

Published September 22, 2011, in *The Denver Post*.
[Click here](#) to receive this column each week by email.

Look for a link with additional solar tour information at www.JimSmithColumns.com.

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. I never volunteer my own house for the tour, because

that would keep me from taking the tour myself! (Last year I did have our office on the tour, however.)

What are some of the other technologies besides photovoltaic, with which you're likely familiar?

One of my favorites is the "sun tunnel," available under brand names like Solatube and Velux. I have seven of these lighting up my home and three lighting up my office, saving on daytime electricity.

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!

This Week's New Listings from Golden Real Estate

Solar Powered Mesa Meadows Ranch



This custom home at **455 Wyoming Circle** is just one block from a North Table Mountain trailhead and offers views of the foothills, as you can see above. Barely detectable in the above picture, the home has 9.8 kW of photovoltaic panels on its south-facing roof surfaces (to left in photo), which satisfy the home's entire electrical needs. The home has some magnificent finishes, too — cherry hardwood floors & cabinets, slab granite, etc. Take the narrated video tour at www.MesaMeadowsHome.com to see it all.

Mountain Ridge 2-Story with Views!



Across the valley from that house is this fine home at **463 White Ash Drive** with its unobstructed view of the Table Mountains. This home, like that one, has a finished walk-out basement, but lacks a few of the high-end finishes, hence the lower price. Tour this home online at www.MountainRidgeHome.com.

GOLDEN
REAL ESTATE

Serving the West Metro Area

Jim Smith

Broker/Owner

Golden Real Estate, Inc.

DIRECT: 303-525-1851

EMAIL: Jim@GoldenRealEstate.com

17695 South Golden Road, Golden 80401

WEBSITE: www.GoldenRealEstate.com



Visit www.GreatGoldenHomes.com to browse all Golden Real Estate listings.
Find 100 or more other columns archived online at www.JimSmithColumns.com.