

## FIRST ECOHOME FOR ST ALBANS COUNCIL

Working on behalf of St Albans City and District Council, Jarvis M&E Services was involved in the transforming of a traditional 1950s built council house into a modern, energy efficient ecohome. It went on to win the Green Apple Environment Award out of 500 entries, and represented the UK in the European Business Awards for the Environment.

The vacant three-bedroom council semi in the village of Smallford was equipped with a string of energy-saving features, including Viessmann Vitosol 200 Solar roof panels, of which Jarvis M&E Services are approved installers, a 1000-watt wind turbine and 4700-litre underground rainwater-recycling tank. It also featured a new ground-floor timber framed extension clad in Western Cedar from Canadian forests, requiring less energy to produce than conventional brickwork, protected by a living sedum roof, designed to insulate the structure naturally and reduce rainwater run-off by absorption.

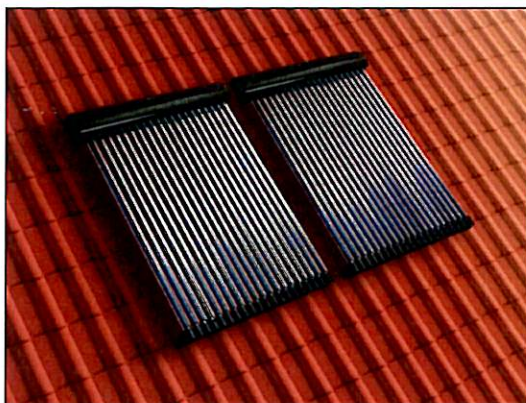


*Installation of new wind turbine*

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*Example of Viessmann Vitosol 200 Solar Panels installed for the District Council*

Jarvis installed a highly efficient central heating system, water-saving taps and half-flush toilets. As well as argon-filled double glazing, the Council has installed a solar-powered bathroom extractor fan. The combined energy-saving features make the home potentially self-sufficient in power consumption. Among other improvements are glazed roofing panes funnelling natural daylight into the house, passive-stack ventilation, and roof insulation made with recycled newspaper, wool and hemp.

The pilot project will enable St Albans City and District Council to assess which eco-features would be most effective for the rest of its housing stock. A series of open days has been held for the media, designers and the local community to view this exciting scheme.