

Green by design, sustainable by choice!

Building Green from the Ground Up

In our previous article, ***“Eco-Friendly Support Infrastructure: UDCORP’s Biodigester Initiative,”*** we looked at how a home today is more than shelter — it is a space designed to work in harmony with the environment, using biodigesters to treat household liquid waste sustainably. But sustainability cannot stop at the boundary of our infrastructure. It has to reach into our homes as well.

Building a green home is not a passing trend. It is a mindset shift—a set of practical choices that cut costs, save resources and create healthier living spaces. **Section 73 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe** guarantees every citizen the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being and places a clear duty on both government and citizens to protect natural resources for future generations. Here is how that translates into the way one build:

1. Sustainable Building Design



Position the home to make the most of natural sunlight and the prevailing wind. Smart orientation cuts daytime lighting costs and keeps indoor spaces comfortable through the year.

2. Passive Ventilation



Large, well-placed windows and high ceilings let air move naturally through the house. Good airflow clears heat and moisture and keeps indoor air healthy, without relying on power-hungry air conditioning.

3. Eco-Friendly and Durable Materials



Choose low-carbon, locally sourced materials such as soil-cement blocks, stone and certified local timber. Weather-resilient materials help a home withstand harsh climate cycles with minimal upkeep.

4. Energy Efficiency



Cut dependence on the grid with energy-saving LED lighting, solar water heaters and rooftop solar panels.

5. Water Resource Conservation



Protect water access with rainwater harvesting tanks, dual-flush systems and low-flow taps. Reusing household greywater on the garden keeps outdoor spaces green while conserving drinking water.

6. On-Site Waste Reduction



Sort waste at home: compost organic kitchen waste for the garden, and send plastics, metals and glass to local recycling hubs.

As government's primary technical arm for housing and urban infrastructure, UDCORP is taking a leading role in environmental protection. The Corporation is moving to amend its enabling legislation, the UDCORP Act to embed eco-friendly principles, circular economy guidelines and climate resilience directly into housing and infrastructure project frameworks. UDCORP has already begun applying the seven core principles of sustainable design to its future housing projects.

This transition will not happen overnight. It calls for investment, appropriate standards, education and collaboration between government, developers, professionals, communities and households. But it has to start somewhere.

“It can begin with the next house we design, the next building we construct, the next litre of water we save, the next piece of waste we prevent, and the next generation we choose to protect.”
