

10 Uplands Road, Brighton, BN1 7FA



Overview

Age/period of house:	1982
Type:	Detached
Years in residence:	23
No of bedrooms:	3
No of other rooms:	5
No of floors:	2 plus mezzanine
Wall type:	Cavity

Key features

- + passive solar design
- + heating controls
- + cavity wall insulation
- + recycled paper insulation
- + water meter
- + efficient boiler

Introduction and approach

Keith and Krystyna's 1980s split level house may not fit peoples preconceptions of an eco house, but what is inspiring about this property is the effect that a number of affordable changes have had on energy consumption.

The large Southeast facing windows, probably installed to enjoy the views, allow the morning sun to heat the house, as does the double glazed conservatory that has also been added. The house was built with little insulation so cavity wall insulation, thick loft insulation, double-glazing, insulated doors and draft proofing

have been added throughout. Additionally thick lined curtains and blinds help to reduce heat loss at night and individual radiator thermostats have been added. Keith and Krystyna are convinced they need to heat the house much less though this would be hard to quantify since the measures have been implemented over a number of years and the amount of gas used to heat water may have changed as their daughter has grown up.

Features

Energy and CO²

The house has a south facing aspect and this has been incorporated into the design by placing large windows on the south facing wall, which allow direct solar warming of south facing rooms. There has been extensive insulation of the cavity walls and in the loft with deep shredded newspaper insulation. Also there is double-glazing throughout and the doors have curtains to reduce drafts. A new efficient Worcester Bosch gas boiler was installed in 2006 and the hot water tank has a jacket around it.

Water

The mains water is metered and there is a small rain harvesting system.

Lifestyle

Keith and Krystyna try to minimise their ecological footprint in every way they can through environmentally friendly transport, recycling, growing their own food and minimising energy consumption in the home, although they are not obsessive about it, and describe themselves as 'informed ordinary people with concern for the environment'.

Reasons for the improvements:

To save energy and money!

Future improvements planned

There are plans to install a solar thermal hot water system and more extensive rainwater harvesting.

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