

Holbeton News Climate Change & Environment

Tip of The Month: No dig gardening (Anna West)

Improve the structure of your soil by using up waste cardboard.

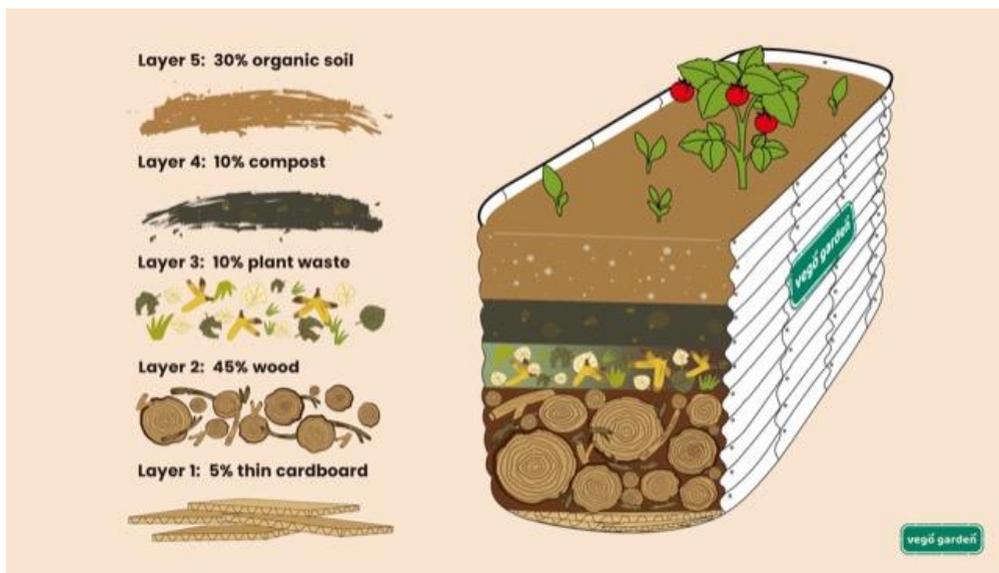
Laying down brown cardboard as a weed suppressant mulch layer and then adding a layer of compost will suppress weeds and will add back carbon to the soil. Below is a link from the soil society:

https://www.soilassociation.org/take-action/growing-at-home/allotments-and-home-growing/no-dig-gardening/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA2pyuBhBKEiwApLaIOyG8f8s5vApFSiIRgjsvWLBGEMEsjWYOUE11BrKqg3VjtvL3yCG-CxoCN6EQAvD_BwE

Alternatively Google “soil association no dig gardening”.

There are also some very helpful links on-line along with videos about how to fill raised beds cheaply.

This involves a bottom layer of cardboard then branches and dead wood followed by organic material, vegetable waste before a final top layer of topsoil and compost.



<https://vegogarden.com/blogs/academy/how-to-fill-raised-garden-beds-and-save-money>

Greenpeace's Big Plastic Count - 11th to 17th March

It's everywhere. From the candy-coloured vapes that litter our streets to the pots and packets our food and drink often comes in, **plastic is harming our health and our environment.**

This year we have a huge opportunity. The UK government could play a leading role at global negotiations about plastic waste [1].

But first, we need to show the scale of the problem. That's why **Greenpeace** is launching The Big Plastic Count - the UK's biggest investigation into household plastic waste.

Take a look at their video, and **join the Count today.**

For just one week – the **11th to 17th March 2024** – households of all shapes and sizes, schools, community groups and businesses all over the country will count their plastic packaging waste and share their results.

It's simple to take part in The Big Plastic Count. To see more detail and download or order the paperwork you need to Google "Big Plastic Count 2024". You are then ready to get started on Monday the 11th March.

When you submit your data at the end of the Count week, data analysts will send you your personal plastic footprint. Greenpeace will use this to form a national picture of the state of plastic waste in the UK today.

Put off by the idea of knowing your plastic footprint? Don't be. It's not your fault. Supermarkets and big brands don't give us much choice about what our food, drink and essentials come wrapped in.

Ministers, supermarkets and big brands need to lead the way in tackling the plastics crisis. This year, when nations come together to agree on a Global Plastics Treaty, they will set new global rules for the production of plastic.

