

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

The £150k dream eco-home... with a twist!

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A couple who signed up to a scheme to build an £150,000 eco-home in the woods have spoken about how it has made them live green.

Abigail and Marcus Beck built their home under Wales' unique One Planet Development, policy which makes them follow strict rules

"It scrutinises every part of our living from how we're going to buy clothes in the future to what food we're growing, what food we're eating" said Marcus.

He added that if they do not meet requirements, they will be "chucked out" and the house will be removed.

"You have to be able to live a modern lifestyle, but it doesn't have to be hugely carbon-hungry," Abigail said.

Near their home is a communal garden which will supply 35% of the family's food.

The couple featured on Channel 4 series Grand Designs which follows the process of self-building projects.

Fully designed by Marcus, who owns a design company, the couple used trees from the forest at risk of disease for the structure of their home.

Starting the build in 2023, the development was built into two moveable structures so that it could be



moved in separate pieces.

It reused second-hand glazing for the windows and wood-fibre board, backed by recycled newspapers for insulation.

The couple were faced with setbacks such as rainwater leaking into the house.

Their savings for the development also dried up, forcing them to borrow money from family members, with the couple spending £150,000 in total.

Marcus explains how he built a lot of the house himself.

"The big challenge was choosing the right materials which often cost more," he said.

The couple added that while it was expensive, they now have "a great solar power system and tonnes and tonnes of power".

Completing the development in July, the couple said they had no regrets and were determined to challenge the perception of the lifestyle.

"I remember feeling like 'I am determined to prove you wrong'," Abigail said.

"Wales can be proud of, they have enabled this kind of creativity to flourish and it's in a sustainable way."

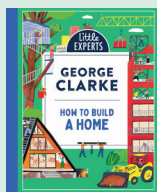
TRUE OR FALSE?

Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?

Buildings designed to be eco friendly are cheaper to maintain.



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For any feedback or help please contact buildthechange@theday.co.uk. Thank you.

Answer to Find the truth. True! Green buildings have 12% lower maintenance costs. Read [more here](#).



CHECK YOUR FACTS

1

WHAT	WHO	WHERE	WHEN	WHY	HOW
is the building made out of?	designed the house?	is the house?	was it completed?	does the couple have to submit information about their lifestyle?	much food will they get from the communal garden?
ANSWER: Trees at risk of disease	ANSWER: Marcus Beck	ANSWER: The Welsh woodlands	ANSWER: In July	ANSWER: Wales' One Planet Development policy	ANSWER: 35%



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