

News from 't Look



't Look isn't standing still! More and more residents are taking steps to make their homes and gardens a little more sustainable. In this newsletter, we regularly share inspiring examples, practical tips, and activities. A more sustainable Veldhoven – 't Look is joining in too!

Insect Hotel/ Climate Week Action

From **November 10 to 16, 2025**, it's **National Climate Week!** We'd love for you to join in. During Climate Week, we'll place an insect hotel in 't Look, built by students from Sondervick College. How great would it be if the materials for the bee hotel came from our neighborhood? Do you have any materials lying around that you no longer use? Maybe we can use them for the insect hotel! See the list of materials we can use below.

You can bring the materials on **Saturday, October 25**, between **09:30 and 11:30 AM** to **Children's Farm De Hazewinkel**. We'll be at the stable. The **Veldhovense Kluskar** will also be there for a nice cup of coffee, tea, or lemonade. **Note:** If the material is unsuitable or if you bring large quantities, we cannot accept it. We're looking for small amounts of the materials listed above. A trailer full of pruning waste or multiple crates of old roof tiles should be taken to the recycling center.

Insect Hotel Unveiling

On **Thursday, November 13 at 1:30 PM** we'll unveil the insect hotel! We'd love for you to join us. The insect hotel will be placed in the verge between the children's farm and the Twijnder. The **Veldhovense Kluskar** will provide coffee, tea, or lemonade.



We need this

- Untreated hardwood or durable wood (planks/beams ≥ 2 cm thick)
- Branches, logs, and tree slices ($\varnothing$ 6–20 cm)
- Hollow stems (bamboo, reed bundles, blackberry/elder – dry and straight stems)
- Old roof tiles or leftover pieces of roof tiles (not huge quantities)
- Small masonry or roof lead scraps

And not this

- Treated/painted/glued wood
- Chipboard/MDF
- Wet/rotting material
- Plastic tubes
- Pinecones/straw
- Pallets with chemical stamps



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We spoke with

Toon Steenbergen, a resident of 't Look



Age: 73

Birthplace: Eindhoven

Residence: Veldhoven

Marital Status: Married, three children,
two grandchildren

Occupation: Retired, formerly worked at Philips Medical
Systems with over 40 years of experience in technology,
production, logistics, and supporting sales and service.

You've already done quite a lot to make your home more sustainable. Can you tell us how and what you've done?

It actually started in 2021 when we bought our house. The 1970s house was dark. It looked neat but not in our style. We wanted to prepare the house for the future and create more light. That's why we installed skylights, and the roof –made of Stramiet (a pressed straw product)– had to be replaced with plywood roof panels. At the same time, we added thick stone wool insulation from the inside so that the roofline looked the same from the outside.

One thing led to another: after that, we insulated the cavity walls. Later, we added a hybrid heat pump and solar panels, partly because of high energy prices and our desire to use less gas. Finally, we installed a home battery to make better use of our own electricity.

Why are you so actively involved in sustainability?

I enjoy researching things and gaining knowledge. When I'm working on something, I just want to understand how it works. And along the way, you keep learning new things – that makes it fun!

How did you decide on your first measure?

It really started with renovating our house. Because we couldn't install windows in the old roof, we replaced and insulated it. Then came cavity wall insulation, also because there were attractive subsidies and VAT benefits at the time. Sustainability wasn't the main goal, but it turned out to be a nice extra advantage.

What has sustainability brought you so far?

Since we had just bought the house, we can't really say if comfort has changed much, but it just feels good. Warm and pleasant living. And honestly, we're not doing it for the money. We'll probably never earn everything back, but that wasn't the goal either. It's mainly an investment and improvement in our home and in the climate. So yes, it's a win on multiple fronts. It's really an "and-and-and" story.

Did you use subsidies?

Yes, we used the ISDE subsidy for roof and wall insulation, and also for a few windows and a door. We also reclaimed VAT for the solar panels and the home battery, of course under the right conditions. You do need to sit down and prepare, but if you do it well, it really pays off.

Did you do everything yourself or hire professionals?

We worked with professional companies. I helped where possible, mainly with work preparation and cleaning up afterward. When installing the solar panels, I also went up on the roof. I like to be involved, know what's happening, and understand what they're doing.

What went well or was challenging during the process?

Overall, everything went according to plan. Financially, we were well prepared because we had done our research. Applying for subsidies and VAT refunds took some time but was manageable because we knew what to do and what to expect.



Top left photo: home battery with inverter in the garage.



Top right photo: the roof insulation.

Photo with Toon Steenbergen: the boiler room with, at the front left, the existing hot air heater, at the back right, the existing central heating boiler, and at the front right, the new hybrid heat pump.

