

## Baglady's ASAP Home Eco-audits

Why do a home audit? Well, according to people who have been through one, it's a great way to **get to know people better**, it can help **open your eyes** to your environmental practices, it's actually **really interesting**, and it helps you to **practise receiving constructive criticism**. It also helps people come up with creative solutions to environmental dilemmas together. All great reasons to give it a whirl!

Here's some pointers on how to get going:

1. First find a friend who's interested, and ask them to put aside two hours of their time for your visit. They don't need to accompany you the whole time, but they'll need to be close at hand.
2. You could start by getting the person to show you 4 rooms you'll work from. It may end up that you take elements from other rooms when discussing with the person later on and you'll probably take notes on the garden in addition, but to start with get 4 rooms to form the basis. Kitchen and bathroom are usually interesting.
3. Sit in each of the rooms by yourself and make notes on what jumps out at you, where you can see some environmental efforts your host is making that you think is interesting, or somewhere you can see a dilemma, or a constraint, where you think that there could be a more perfect environmental set up. There is usually a reason why the thing is the way it is, or it's possible your host just hasn't considered it before, but it's worth bringing it up. It doesn't have to feel judgemental, because you are opening up debate, which is good.
4. If you're sitting there and nothing is jumping out, you can either move on to the next room, or start going round the room item by item and considering the pros and cons of each separately. It takes more time, but can get you moving.
5. When you've done the four rooms plus garden ask your host to accompany you into each room and bring up the main interesting points. This is when the most valuable info comes out, so take notes. You'll find out why things are the way they are, and it becomes apparent that it's not the objects that are sustainable or not, but their histories, the way they are used and how they fit into the bigger picture. So it's the stories, contradictions, compromises and intents that are interesting. Also record some straightforward stuff, like: "curtains lined to save heat" or "second hand clothes", but make sure to get the more intricate stuff.
6. Ask about the origin of certain things, how old they are, where they were bought from, how well they work, how your host gets around any problems. People love talking about this. Also ask them for any additional comments about the audit process, or anything else.
7. We'd like to have something about the clothes washing and drying systems in everyone's house, to be able to compare.
8. The thing can be pretty tiring, so aim to have it done in 2 hours, so 15 mins for each room to start with, and an hour for the rest.
9. If you have a camera take photos of some of the more interesting elements.
10. Type up your notes, and highlight the themes or elements you found most interesting. Then send them to your host and to me, [miriam@bagladyproductions.org](mailto:miriam@bagladyproductions.org). Thank you!

We will upload them onto our website at [www.bagladyproductions.org](http://www.bagladyproductions.org), for everyone to see. If you enjoyed doing the audit, why not do another, or encourage your host to audit one of their friends...?