



Sustainable Construction

Making Your Roof Energy Efficient and Environmentally Friendly

Many of the following tips cost little or no more than conventional roof construction and, if they are incorporated into your building at the design stage, like most energy efficient measures, they could pay for themselves in a short time.



Good insulation is the key to energy efficiency and may save you money on your heating bills so ensure your roof is well insulated.



Insulate your roof using low impact, natural insulation materials such as sheep wool or recycled cellulose fibre.



Choose local natural roofing materials such as thatch, Welsh/Cornish slate and clay tiles.



Consider using reclaimed tiles and slate to further minimise the environmental impact. Or consider using tiles made from recycled plastics and rubber which effectively mimic natural slate whilst making use of waste products.



Untreated wooden shingles provide an environmentally friendly alternative to more common roof coverings and last well if regularly maintained. Choose locally sourced timber where possible. At least be sure the timber has come from sustainably managed woodlands and is approved by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Further Considerations



A room in the roof space produces extra living space for the same size house footprint.



Utilise the sun's energy by installing PhotoVoltaic cells and passive water heating solar panels on the southern aspect of the roof. There are various Government grants available for this.

Visit www.clear-skies.org or www.est.org.uk/solar



Low maintenance green roofs consist of drought tolerant plants which offer an attractive and low impact alternative to traditional roof coverings. They provide high levels of insulation and help to reduce water run off.



Consider alternatives to PVC guttering, such as extruded steel which can be recycled and is available locally.

These are guidance notes only and should not be taken as rules. In order to maximise the benefits to yourselves and minimise impact on the environment, it is recommended that you seek further professional guidance

For further information contact:

Ecos Trust

Great Bow Wharf, Bow Street, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9PN

Tel: 01458 259400, Fax: 01458 253401

Email: admin@ecostrust.org.uk

Website: www.ecostrust.org.uk