

Reading

eco-friendly /'i:kəu,frendli/ *adj* not harmful to the environment

1 Work in pairs. Look at the definition above and discuss the questions.

- 1 Have you made any changes to the way you live in order to be more eco-friendly?
- 2 If so, explain what you have done and why.

2 a Read the title and introduction to the article below and look at the words in the box. How do you think each word is significant in the article?

adaptable climate flooding fuel household waste
insulated recycling self-sufficient sound waves

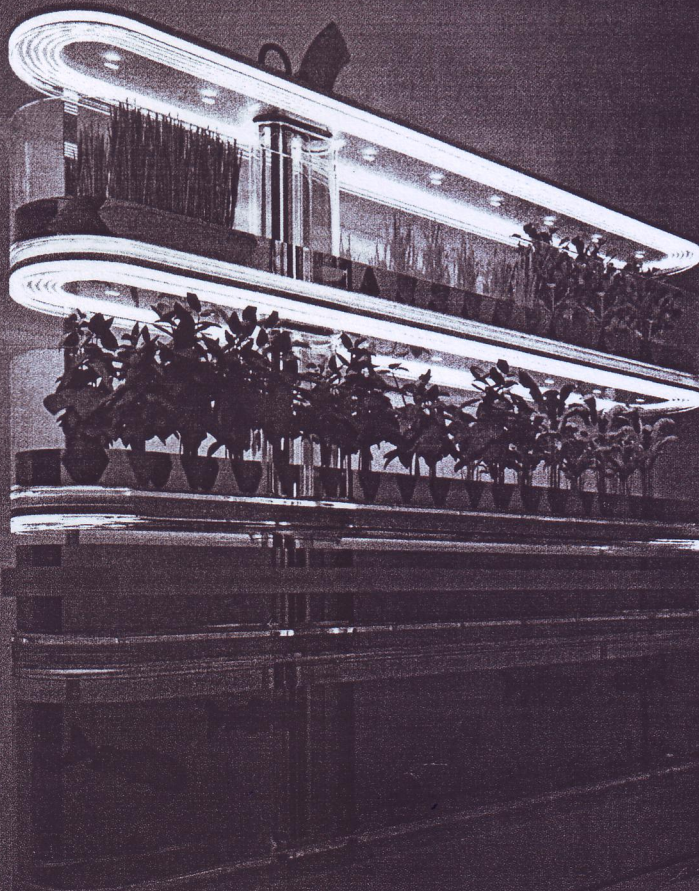
b Read the article and check your predictions.

3 a Read the article again and answer the questions.

- 1 How is a 'passive house' mainly heated?
- 2 What is the advantage of moveable walls?
- 3 How will the plants in the fish tank help the fish?
- 4 What can the energy created by the fish tanks be used for?
- 5 Why will there be no more private swimming pools?
- 6 What two things will 'clever' fridges be able to do?

b Work in pairs. Which of the predictions in the article do you think are likely to happen? Why?

What does the future hold?



We spoke to Professor John Williams, futurologist, for his expert predictions on life in the next few decades.

Well, the first thing to say is that I don't believe we're all going to be living in treehouses and walking or cycling everywhere. We are going to have to make changes though.

Unfortunately, it looks quite likely that the climate may change significantly, with hotter summers, colder winters and more flooding. At the same time, fuel for heating or air conditioning will probably become much more expensive. For these reasons, our houses will definitely have to become much better insulated. People are already building so-called 'passive houses', which have little or no central heating at all, relying on the bodyheat of the people who live there.

Homes probably won't be as big, and so we will need more adaptable furniture, such as sofa-beds, and when we are not using our furniture we will be able to fold it away into wall cabinets. Houses could have moveable walls so that the same space can be arranged in different ways. Tabletops may double as computer screens or DVD players.

New technology will make us more self-sufficient. Kitchens may have fish tanks which, as well as providing fish to eat, also produce fresh vegetables (see photo). The plants will provide oxygen for the fish. These tanks will be powered by household