



GREEN-HAB

making sustainable improvements to your home
can be better for your health, your wallet, and - of course - the planet!

Already making improvements to your home? Then now is a great opportunity to get more green for your green! Simple investments in sustainable measures can offer a great return on your utility bills.

The sustainability categories shown below come from the U.S. Green Building Council's "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" (LEED) green building rating system. We make recommendations for the typical Geneva house in each category, but you can also learn more - stop by the GNRC for a list of resources!

LOCATION & LINKAGES

Houses in the City are much more sustainable than houses located in rural areas. There are a lot of factors that make this an important component of the pleasures and rewards of living sustainably. These typical houses have stood for roughly 100 years, taking the term 'reclaimed' to a whole new level! In addition, there are important savings in cost and timing because of the existing infrastructure available within a City and all the walkable-community advantages!

SUSTAINABLE SITES

Vertical Gardens & Raised Bed Planters

WATER EFFICIENCY

Rain Barrel
Water Sense Fixtures
'low-water-use' dishwashers and washing machines

ENERGY & ATMOSPHERE

Systems / Envelope

Metal Roof

- Lasts 2-3 X longer than asphalt shingles
- is NOT a component of the petroleum industry, unlike asphalt shingles
- is a recycled material that can be recycled again
- long term savings - maintenance on a metal roof is very low
- keeps the house cooler because it reflects rather than absorbing the sun's heat

Window & Door Upgrades

If your home still has single pane windows, upgrading to double - or even triple - pane windows will make a significant difference:

High R-values = Less leakage = Better comfort

- Less outside noise
- Reduce carbon footprint
- Cut heating & cooling costs
- Tax credits, up to \$1500
- Home is warmer in winter and cooler in summer because there is less 'air infiltration'

Insulate & Waterproof your Foundation

- Reduce carbon footprint
- Lower utility bills
- Prevent mold by keeping outside moisture from entering a basement
- Better indoor air quality (IAQ)
- Home is warmer in winter and cooler in summer because there is less 'air infiltration'

Increase / Upgrade Insulation at Walls & Roofs

- Reduce carbon footprint
- Cut heating & cooling costs
- Home is warmer in winter and cooler in summer because there is less 'air infiltration'

Energy

- Upgrade your Heating System to a higher efficiency unit and add a Programmable Thermostat
- Ceiling Fans
- Energy Star Rated Appliances & Light Fixtures
- Increased Natural Daylighting = less need for daytime artificial lighting
- Sun-shading trellis

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

The existing house is sustainable, as it's basically one big reclaimed / salvaged item! And, reclaimed materials can be picked up from a Habitat for Humanity ReStore to compliment the character of your home.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

- Low or No VOC paints
- Remove carpets - they are often dust collectors!

Tier I:

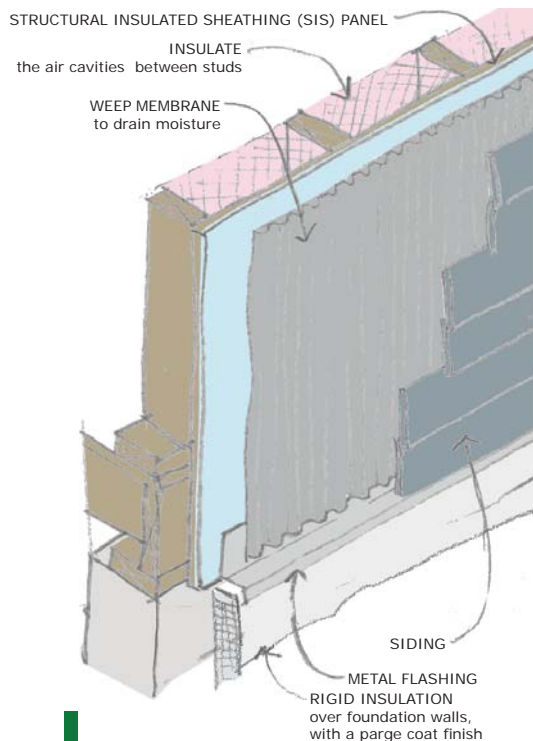
improvements with a big impact, and a great return

Tier II:

easy improvements that make more of a difference than you'd think

Tier III:

