

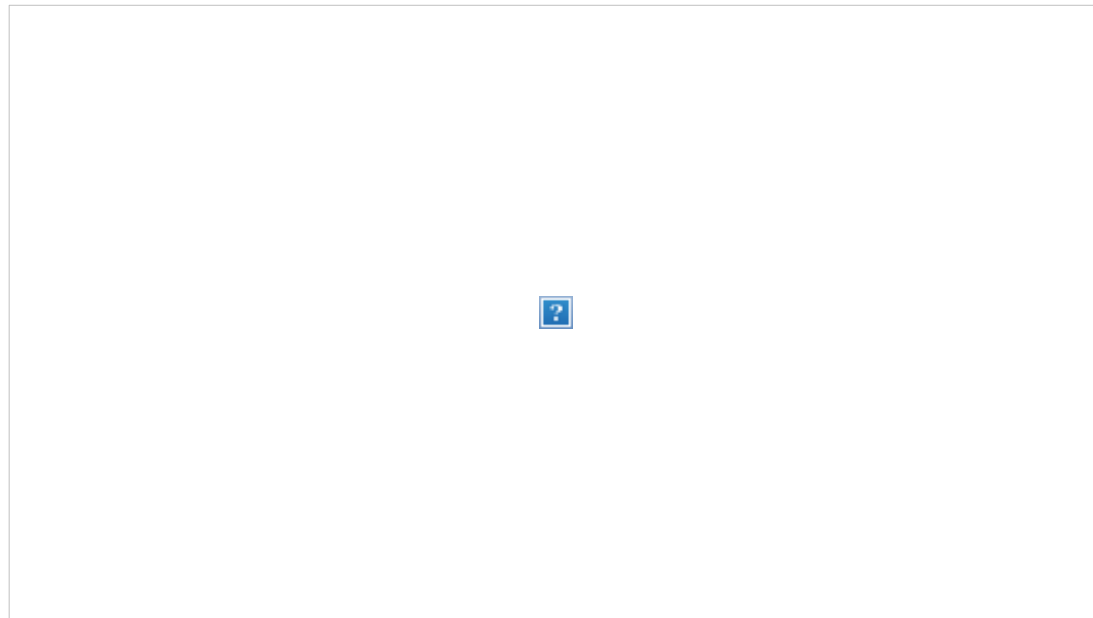


The Blog



Rating Green House Upgrades that Pay You Back

Posted on 28. Nov, 2011 by [Maryruth Belsey Priebe](#) in [Articles](#)



[One Block Off the Grid](#) recently published a great infographic that answers the question, "What [green house plans](#) will pay for themselves and more?" It's a fantastic summary of some of the most cost-effective upgrades you can make to

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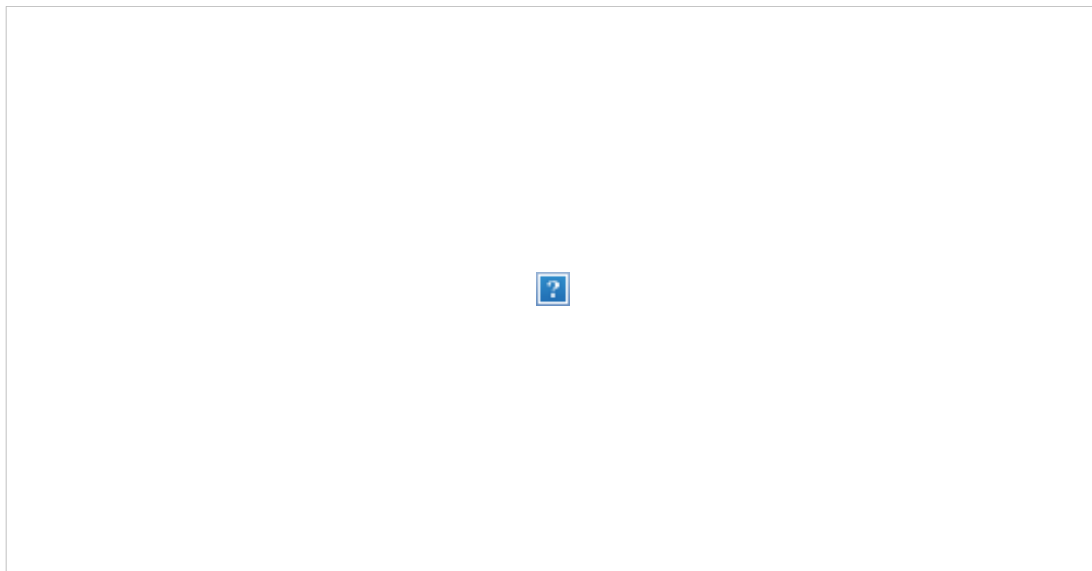
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your home that have an excellent return on investment over time.

You should definitely take a look at the full infographic, but here's a quick summary of some of the One Block Off the Grid's main conclusions:

- Programmable thermostat: The cheapest green upgrade on the list, adding a programmable thermostat to your heating and cooling system will only cost about \$115, but will return big time. These gadgets reduce heating and cooling costs by about \$180 every year, for a payback just over a half of a year, and total 20-year savings of \$3,600.
- High efficiency shower heads: One of the least expensive green house upgrades, this will cost you about \$180, save you about \$300 per year in water and water heating costs, and pay for itself in less than a year. Over 20 years, you'll reap about \$6,000 in total savings.
- Duct Sealing: This simple and inexpensive upgrade will run about \$450 but will save you about \$300 annually, which means you'll have the upgrade paid off in 1.5 years. And you'll achieve \$6,000 in 20 years.
- Wall insulation: By upgrading your wall insulation for about \$750, you'll achieve annual heating and cooling savings of about \$300, with a payback of 2.5 years and a total 20-year savings of \$6,000.
- Furnace replacement: This is a medium-cost upgrade, running about \$1,145 for the up-front cost, but with a \$300/year return, and a 3.8 year payback. The 20-year savings are about \$4,320.
- Solar Hot Water: Original cost for this renewable energy hot water heater will be about \$2,500 to install, but will save about \$280 annually for water heating, and \$5,600 over 20-year period. That means it's paid off within 8.9 years.
- Solar PV Electric: This entire setup might cost around \$13,000 and will provide clean energy savings you about \$1,200 per year or \$60,000 over the life of the system. That means a payback in about 10.8 years.

Of course, there are some larger ticket items, like installing a geothermal system that will provide big savings, too, but these ideas should get your brain considering the upsides of making investments in your green house.



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