A PERFECT RETROFIT
Not ready to build from the ground up? No worries. Costs for earth-friendly home improvement have finally come down to earth—and the dividends pay off for years and years. Here's how to update your current spread with the sleekest new green technology, by FLORENCE WILLIAMS

LET THESE BE LIGHT
Ablaze in Australian, solatubes are like big paper-wrapped tubes that concentrate sunlight into your living space. They're reasonably priced, easy to install, and just plain cool-looking. This 14 inches in diameter, the solatube brings in Natural daylight to reduce your need for electric lighting. UPGRADE COST: $800. WHERE TO BUY: solatube.com. PAYOFF: About 700 watts per hour during the day, for an annual savings of roughly 1,500 kilowatt-hours, or $27.

WATER LOGS
In British Columbia alone, five billion board feet of well-preserved timber await harvesting in decaying reserves. The Sawfish, from Balanced Timber, is one of the world's only deepwater logging submarines—a sort of Paul Bunyan meets Jacques Cousteau. Triton's submerged products— including buoys for westernred-cedar logpile plant, and bellrock—range from raw planks to flooring and are certified by the Rainforest Alliance. UPGRADE COST: The same as, or up to 50 percent more than, their virgin-counterparts WHERE TO BUY: Balanced Timberlog.com. PAYOFF: You save a forest.

SHEEP'S CLOTHING
Prince Charles is doing it, and now you can, too: Indulge your house, attic, or addition with old-fashioned, wooly, sheep's wool. The batting costs 20% less than the cotton-candy cousin, but it installs just as well and will last forever if protected from moisture—plus you'll never get shards of fiberglass under your skin. Your choice: whether to swear the Kits. UPGRADE COST: $32 per square foot (6 inches thick). WHERE TO BUY: PCF. PAYOFF: Natural fibers contain no formaldehyde or VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and are mold-resistant.

INVISIBLE SUN
Now you can buy unmatched photovoltaic panels that fit right into your ceiling tiles, windows, and skylights. The panels collect in semitransparent or opaque glass and can serve as shades that reducing your cooling costs. UPGRADE COST: $55 invested for every 300 square feet USE: to buy: soltech.com/ solar PAYOFF: Clean power that literally costs nothing but slowly pays you back over a 40-year life span.

RECYCLED KITCHEN
CycloTech Experiences is a high-performance counter-