

This Month's Solar Tour of Homes Goes Far Beyond Last Year's Event

By now, you probably know that I am thoroughly committed to using renewable energy and maximizing energy conservation and other sustainable practices. You also are probably aware that the Obama administration has committed huge amounts of Recovery Act funds to all aspects of renewable energy and sustainability as well as energy conservation. This has been a key factor in Jefferson County's weathering of the national economic storm, given that we are the home of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

According to the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association, the number of solar energy companies in Colorado has exploded from 40 to 400 companies over the last five years, and over 2,200 Colorado jobs have been created in the past few years by this growing industry.

The growth in both investment in and awareness of solar and other renewable energy sources is so dramatic that this year's solar tour of homes (held every September for nearly two decades) is quite different from even last year's tour.

There is a Denver tour on Saturday, Sept. 25th, and a Boulder County tour on Sunday the 26th, plus a commercial tour on Friday the 17th. There are also two seminars on the 21st and 28th to deepen your understanding of the technologies demonstrated on the Denver tour.

There are two seminars associated with the Boulder tour as well — a tour preview on Sept. 22nd for \$25 (including dinner) and a post-tour seminar for \$5 on the 29th, which is about applying the technologies on the tour to your own home and available incentives.

To make the tours more accessible to more people, the fee for participating has been slashed from last year's \$20 to only \$5 this year. To participate, just show up at the National Renewable Energy Lab's visitor center, 15013 Denver West Parkway, anytime after 9 a.m. on the 25th. There you will get a book and map detailing each of the homes on the tour.

For the Boulder tour the following day, show up anytime after 10 a.m. at the Center for ReSource Conservation, 2639 Spruce Street, in Boulder. There are 13 homes on the Boulder tour.

The commercial tour on Friday, Sept. 17th is limited to 40 participants and you cannot just "show up" for it. It starts with a tour of NREL's new net zero Research Support Facility, which is still under construction near the visitor's center. It includes a one-hour lecture at the visitors center and is followed by a box lunch. After

lunch, the group visits several commercial buildings (including Golden Real Estate) which are examples of solar and other sustainable technologies.

Links and additional information on all aspects of all three tours and related seminars can be found at www.JimSmithColumns.com. I hope you'll join me on these tours.

REAL ESTATE TODAY



By **JIM SMITH,**
Realtor®

This Week's Featured Listing:

Big Reduction on 10-Acre Horse Property

About one mile north of Golden is a gravel driveway which traverses almost a mile of Jeffco Open Space to this amazing property. Lennar originally wanted this parcel to be part of the Table Rock subdivision, but it didn't work out that way, and it remains as an undeveloped horse property surrounded on three sides by the open space park. Originally listed in June for \$858,000, you can pick it up for only \$699,000 now. Act fast, because I can't imagine it lasting long at this price. Call me!



GOLDEN
REAL ESTATE

Serving the West Metro Area

Jim Smith

Broker/Owner

Golden Real Estate, Inc.

DIRECT: 303-525-1851

EMAIL: Jim@GoldenRealEstate.com

See All Listings on Your Mobile Phone!
Text "GOLDN" to 87778 for our Free App!



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