16th Annual Solar & Green Homes Tour Is This Saturday — Costs Just $10

By JIM SMITH, Realtor®

As a member of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society and owner of both a solar-powered office and solar-powered home, I’m delighted to invite readers once again to participate in the annual tour of solar and green homes this Saturday, 9am to 4pm.

This year there are 12 homes on the tour, from northwest Denver (4) to Golden (5) to Westminster (3), demonstrating a wide variety of sustainable technologies. These are not just 12 homes with solar panels! The tour begins by purchasing a ticket for $10 ($5 for CRES members) at the Jefferson Unitarian Church on 32nd Avenue about a mile west of I-70. The purpose of the tour is to educate and inspire you to take action on appropriate sustainable energy projects for your own home. I’m pretty knowledgeable about sustainable energy technologies, but every year I learn more on this tour.

Another is solar thermal, which can pre-heat the water for your hot water heater and/or your space heating boiler or furnace. It’s nice to know when I filled my large Jacuzzi tub last night that I didn’t pay to heat any of the water!

There is also lots to learn about insulation technologies. Concentrated solar fascinates me, too. One of my listings has IceStone countertops made from recycled glass and concrete — much more sustainable than shipping slab granite from afar, and just as nice.

Trust me, you’ll be glad you took the tour of solar and green homes!