That's why Greenpeace needs thousands of households across the UK to take part in the Count and keep the pressure up! There are already 60,000 of us signed up at the time of writing this.

[1] Learn more about The Global Plastics Treaty in their explainer blog:

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/global-plastics-treaty-six-things-you-need-to-know/>

Thermographic imaging of our home (Harry Baumer)

Reduce heat loss from your home

Reduce Fuel Bills

Reduce Fossil Fuel use

COMFORT

SAVINGS

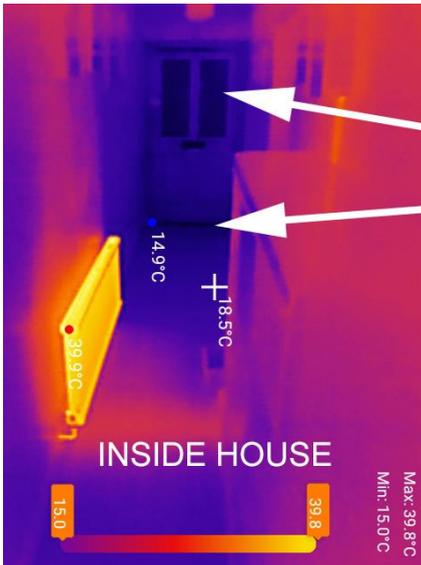
SUSTAINABILITY

I can now report on the experience of having Martyn and Barry do a thermographic survey of our old, relatively poorly insulated house and the eco conversion of our energy efficient barn by way of contrast. Their visit was arranged as a 'dry run'.

Before their visit I thought we knew all the defects in our home insulation. I had not realised how much an internal survey added to a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of our thermal efficiency.

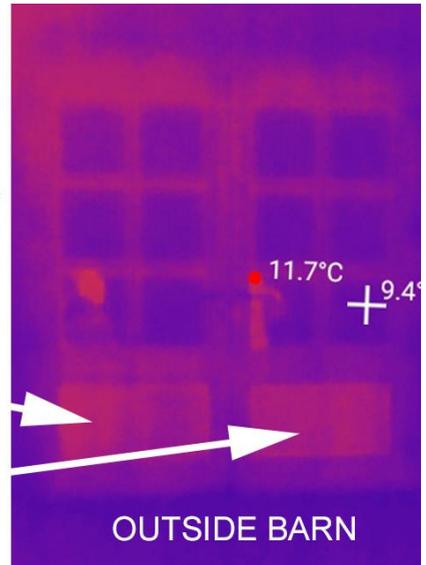


We learnt a lot from their visit. The old fashioned approach has a lot to commend it for our house. Our shutters already do a lot to reduce heat loss. We could improve the house's thermal efficiency by using draught excluders for our external doors plus full length curtains on a portiere rod (see left: I had to look this up!), which lifts the curtain as it opens, not only useful for those with windows.



Windows in external door need covering

Draught under front door



Recessed panels could do with more insulation

In the barn the pipework relating to the heat pump could do with more lagging. Some of the external doors could do with a layer of insulation board in the recesses.

These were among a number of relatively manageable things to sort out. The poor thermal insulation of old stone walls was more difficult to do anything about, and converting more of our windows to double glazing a costly undertaking.

It was really helpful to share our thoughts with Martyn and Barry, who gave us copies of the thermal images that are really revealing as well as a couple of hours of their time and lots of advice, for which many thanks! They are also able to give details of local support and help.

We are hopefully coming towards the end of the season where we need to heat our homes. Therefore **now is the time to book them to do a thermal survey of your home – it's free!**

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Yealm Community Energy 2024 Community Fund round is open!

YCE is encouraging applications for its latest grant funding round.

Do you have an environmental project that needs some match funding to realise its full impact and potential?

YCE has granted £100,000 to local projects since 2018, including Covid emergency relief.

With YCE having completed the purchase of the solar farms it now has the security of offering grants annually for the lifetime of the project.

YCE harnesses the power of the sun to empower our local communities.

The 2024 round is open for Environmental Project applications.

Closing date for applications is 21st April 2024.

sponsored by Holbeton Parish Council