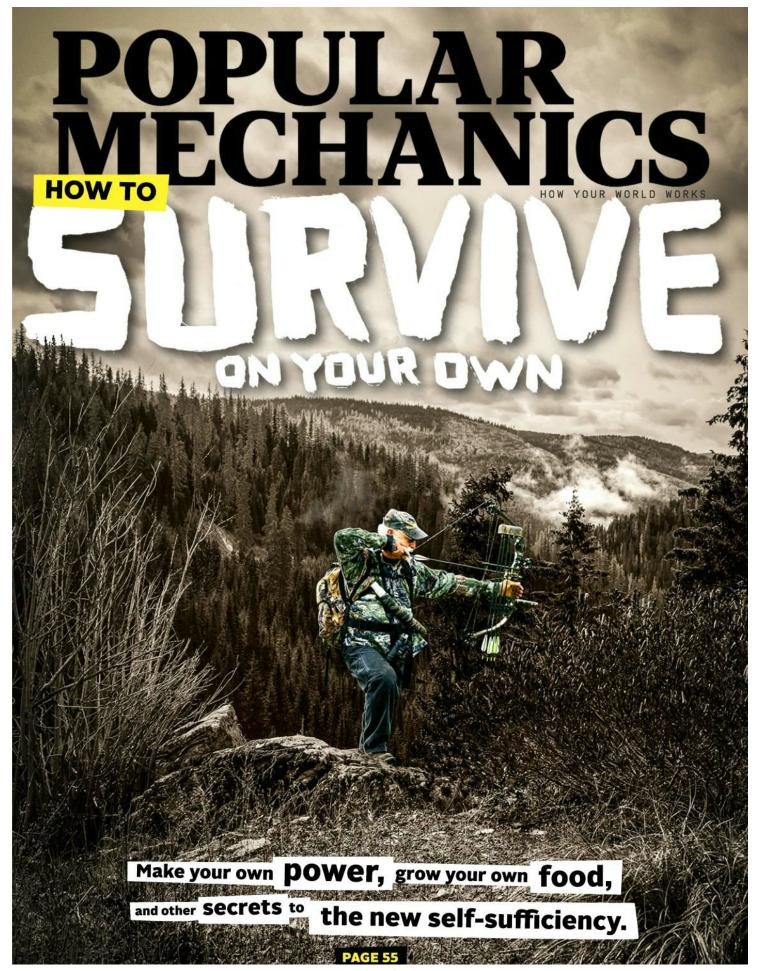
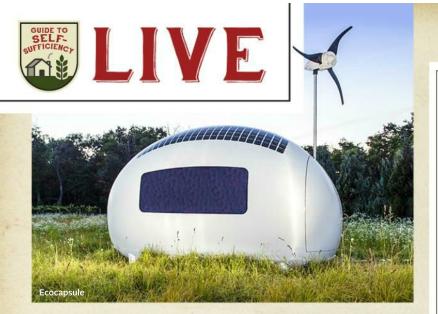
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SHORTCUT SHACK

Don't want to build your own cabin in the woods? You don't have to. A premade, off-grid-compatible house can function wherever you decide to call home.



ACRE DESIGNS

- → Best for: Design enthusiasts
- → Comparable to: A four-star resort
- → Coolest feature: It combines all your utilities into a single appliance, the Zero-Box, which includes an electrical panel, a distribution panel, a 7.2-kilowatt inverter, an energy recovery ventilator, and a whole-home water-filtration system and emergency shutoff.
- → Cost: \$400,000 to \$500,000; available at acredesigns.com



ZEROHOUSE

- → **Best for:** People who wish the Jetsons were real
- → Comparable to: A motel in Japan
- **Coolest feature:** High-efficiency solar panels produce all of the zeroHouse's electrical power, storing it in battery banks that can operate for up to a week without sunlight. A 2,700-gallon cistern collects rainwater from the roof, while a digester unit under the house processes organic waste into dry compost.
- → Cost: Approximately \$350,000; available at zerohouse.net



ECOCAPSULE

- → Best for: People who don't shower much
- → Comparable to:
 Wrapping your
 comforter around
 yourself like a burrito
 - > Coolest feature:
 This pod can survive anywhere, without connection to anything, for up to a year. It powers itself through solar cells that cover the roof and a retractable 750-watt wind turbine, and the shape maximizes collected rainwater, which built-in filters make safe for consumption.
- → Cost: Approximately \$87,600; available at ecocapsule.sk

How to Make Your Own POWER

Set up one of these systems, and then bellow like Zeus every time you turn on the coffeemaker.

SOLAR

- $\rightarrow \boldsymbol{\mathit{Location:}}$ South- or west-facing roof top or unwooded area
- → *Equipment*: At least 24 solar panels, charge controller, breakers, switchgear, inverter, and batteries.
- *→ Output:* 7.5-kw
- \rightarrow *Cost**: \$25,000 to \$30,000, depending on whether it's a rooftop or a ground array.

GENERATOR

- $\rightarrow \textit{Location:}$ Level ground near the house
- → *Equipment:* Generator, panel, breakers, and switchgear. A 100-gallon or larger liquefied petroleum gas tank. Propane.
- *→ Output:* 7.5-kw
- → *Cost*: About \$10,000, but it can vary based on distance to the house, plumbing, and interconnection to a battery.

SMALL WIND TURBINE

- → *Location:* Breezy area, high ground
- → *Equipment:* A wind turbine, set atop an 80- to 100-foot tower, turbine disconnect, electronics, inverter, and batteries.
- → *Output:* 7.5-kw
- \rightarrow $Cost^*$: \$36,000 to \$40,000 on average. Cost varies based on whether there is road or trail access to tower location and how far the tower is from your home.

MICRO HYDRO

- \rightarrow $\it Location:$ A water source with a vertical drop and a steady flow measured in gallons per minute
- → *Equipment:* An intake gate called a penstock, valves and pressure gauges, turbine, switchgear, inverter, and electronics. Lowoutput or variable-output systems may require a battery bank.
- *→ Output:* 7.5-kw
- → Cost*: Anywhere from \$8,000 to \$36,000, depending on the length of your penstock, whether there is road or trail access, and how the turbine will be sheltered.

*Costs do not reflect tax or other incentives or locally required permits.