It was nice that the hybrid heat pump could be connected to the existing central heating and underfloor heating without special adjustments, and that the original hot air heating could still remain functional.

If you could do it over, what would you do differently?

With the knowledge I have now, I might choose a more modern model of hybrid heat pump. Back then, we chose what was available, but now there are better options. That's part of the time in which you make choices.

What would you still like to do in the future?

We're considering replacing the current double-glass windows with modern HR++ glass – that would make the interior even more comfortable. And maybe we can set up the home battery a bit smarter so we use even more of our own electricity. For us, it's about comfortable living and making use of the smart possibilities available today.

Do you have tips for other neighbors?

My tip? For every step, we did thorough research, got informed, and calculated everything carefully. Ask someone knowledgeable to take a look if needed, and don't get carried away by offers or door-to-door salespeople.

Every home is different, so what works for your neighbors might not work for you. It's really custom work. And if you're applying for subsidies or VAT refunds, pay close attention to the fine print and keep your administration organized. Also, try to be involved in the execution yourself – it gives you insight, keeps you in control, and it's very interesting!



Veldhoven Duurzaam

Want to make your home more sustainable? Veldhoven Duurzaam gives you advice!

Veldhoven Duurzaam is here for all your questions about making your home more sustainable. They help you apply for subsidies and support you in creating an energy profile of your home.

This way, you gain insight into where to start saving. You'll receive advice on various large and small measures you can take to reduce your energy consumption. In addition, you can borrow a CO₂ meter or other equipment to get a better understanding of your energy use.

The volunteers of Veldhoven Duurzaam are available every Saturday afternoon between 13:00 and 15:30 pm at the library. Drop by and ask your questions, or visit www.veldhovenduurzaam.nl



Questions, comments or suggestions

Do you have any questions following this newsletter or other questions, comments, or suggestions? Let us know. Project leader Amber Linssen and/or building expert Maaïke Wolfs can both be reached via duurzaam@veldhoven.nl

Do some thorough research, get informed and calculate everything carefully



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Practical tips

Autumn has begun – the perfect time not only to enjoy the warm colors and cozy atmosphere but also to use energy wisely. With a few simple tips, you can keep the warmth inside and reduce your energy consumption.



Make use of the autumn sun

- Open curtains and blinds on the sunny side of your house during the day. This way, you benefit from free solar heat that you wanted to keep out in summer.
- Close them as soon as the sun sets to keep the warmth inside.

Use your air conditioner for heating (wisely)

- Many air conditioners (with heat pump function) can also heat. This works efficiently at mild outdoor temperatures, such as in autumn.
- Note: heating with an air conditioner is cheaper than an old-fashioned central heating system at temperatures above 10°C.
- Start early with sealing gaps and adding insulation.
- Check doors, windows, crawl spaces, and attics for drafts. With simple tools (draft strips, foil, letterbox brush), you can save significantly on heating costs.
- Did you know the Veldhoven Kluskar helps residents for free with these measures? Make an appointment quickly via www.veldhoven.nl/kluskar
- This is also the perfect time to think about wall, floor, or roof insulation. Considering this? Be aware that the municipality of Veldhoven currently offers a subsidy scheme if you want to insulate your home. You can get €1,500 back on top of national subsidies. Read the exact conditions and options at www.veldhoven.nl/isoleren

Take care of your garden

- This is good for biodiversity **and** your home.
- Leave something in your garden or on your facade for insects, birds, and hedgehogs (such as a pile of branches or a bee hotel).
- Install a rain barrel—it helps prevent flooding **and** saves water.

Think about comfort and atmosphere – without energy hogs

- Warm throws, rugs, and thick curtains give you a cozy feeling without using electricity. So start looking for that nice matching blanket for your couch now.
- Direct warmth on your body works better than turning up the heating another degree when you feel cold. Consider a heated cushion or chair warmer.

Lighting: switch to LED and use timers

- In autumn, lights are on more often. LED bulbs save up to 85% energy compared to halogen or incandescent bulbs. Don't forget lamps in places like the extractor hood.
- With a timer, you prevent lights from staying on unnecessarily, for example in the garden or that one lamp by the front door.

Check the central heating system

- A well-adjusted boiler works more efficiently and safely.
- Bleed your radiators, check the pressure, and consider radiator foil.
- Install thermostatic valves if needed and balance the radiators hydraulically.
- No idea how to apply these tips? Check if you have a good maintenance contract for your boiler and ask about these points when someone comes for service.



New in 't Look?

Have you just moved to 't Look and are seeing this newsletter for the first time? Scan the QR code to learn more about the project and read previous editions of this newsletter



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