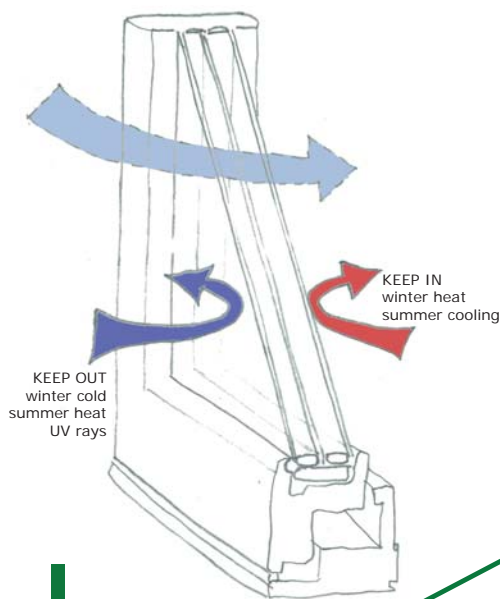
quality of life improvements that take it a step further, but return on your investment in a more intangible way



INCREASED INSULATION

The most important thing you can do to reduce energy consumption and save on utility bills is prevent 'leakage.' A blower door test - or infra-red photography - can reveal areas where your home is losing conditioned air. This means you're heating more in the winter and cooling more in the summer than you would need to in a 'super-tight' house, where leakage and air infiltration is reduced significantly.

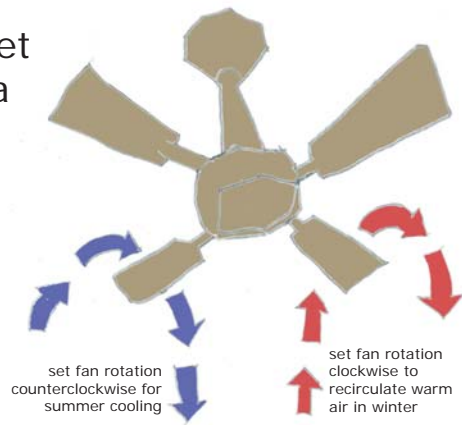
The best places to add insulation easily are at your basement and attic, but the drawing above shows a great opportunity for drastically increasing your insulation when you're already doing a siding project!



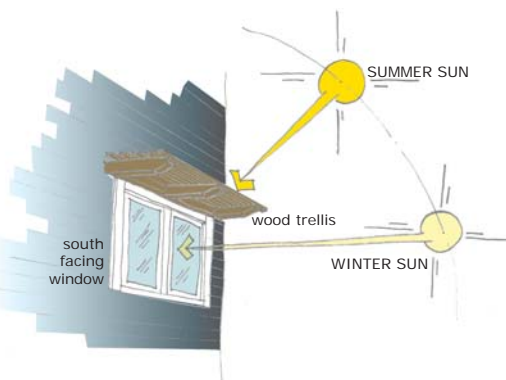
BETTER WINDOWS

Better windows will help keep everything you want in, in and everything you want out, out! Alternatives to new windows include tight interior storm units to add an additional pane of glazing. And, of course, repairing sashes and reglazing the glass is an easy way to improve your existing units.

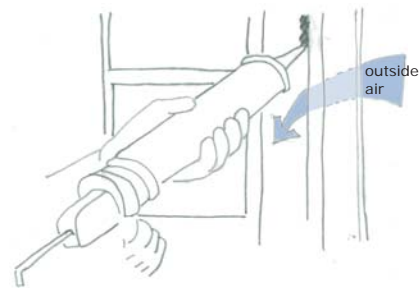
CEILING FAN
Ceiling fans cannot be overrated! They are a very inexpensive way to move air effectively.



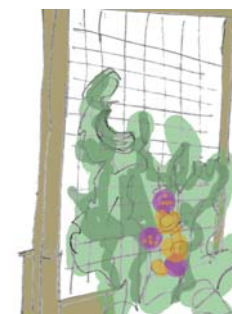
SHADING TRELLIS
exterior sun shades can be beautiful, and they're much more effective at keeping unwanted light & heat out than interior sun shades



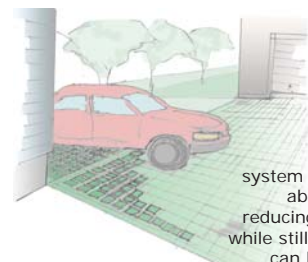
AIR INFILTRATION
sealing / caulking cracks at windows, doors and joints can reduce air infiltration, reducing your heating and cooling loads and preventing drafts



RAIN BARRELS
salvaged rain water can work great for watering gardens while reducing your household water consumption



VERTICAL GARDENS & RAISED BED PLANTERS
An effective way to create beautiful privacy screening, requiring limited space. Choose the soil, fill the planters, and enjoy the benefits!



GRASS-CRETE
this permeable paver system can replace driveways, absorbing rainwater, and reducing the heat-island effect while still offering a surface that can be plowed or shoveled!

case studies of the typical GENEVA HOUSE

exploring improved notions of home, using Geneva's existing housing stock

