

At Saturday's 'Green Homes' Tour, You'll Learn What's Possible for Your Home

The **Metro Denver Green Homes Tour** is an annual event that happens on the first Saturday in October, which is this coming Saturday. For \$10 per person, you get to go on a self-guided tour of 14 Jefferson County homes with a variety of green features.

I consider myself pretty knowledgeable about solar power and sustainability, but every year I learn things I didn't already know by touring the homes on this tour.

Golden Real Estate is proud to be a platinum sponsor of this event each year. Also, I serve on the steering committee and help in a variety of ways, such as organizing the **Electric Vehicle Showcase**, which takes place during the post-tour reception, 4 to 6 pm in the **CoorsTek** parking lot at 10th & Jackson Street in downtown Golden. It coincides with the reception and Green Expo in the **American Mountaineering Center (AMC)** across the street.

Sign up for the tour online at MetroDenverGreenHomesTour.org, but you'll need to pick up your tour book and map, which you can do anytime on Friday at **Golden Real Estate's office, 17695 S. Golden Road**, or on Saturday after 9am at the **AMC, 710 10th Street**. If you don't register online, you can do so at the AMC Saturday morning.

Then you're on your own, mapping out your own tour based on locations but also on what you read about each house in the tour book.

I couldn't shoot video tours of

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By **JIM SMITH, Realtor®**

every home, but I did choose two that the committee felt represented particularly interesting examples of sustainability. You can see those two videos on the website mentioned above. By watching those two videos you will learn things you didn't already know, as I did by shooting them.

To quote from page 3 of the tour book, "In our ongoing effort to showcase a wide variety of solutions and lifestyles, you will see solar, of course, and also mini splits, ground source heat pumps and passive solar treatments. You can visit an Arvada sustainable new town home community [Geos] and enjoy many other sustainable lifestyle features such as co-housing, electric vehicles and water wise

Turning Pumpkins Into Houses

The annual pumpkin patches benefiting Habitat for Humanity are just about here. The pumpkin patch at **Garrison & Alameda** opens this Saturday and operates from 10 a.m. to dusk every day until Halloween. The patch at **77th Ave & Wadsworth** operates from Thursday the 10th through Halloween from 10 a.m. to dusk. Buy your pumpkins at either site and 40% of the purchase price goes toward building a Habitat home — and is tax deductible, for which you'll get a receipt.

If you'd like to volunteer at the patches, you can sign up at www.WestMetroPartners.org.

gardens. You will be viewing the tried-and-true in addition to the latest in innovative technologies, plus learning many steps used to eliminate red tape while going green."

If you pick up your tour book at **Golden Real Estate**, let us show you how we transitioned to "net zero energy" using many of the features you'll see on the tour, including heat pump/mini-split heating & cooling, solar panels, super insulation, and tankless electric water heating. Our monthly energy bill is \$10.26 since having our gas meter removed two years ago. If you come in an electric car, you can plug in to our free ChargePoint charging stations — powered by the sun — while we show you around!

This Saturday's tour is one of 79 such tours of 894 private homes happening this weekend as part of the **National Solar Tour** sponsored by the **American Solar Energy Society (ASES)**. And that doesn't include, for example, last Saturday's

Boulder Green Homes Tour, which had 10 homes on it. This is the 25th National Solar Tour, and we have participated for 23 of those years.

Don't forget the **Green Expo** during the reception, 4 to 6 pm following the tour. Many companies which implement green solutions will have booths, and there will be an **Electric Vehicle Showcase** in the parking lot across the street. If you have an EV, bring it for display! If you're interested in going electric, there will be test drives available. Also, **Pedego Golden** is bringing electric bicycles which you can test ride. I have an electric bike, and I love it!

Also at the event will be the **CSU Extension 4-H Mobile STEM Lab**. The primary focus of the mobile lab is energy production and conservation, energy conversions and mechanical advantage for youth and adults. Should be interesting!



Just Listed: Golden Gate Canyon Home on 35 Acres

Beautifully nestled on 35 stunning acres, this log home at **5771 Bear Paw Road** offers all the beauty of mountain living, just 30 minutes from downtown Golden up Golden Gate Canyon. Just minutes from the Golden Gate State Park, this home is also an easy drive to Golden, Boulder, Denver and major ski resorts. The large natural stone fireplace adjoins the kitchen in a beautifully open floor plan with a main-level master suite. A large laundry room and sun room off the front of the home,



offers both city and mountain views to complete the main level. Upstairs, the open loft area separates a second master suite and third bedroom, which share a full bathroom. Come see this peaceful property amongst the quaking aspens (peaking this week!) and all that mountain living has to offer! Call co-listing agents **Carol Milan, 720-982-4941**, or **Kristi Brunel, 303-525-2520**, to set a private showing. Get more information and see more pictures at www.FoothillsHome.info.

Leyden Rock Home Just Listed by David Dlugasch



This beautiful patio home at **8614 Rogers Way #B** has 10-foot ceilings on the main level, hardwood floors, granite counters throughout, and an open floor plan. The living room has a 60" wall-mounted TV that stays. The kitchen has stainless steel appliances and lots of cabinet space with a

breakfast bar in the island. The basement family room is huge, with a 70" wall-mounted TV included. It is carpeted and has a bedroom with a double closet and a full bathroom next to it. HOA dues cover common area maintenance and landscaping, community club house and pool, snow removal, and trash/recycling service. A new roof was installed this September because the original shingles had been recalled. There is plenty of storage space in the unfinished utility area. This home is close to walking/biking trails in the Leyden Rock and Patridge open space, and only 100 yards to Daybreak Park. View a narrated video tour at www.ArvidaHome.info. Open house is this **Saturday, 11am to 2pm**.



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