Home Energy-Saving Checklist

By The Urban Nanna

Use this checklist to perform an energy efficiency audit in your home. Once you know which areas/elements could do with improvement, you can create some goals for increasing your home's overall energy efficiency

Hallway

- ☐ Light-globes are energy efficient
- ☐ Windows have curtains/blinds/coverings/double-glazing to reduce heat transfer
- ☐ Gaps below doors are stopped-up

Bedroom/s

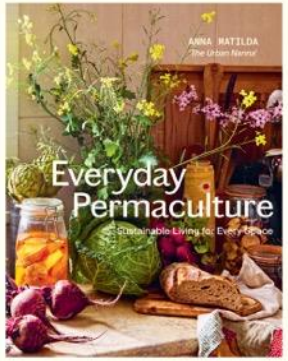
- ☐ Light-globes are energy efficient
- ☐ Appropriate lighting alternatives set up (lamps etc)
- ☐ Lights switched off when not in use
- ☐ Appliances turned off when not in use
- ☐ Multi-switch powerboards in use
- ☐ "Vampire electronics" identified & managed
- ☐ Ceiling fans switched to appropriate season
- ☐ Windows have curtains/blinds/coverings/double-glazing to reduce heat transfer
- ☐ Gaps below doors are stopped-up
- ☐ Seals around windows checked
- ☐ Heating vents closed when not needed
- ☐ Windows used to ventilate rooms in summer
- ☐ Natural fibres used for bedding (linen, cotton, wool)
- ☐ Bedding is appropriate for season (eg heavier doona, blankets & flannel sheets in winter)
- ☐ Appropriate sleep-clothing available as per season
- ☐ Slippers & bedsocks available for winter
- ☐ Wheat-packs, hot water bottles and/or energy efficient electric blankets used to heat the bed just before going to bed

Living Room

- ☐ Light-globes are energy efficient
- ☐ Appropriate lighting alternatives set up (lamps etc)
- ☐ Windows have curtains/blinds/coverings/double-glazing to reduce heat transfer
- ☐ Gaps below doors are stopped-up
- ☐ Any open doorways blocked off in extreme temperatures (reduce space to manage temp in)
- ☐ Appliances turned off when not in use
- ☐ Multi-switch powerboards in use
- ☐ "Vampire electronics" identified & managed
- ☐ Rugs or carpets on solid floors in winter
- ☐ Blankets available for cold nights
- ☐ Slippers & house-socks available for cold temps
- ☐ Reduced soft-furnishings in summer
- ☐ Ceiling fans switched to appropriate season

Bathroom

- ☐ Light-globes are energy efficient
- ☐ Windows have curtains/blinds/coverings/double-glazing to reduce heat transfer
- ☐ Consider retrofitting double-glazing on windows (eg bubble wrap)
- ☐ Gaps below doors are stopped-up
- ☐ Heating vents closed when not required
- ☐ Floor mats used to reduce chill in winter
- ☐ Install timer in shower and use it to reduce time using hot water
- ☐ Reduce temperature of hot water used at thermostat
- ☐ Assess hot water usage in shower vs bath. Choose most efficient option
- ☐ Have slippers & bath robes available to stay warm after washing in winter



For tips and advice on managing energy, reducing waste, growing and foraging food, building Community, moving house and generally just lowering your carbon footprint by living more sustainably, check out Everyday Permaculture. Available at good bookshops around the world, and libraries wherever you ask for it!

Everyday Permaculture: Sustainable living for every space.

Kitchen

- ☐ Light-globes are energy efficient
- ☐ Windows have curtains/blinds/coverings/double-glazing to reduce heat transfer
- ☐ Gaps below doors are stopped-up
- ☐ Any open doorways blocked off in extreme temperatures (reduce space to manage temp in)
- ☐ Lights switched off when not in use
- ☐ Appliances turned off when not in use
- ☐ Multi-switch powerboards in use
- ☐ "Vampire electronics" identified & managed
- ☐ Appliances checked for energy efficiency
    - Fridge and/or freezer
    - Oven
    - Microwave
    - Dishwasher
- ☐ Seals checked on
    - Fridge
    - Freezer
    - Washing machine
    - Oven
- ☐ Hot water thermostat adjusted to appropriate setting (ie -not the hottest)
- ☐ Dishwasher assessed & set to more energy efficient cycle
- ☐ Dishwasher only run when full
- ☐ Fridge set to optimal temperature
- ☐ Fridge emptied of superfluous items (so it's not working as hard to cool)
- ☐ Freezer defrosted every 6 months
- ☐ Freezer emptied of superfluous items (to increase efficiency)
- ☐ Freezer set to optimal temperature
- ☐ If cooking appliances are gas, assess your usage
- ☐ Consider using a "hot box"/"hay box" for passive cooking
- ☐ Consider using a slow cooker rather than gas cooktop when appropriate

Dining Room

- ☐ Light-globes are energy efficient
- ☐ Appropriate lighting alternatives set up (lamps etc)
- ☐ Windows have curtains/blinds/coverings/double-glazing to reduce heat transfer
- ☐ Gaps below doors are stopped-up
- ☐ Any open doorways blocked off in extreme temperatures
- ☐ Appliances turned off when not in use
- ☐ Multi-switch powerboards in use
- ☐ Rugs or carpets on solid floors in winter

Laundry

- ☐ Light-globes are energy efficient
- ☐ Windows have curtains/blinds/coverings/double-glazing to reduce heat transfer
- ☐ Gaps below doors are stopped-up
- ☐ Check seals
    - Washing machine
    - Dryer
- ☐ Choose most energy-efficient default cycle
    - Washing machine
    - Dryer
- ☐ Use cold water to wash in machine
- ☐ Hand-washing station available for small loads
- ☐ Soaking bucket available
- ☐ Appliances switched off at the wall when not in use
- ☐ Passive drying options available (washing line, clothes horse, drying rail/cupboard etc)
- ☐ Heating vents closed when not required
- ☐ Windows used to create cross-breezes (for cooling/drying)

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