



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

The electric wallpaper that heats homes

KEYWORDS

- ☐ **Emissions:**
Substances released into the air
- ☐ **Decarbonise:** Reducing the release of carbon dioxide, a fossil fuel
- ☐ **Insulation:**
Reducing the loss of heat
- ☐ **Energy efficiency:**
Using less energy to do the same task



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BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Did you know that keeping our buildings warm contributes to climate change? Experts have therefore tried to develop ways of heating our homes in a more efficient way that generates less carbon dioxide. Electric wallpaper could be the answer!

In the UK, heating our buildings produces 36% of our total carbon **emissions**. So how can we keep our homes warm without worsening climate change?

Energy efficiency

The city of Glasgow, in Scotland, is trialling a new way to **decarbonise** homes — electric wallpaper! The new invention has been tested in 12 properties since April 2024.

“Innovative projects such as this are vital when considering how best to

help tackle the issues of energy costs and emissions in Glasgow’s homes,” explains Glasgow councillor Ruairi Kelly.

Urgent action

Some 84% of Scottish homes are currently heated by fossil fuels. Their poor **insulation** also means that they lose heat three times faster than the European average.

Electric wallpaper could help to solve this problem. It can release warmth within just three minutes,

according to developer NextGen Heating.

But does it work?

So far, the signs are good. The technology uses artificial intelligence to collect information on **energy efficiency** and consumption.

Andrew Kubski of the West of Scotland Housing Association says that the wallpaper has had “excellent feedback from our tenants.” So what do you think – would you have electric wallpaper in your house?





INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

DO OUR HOUSES NEED A RADICAL REDESIGN?

WHAT
percentage of
Scotland's homes
are heated by
fossil fuels?

WHO
has provided
positive feedback
about the
wallpaper?

WHERE
is the trial
taking place?

WHEN
did the trial
begin?

WHY
do Scottish
homes lose heat
quickly?

HOW
does the
wallpaper collect
information?

1 TAKE ACTION

How well insulated is your school?

Ask your teachers if your windows have double glazing, which helps buildings to stay warm. You could also ask them to think about buying a draught excluder to stop warm air from escaping through the gaps in windows and doors.



2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece that shows how well your school is insulated, and what steps you could take to reduce the loss of heat through your doors and windows. Share what you've learned with your family and friends. What do they think? We want to hear your ideas too! Your teacher can share your reports with us too by sending them to editorial@theday.co.uk.

3 Build THE Change



CREATE YOUR DESIGN

How can we design our homes to use less energy? Is electric wallpaper the answer? Or are there other steps we should be taking to heat our homes in a sustainable way?

STEP 1:

Think about your design!
How should houses be built in the future? Do you think we should be using more or less technology?

STEP 2: Build the Change!

Create a model house or building that would waste less energy. You could even use LEGO® bricks or recycled materials to build it!

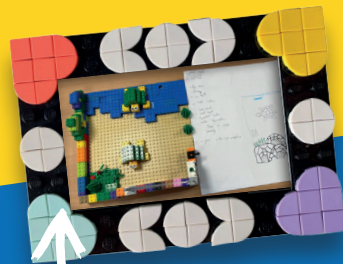
Share your genius
Show your work to your class!



Upload a photo of your work to the **Build the Change** gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.

4 BUILDER OF THE WEEK

Every week we handpick one of the most inspirational designs from our online photo gallery to be our **BUILDER OF THE WEEK**. To get your creation featured here, ask your grown-up to take a photograph and upload it to our Build the Change gallery, using the QR code on this page.



This week we have a home for turtles with lots of plants and "don't feed the turtles" sign for visitors!

"GREAT WORK!"



This worksheet is available every weekday at 6:30am London time from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives>.
For any feedback or help please contact buildthechange@theday.co.uk. Thank you.

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