



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

Eco-home owners 'live green or lose it'

KEYWORDS

- ☐ **Eco-home:**
An environmentally friendly house
- ☐ **Secluded:** Far from other people
- ☐ **Woodlands:** Land on which many trees grow
- ☐ **Communal garden:**
Space where crops are grown for all to use



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BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

In 2012, Wales launched a new One Planet Development policy that requires new homes in protected areas to meet strict environmental standards. Residents have to show that they can provide all their own energy and water — or else they could lose their house!

A couple in Wales has wowed viewers of the Channel 4 TV series *Grand Designs* with their futuristic £150,000 **eco-home**. But the home comes with a unique twist: live green or lose it!

Green standards

When Abigail and Marcus Beck stumbled across a **secluded** spot deep in the beautiful Welsh **woodlands**, they knew they had found the dream location for their family home.

But there was a catch. To build their dream home,

they had to meet the strict environmental rules of Wales' One Planet Development policy, which aims to protect natural areas.

High stakes

Under the policy, they have to submit information about every part of their lives, from how they buy their clothes to what food they eat.

The stakes are high. If they don't meet requirements, Marcus says that they will be

"chucked out" — and their dream home torn down!

Lifestyle choices

But the couple has welcomed the challenge. Marcus designed the house himself, using trees from the forest that were at risk of disease. They will get 35% of their food from a nearby **communal garden**.

Having completed the development in July, they say they have no regrets. "I remember feeling like 'I am determined to prove you wrong'," says Abigail.





INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

WOULD YOU TAKE A RISK TO LIVE SUSTAINABLY?

WHAT
is the building
made out of?

WHO
designed
the house?

WHERE
is the
house?

WHEN
was it
completed?

WHY
does the couple
have to submit
information about
their lifestyle?

HOW
much food will
they get from the
communal
garden?

1 TAKE ACTION

Did you know that houses account for 20% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions? There are easy things we can all do to make our homes more green, such as turning off the lights when we leave a room and only using the heating when we need it. Can you think of any other day-to-day changes we could make at home?



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2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece about how we can make our homes more green. 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

If you were given £150k to build your own eco-home, what would it look like? Create a design of your dream eco-home that would live in harmony with nature!

STEP 1:

Think about your design!
What materials would it use?
How would you reduce your climate impact?

STEP 2: Build the change!

Create your design.
Use LEGO® bricks or household materials to create your dream eco-home!

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 is a paradise island with a garden and animals.

"GREAT WORK!"



This worksheet is available weekly Tuesday 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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