

## Our Climate Friendly Home

We built our straw bale home starting June 2001 (the day the drought broke!). Built around the principles of recycling and minimising long-term energy use, over 75% of the materials used were second hand, collected over 9 months from demolitions, dealers and classifieds.



We love our warm house but in 2001 could not afford the \$32,000 for PV solar to make it truly energy efficient. We're aiming to reduce our energy usage by 50% in the next 5 years. Our power consumption is 7,400 kwh a year. (Average Tasmanian home uses over 10,000.)

Energy saving features include the following:

### Design

- Passive solar straw bale design with large, double-glazed, north-facing windows. Thermal mass cement stabilised earth bricks internal walls
- Recycled/2<sup>nd</sup> hand building materials including windows, floor boards, joists, bearers, doors, bricks, cupboards.
- Top insulation with straw bale and polyester bats (made from recycled coke bottles) in floor, walls and ceilings and hot water pipes.
- Permaculture garden and feng shui.
- Avoid over packaged goods / reuse plastic containers /use cloth bags
- Use hot water bottles instead of electric blankets
- School walking bus
- Bike ride & walk to work in daylight saving
- Minimise electric heater

### Technology

- Insulation
- Solar hot water
- Sun dry 95% of clothes
- Double glazed windows in living room
- 2<sup>nd</sup> hand oven
- Vents and fridge in large pantry for preserving and storage
- Rain water tank linked to bath pond and vegie garden

### Household Practices

- 26 fruit trees & vegie garden supply approx. 120 kg of produce a year (a lot goes to possums unfortunately!)
- Compost to next door chooks
- Reuse 2<sup>nd</sup> hand furniture, op shop clothes, reusing materials and water as much as possible.

### Our next Steps

- Install photo voltaics (October)
- Install energy saving blinds & pelmets
- Dig mud in vegie garden when sun shines again!
- Downsize car size when practical
- Low-flow showerhead
- Install LED/T5/fluorescent lights
- 'One car' policy
- Walk and ride bikes much more

