

GREEN HOMES ESSENTIALS COUNTDOWN



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14 Reduced car dependency

Green homes enable and encourage car-free living by tapping into networks of schools, shops, public transport and amenities nearby. If you can easily walk, cycle or take public transport to work or school, it gives you more time for other things – improving the quality of your life.



13 Supporting biodiversity

Precious natural habitats are lost when land is used for building homes. Improving the ecological value of an area encourages native plants and animals to flourish. This sustains healthy ecosystems that improve human health – and adds delight to your family's life.



12 Smarter investment

Green homes are better built, healthier and cheaper to run – and designed to surpass increasingly challenging ESG targets facing investors. This adds up to reduced risk of mortgage default for owners, reduced rent arrears and void rates for landlords, reduced maintenance costs for everyone – while protecting lenders and investors against the risk of being tied to stranded assets.



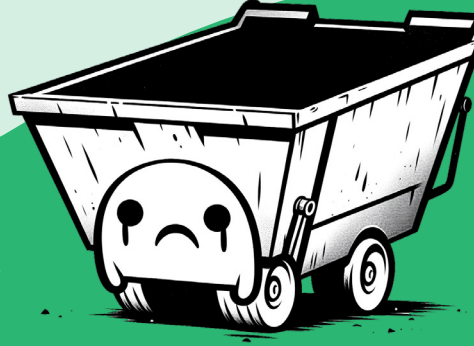
11 Acoustic comfort

Green homes are like ear muffs that block out noise from neighbours or the hubbub of the road outside. Quietness and reduced noise intrusion contribute to our sense of security, privacy and comfort, increasing our physical and mental health.



10 Construction waste reduction

The construction industry produces 30% of all waste generated in Europe. Much of the materials from old buildings can be recovered and recycled if it's considered in early design stage. Green homes are designed to encourage recovery, reuse, recycling and reduction of waste both during and after construction.



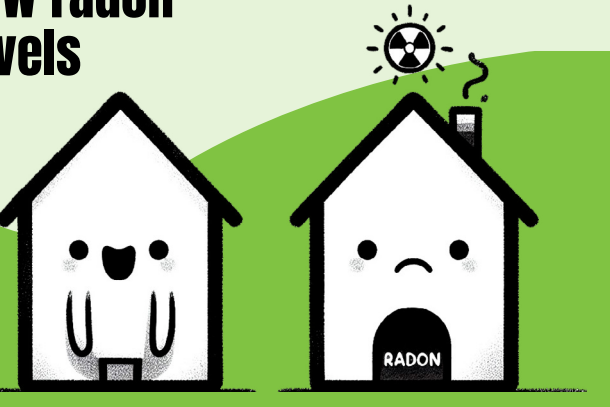
09 Lifetime adaptability

Peter Pan was in denial: we do grow up, and, with a little luck, grow old. Your home should be able to adapt to the changing needs of you and your family over time – including accessibility for reduced mobility.



08 Low radon levels

Radon, an odourless, invisible, radioactive gas found in igneous rock, soil or well water, is estimated to be responsible for at least 220,000 lung cancer deaths per year. Radon may sneak into homes through tiny cracks or holes in floors and walls, harming occupants. Without due care to airtightness and the right mechanical ventilation strategy, radon levels can increase in well-insulated homes.



07 Low carbon materials & construction

The embodied carbon of a building occurs across its lifespan. Typically, most carbon is emitted upfront, making the materials to build the house. But carbon is also emitted maintaining and, ultimately, disposing of buildings. Embodied carbon calculation is the key to reducing these impacts.



06 Water efficiency & quality

Water from your taps should be safe to use. In green homes, water is tested for chemical and microbiological quality, hardness and odour to make sure that's the case. The larger the volume of hot water from your tap, the more energy you use. In green homes, water-saving devices give a sensation of a high coverage of water, while using less water. The difference can be as much as 40 litres per minute.



05 Natural daylight

We spend 87% of our time indoors. Green homes let the daylight in, and help keep us feeling bright. Exposure to daylight helps us sleep better at night and improves our mental wellbeing.



04 Climate resilience

While green homes must minimise contributing to climate change, they must also be built to withstand the extreme weather events that are becoming more frequent with climate change. Green homes are located with flooding risk taken into account, and designed with future weather extremes in mind.



03 Low greenhouse gas emissions

Over a third of energy-related emissions in Europe come from heating, cooling and powering buildings. But it doesn't have to be this way. Dramatically cutting greenhouse gas emissions from our homes doesn't have to mean sacrifice. It can actually lead to warmer, healthier homes that are easier on the pocket, and easier on the planet.



02 Good indoor air quality

There are two steps to healthy indoor air: source control and dilution. Green homes protect against polluted indoor air, using healthy building materials and avoiding burning unhealthy fuels. And green homes dilute polluted indoor air, replacing it with fresh, clean air.



01 Thermal comfort & energy efficiency

An uninsulated shed can be zero energy – if you're willing to freeze in winter or boil in summer. Green homes are low energy but comfy, expertly fusing orientation, building form, insulation, airtightness, cold bridging prevention and energy efficient yet effective ventilation – while meeting the building's low energy demand with renewable energy technologies.

