Disclaimer

The London Borough of Haringey does not warrant and does not represent the accuracy of any of the information or the suitability for any purposes whatever of any of the goods and services referred to in this guide with the effect that, to the fullest extent allowable by law, it accepts no liability for any loss, damage, injury cost or expense however incurred by any person using any such information goods or services. The reader must rely on his/her own enquiries in determining the accuracy of any information and the suitability or otherwise of such goods and services.

The organisations referred to throughout the guide are only some of those that may provide the product or service mentioned. Others may be found by searching the internet, the yellow pages, trade directories and business telephone directories. It is advisable to obtain a number of quotes before choosing any product or service.

## Photographs

Sule Nisancioglu, Haringey Council

**[www.renewabledevices.com](http://www.renewabledevices.com)** for wind turbine

**[www.spacefornature.co.uk](http://www.spacefornature.co.uk)** for greenroof

**[www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)** for landfill site

**[www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)** for composting bin

## Thank you

This guide is partly based on householder guides on similar subjects produced by London Boroughs of Camden, Enfield and Merton, and the Woking Local Agenda 21 Steering group.

For a summary of this guide providing information and advice on approaches to renovating your home in an environmentally sensitive way, in your own language, please tick the box and return the form to the Freepost address below.

### Albanian

Për një përmbledhje në gjuhën tuaj të këtij udhëzuesi që u jep informata dhe këshilla mbi qasjet e renovimit të shtëpisë tuaj në mënyrë sensitive për ambientin, ju lutem shënjonit ✓ kutinë dhe ktheni formularin në adresën e mëposhtme me Postim Falas.

### Bengali

পরিবেশের প্রতি বন্ধুত্বাপন্ন বিভিন্ন উপায়ে আপনার বাড়িতে উন্নয়নমূলক কাজকর্ম করার ব্যাপারে তথ্য ও পরামর্শ সরবরাহকারী এই নির্দেশিকার সারসংক্ষেপ আপনি যদি আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে বাক্সে টিক্ চিহ্ন দিন এবং এই ফর্ম নিচের ফ্রীপোস্ট বা বিনা ডাকখরচের ঠিকানায় ফেরত পাঠিয়ে দিন।

### French

Pour obtenir un resume de ce guide qui fournit des informations et des conseils sur les methodes de renovation de votre logement qui respectent l'environnement, dans votre langue, veuillez cocher la case et renvoyer le formulaire a l'adresse au port paye ci-dessous.

### Kurdish

Heke hun kurteya vê rehberê ku di derbarî awayên ku mirov pê xaniyê xwe bi awayek ku ji hawîrdorê re bihîstyar e, nû dike de, agahî û fîret dide, bi zimanê xwe dixwazin, kerema xwe qutiyê îşaret bikin û vê formê vegeînin edresa li jêr. Pûl hewce nake.

### Turkish

Evinizde çevreye duyarlı bir şekilde tadilat yapılması hakkında bilgi ve tavsiyeler içeren bu kılavuzun özetinin kendi dilinizde bir kopyasını arzu ederseniz lütfen kutuyu işaretleyip formu doldurarak aşağıdaki ücretsiz posta (Freepost) adresine gönderin.

### Somali

Hadaad rabto in luuqadaada lagugu qoro soo koobid qoraal oo ku saabsan buugyare hagahe ah oo macluumaad dheer iyo talobixin kaa siinaaya qaababka dib u hagaajin iyo dib u cusboonaysiin gurigaaga loogu sameeyo si uu markaas u noqdo mid baya'ad ahaan wanaagsan, fadlan sax mari sanduukha, soo buuxi foomka kuna soo dir ciwaanka hoose oo boosta diristu bilaash tahay.

Please tell us if you would like a copy of 'Greening Your Home' in another language that is not listed above or in any of the following formats, and send the form to the Freepost address below.

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Translation and Interpretation Services, 8th Floor, River Park House,  
225 High Road, London N22 8HQ

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