

Sydney's Sustainable House

The two story inner city terrace is on a 150 square metre site (5 metres wide, 30 metres deep, including a 48 square metre garden), 2 kilometres from Sydney's central business district and 10 minutes walk from Darling Harbour. After the renovation it has:

- A solar energy system. Surplus solar energy is put back into the main electricity grid. The solar system puts the house's power bills into a credit with the local power company. Each year, the house is a net exporter of clean energy to the main grid. It produces 3610 kilowatts of power a year.
- A waste treatment system. It treats washing, kitchen and household waste to tertiary quality levels for treatment and re-use. It uses natural, self-adjusting biological process, not chemicals. Yet the house appears the same as any other, having the usual flush toilet, and typical clothes and dish washing machines.
- A water system. It catches rainwater from the roof and stores it for use, and filters out pollution.
- There's a little wetland that provides a safe house for frogs (which eat the mozzies), insects, native birds. Only plantation or regrowth timbers from non-controversial forests were used, and there's just a bit of PVC we couldn't avoid using as there were no alternatives.

To be self sufficient with water we:

- harvest rainwater and use it for drinking, cooking, showers, baths, hot water.
- pump water from a buried rainwater tank.

To be self sufficient for energy we:

- harvest solar energy using solar photovoltaic panels and export excess energy to the grid during the day;
- during the night we import energy from the main electricity grid;
- this system supports our 240 volt wiring, refrigerator, fax, photocopier, video, tele, computer, stereo, clothes dryer, front loading washing machine, dishwashing machine.

*Michael is the author of **Sustainable House**, published by CHOICE Books, 1998.*

Sustainable Projects Pty Ltd
58 Myrtle Street Chippendale NSW 2008

Tel: 02 9310 2930 Fax: 02 9310 1893
Email: michael@sustainablehouse.com.au

Web: www.sustainablehouse.com.au
