

# Green Homes Sheffield Host









## Further information

Host address:	147 Albert Road Sheffield S8 9QX
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### More information about this home

The house is a 1850s brick built, double skin, no cavity wall building. Cost of improvements available on request. Improvements have made a big difference in cosiness and lower bills. Nick Parsons was adviser, recommended internal insulation jobs. Local-contractors included women electrician and plumber from WICAT.

### Low carbon measures on show

-  **Low-cost improvements** - draught proofing innovations. innovative low cost moisture management
-  **'Big' insulation works**
  - major internal insulation of attic bedroom needing airflow consideration
  - cellar ceiling insulation with recycled plastic bottles
-  **Glazing** – secondary glazing throughout - pros and cons
-  **High spec heating** – new combi condensing boiler
-  **Renewable heat** – wood-burning stove
-  **Renewable electricity:** – Solar PV on roof
-  **Sustainable building materials:** – wood management (cool chain saw bench)
-  **Lifestyle changes:** – local food for self and others - garage a community resource for food co-op and local bikes. Hats and fleeces for inside wear, available for guests

### Personal insights

I bought this house in July 2011 with the intention of doing a retrofit as part of a contribution to low carbon Sheffield as well as to make the house cosier and more energy efficient. I made a 3 year plan with a budget, which I have mostly stuck to (the timings, not quite the budget!) It has helped having the timeframe so as not to feel overwhelmed. The first job was the attic insulation combined with re-roofing and PV installation which has made the most difference). It is still the room in the house that rarely needs central heating. That and the PV installation have given a lot of pleasure. I have project-managed which takes time and a mindful attitude! I have enjoyed engaging local craftspeople –



women where possible. This has made the projects more personal and supported the local economy rather than big business.

A relatively low-cost improvement has been changing a single radiator to a double one which vents the air upwards. This has made an enormous difference, transforming a rather chilly living room with external walls and a bay window to a cosy one. The wood-burning stove in the kitchen adds real cosiness and much lower central heating temperature. Managing a wood supply takes time and energy, which currently I enjoy. Wall insulation would be the next task, but I am wavering, both because of the disruption from internal insulation, the aesthetic effect of external insulation and some uncertainties still about moisture and ventilation. I'll probably wait for more research on the issue.

