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# Annual Tour of Solar Homes Is This Saturday, Oct. 3rd, and You're Invited

Every October I look forward to the Tour of Solar Homes. It's a national event, hosted locally since 1996 by the Colorado Renewable Energy Society.

You can view the 14 homes on this year's tour at [www.CRES-Energy.org](http://www.CRES-Energy.org). They're not as spread out geographically as in past years, which I appreciate. Seven are in north Jeffco, and seven are in central/southeast Denver. New this year is a **Green Jobs and Career Resources**

**Fair** hosted by a Denver church.

I've already registered online and have four empty seats in my car if you'd like to join me for free. Let's meet at my office (address at right) at 8:30 a.m. and make a day of it! Call me, so I'll know to expect you. If you want to go by yourself, the fee is \$20 per car load.

For \$45 per person, you can

take a bus tour, which includes lunch. Details are on the website.

My own home or office could be on the tour since both are solar

## REAL ESTATE TODAY



By **JIM SMITH, Realtor®**

powered, but I prefer to learn from other homes. I like the fact that in presenting their homes, owners will tell of their mistakes and what they'd do differently, not just about what turned out right. Many of them credit previous year's solar tours for inspiring them to do what they've done to their homes.

One house on this year's tour is an 1888 Victorian in Denver. As the owner says in the online description, if you can retrofit his house with sustainable/solar features, you can retrofit any house.

On the tour we'll see examples of geothermal heating and cooling, as well as space heating using solar thermal, topics I'm exploring.

Sustainable building practices are also part of being green, and we'll see examples of reclaimed lumber and other materials. Two straw bale homes are on the tour, one of them still under construction. One homeowner says he got his bathroom countertop from the Habitat for Humanity Home Improvement Outlet, one of my favorite sustainable shopping places.

## New Purchase Contract Contains an Out for Sellers

It's a long-standing principle of home sales that the buyer has lots of ways to get out of a contract, but the seller does not. The new purchase contract, however, says that if the funds for closing are not present at the time of closing, the seller can declare the buyer to be in default and thereby terminate, perhaps to accept a better offer. Don't let this happen to you!

## This Week's Featured New Listings:

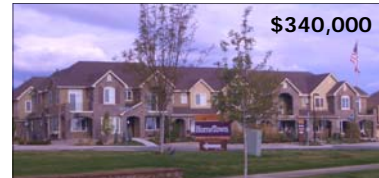
### Two New Listings by Broker Associates

Broker Associate Carrie Ackley has just listed a single-family home at **609 Alkire Street** (at right). This updated 1969 ranch-style home east of Colorado Mills and north of 6th Avenue expressway has a great Spanish-style kitchen with Saltillo tile floor, plus a 3-car garage with lots of electricity—a mechanic's dream. Its 1/4-acre lot backs to a greenbelt, too!



Click on each picture to visit that listing on [realtor.com](http://realtor.com)

Meanwhile, **Brian Dixon** has just listed a fabulous 3-bedroom, 3-bath condo with 2-car attached garage at **"Hometown"** in west Arvada. Its owners are both interior designers and the upgrades really show it, including cherry cabinets and granite counters. Contact Carrie at 303-907-1278 or Brian at 720-429-1626 to arrange a showing.



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