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Andrew and Judith Leask are about to turn their house into an eco-house

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Family digging in for the Good Life

Paul R Taylor

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A FAMILY of four from Sale are transforming their home to live a modern-day version of famous TV show The Good Life.

Just like Tom and Barbara from the classic 70s sitcom, Andrew and Judith Leask are converting their garden to produce food with a fish farm, orchard and vegetable beds.

They will switch to solar power and plan to turn off the central heating for good within five years.

The couple and their two young children began the experiment to save money, but now say they want to do their bit to tackle global warming.

IT director Andrew, 37, said: "We returned from Australia so the children could spend more time with their grandparents - but we knew the cost of living in Britain is very high.

"In Brisbane we had a big 4x4, air conditioners - our environmental consciousness was basically turned off.

"Now we're aiming to be self-sufficient for our energy needs and grow most of our own food. It's exciting and we've realised how much everyone will have to work to meet any global warming targets."

Andrew is installing insulation, solar panels, rainwater harvesting, a wood-burning stove and dozens of other

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Family digging in for the Good Life - ...

energy-saving devices - as well as ditching the tumble dryer.

A 3,000-litre fish farm in their garden should produce 150kg of rainbow trout a year.

Money

There will also be potatoes and other root crops, as well as almond, pear, plum and apple trees.

The Leasks will keep others updated on their eco-home's progress with a website and via Twitter. The project is also supported by Trafford council and urbangrown.com

Andrew added: "We're going to be honest about what works and what doesn't. There's no point everyone spending money on green products that simply don't work.

"But it's all out there now, you just have to pick up the phone and someone will come round, measure and install.

"The solar panels should pay for themselves within a few years with the new government incentives.

"The house could actually make money while we're on holiday and energy is only going to get more expensive."

The Leasks plan to cycle as much as possible, but admit they will run a car until the children are older.

You can keep up with the Leasks' progress at traffordecohouse.wordpress.com or on twitter.com/traffordeco



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