

2008 Oregon Green and Solar Tours Report

Living the Solar Revolution in Oregon

Written by

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Introduction

The Oregon Green and Solar Tours experienced a phenomenal year in 2007 with increased attendance and the development of a statewide tours presence. Over 4,000 people visited 126 green and solar sites in 13 communities across Oregon. Attendance continues to grow on average by 35%, in 2007 the tours experienced a 33% increase statewide, and several smaller communities such as Klamath Falls and John Day reported record attendance.

Behind the scenes, Solar Oregon with input from the Local Leads developed a statewide sponsorship package, an Oregon Green and Solar Tours brochure and web page, and branded the tours with a common look which was used in all statewide print and web materials. Energy Trust of Oregon once again provided media support through Susan Jowaiszas at Iris Group PR. Together Susan and the Statewide Tour Coordinator developed messaging for the tours, which was then applied as the backbone for the new statewide and local press release templates. 3EStrategies graciously provided the tours with a 3 page spread in the *Green + Solar Building Oregon* magazine which included the history of Oregon's tours plus a comprehensive listing of the contact info for each community tour. And the Oregon Department of Energy once again provided conference calls for Local Lead support and networking.

In 2007, the Oregon Green and Solar Tours expanded with three new communities including Salem, Rogue Valley in Southern Oregon, and Coos Bay at the coast. All had excellent Local Leads coordinating the tour effort resulting in great success for first year tours. The statewide effort also lost three communities in Eugene, Newport, and La Grande. For 2008, the Oregon Green and Solar Tours have already gained three new tours, bringing the total up to 16, these include an early spring Goal Net Zero Tour in Portland and two fall tours including Applegate Valley in Southern Oregon and Wallowa County in Eastern Oregon.

Highlights from the 2007 tours include:

- **Statewide Media Coverage:** Media efforts coordinated by Iris Group PR and Local Leads blanketed the state with press releases, front page articles, radio and TV interviews, plus pieces in magazines and journals. Media highlights for 2007 include: interviews with the KPOJ morning show, Good Day Oregon on KPTV, and a CBS TV affiliate; articles in the *Oregonian* and *Bend Bulletin*; and tour site coverage in *Green + Solar Building Oregon*, *HomeLife*, and *Homepower* magazines.
- **Portland:** The 2007 Build It Green Tour had more stops with multiple families at the same site. This shows an increased interest in building inner city communities with higher density per lot.
- **Ashland:** This tour had a great success story involving a solar access issue with a neighbor of a tour site. All was resolved in an amiable and mutually beneficial manner, and since resolution the neighbor has actually installed both a solar electric and solar hot water system.
- **Southern Oregon & Coos Bay:** Local Leads in each tour community collaborated on the production of a green and solar video. In Southern Oregon, Local Leads in Rogue Valley and Ashland put together a DVD, *Oregon Green Homes*, which can be viewed and purchased at www.OregonGreenHomes.net. In Coos Bay, a local school teacher and Tom Beverly with Energy Trust of Oregon are producing a video on their tours that they expect to complete by February or March 2008.
- **Hood River:** An interesting tour idea was developed and put into action here in 2007. The Gorge Rebuildit Center conducted an energy audit for 2 homes, one each in Oregon and Washington, prior to the tour. Homeowners received suggestions to improve the efficiency of their homes, and retrofits were in process on the tour date so tour attendees were able to see improvements and suggestions first hand. The homeowners greatly appreciated the energy audits and the information was well received by tour attendees.

Thank you to all the volunteers, home and business owners, Local Leads, 3EStrategies, Energy Trust of Oregon and Iris Group PR, Oregon Department of Energy, Solar Oregon and the American Solar Energy Society for all your efforts that helped make the 2007 Oregon Green and Solar Tours a huge success!

2008 Oregon Green and Solar Tours Statewide Summary/Statistics

Total Statewide Attendance: 2387+

Total Tours: 15

Total Tour Sites: 106

- Residential: 90
- Commercial: 13
- Multi-Use: 3
- Government/Civic: Ashland Community Solar System

Total Pre-Tour Workshops: Approx 13

- Topics include: PV, SHW, Wind, Bio-diesel (vegie oil RV & Strayhound bus), Building with Straw Bale and Straw Clay, High Performance Net Zero Building Strategies and Tax Incentives, Green Building Revolution, Green Modeling Do's & Don'ts, Passive Solar, Energy Efficiency, Incentives, and presentations on site features

Total Pre-Tour Workshop Attendance: Approx 424

Total Post-Tour Workshops: 2 – Electric Car, Earth Advantage Home Virtual Tour

Total Post-Tour Workshop Attendance: Approx 20

Total Post-Tour Reception/Fairs: 2

Statewide Media Coverage – This is not a complete list, reported by Leads.

Total Newspapers: 12

- *Oregonian Homes & Garden Section*
- *Oregonian Real Estate News*
- *Oregonian Front Page (Goal Net Zero Tour)*
- *The Bend Bulletin*
- *Statesman Journal*
- *Portland Tribune*
- *Grants Pass Courier*
- *Medford Mail Tribune*
- *Jacksonville Review*
- *The Applegater*
- *The World*
- *Gazette Times*

Total Magazine/Journals: 8

- *Green + Solar Building Oregon magazine*
- *Columbia Gorge magazine*
- *Green Living Journal*
- *Portland Spaces magazine*
- *Portland Architecture*
- *Wired magazine*
- *Oregonian Homes+Gardens magazine*
- *Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Newsletter*

Total TV: 8

- KPTV Good Day Oregon
- Bi-Coastal Interview
- KCBY (local CBS)
- KMTR (local NBS)
- KOTI
- KATU
- KOIN
- SBS Morning Wide (Korea)

Portland: Build It Green! Tour of Homes

Date: Saturday, September 20th

Location: Self guided Tour (11 AM - 5 PM) and free Information Fair at Ecohaus (3:30 PM – 7:30 PM)

Registration: \$15 per Adult, \$10 Adults with no car, \$10 students & seniors

Free for children under 14.

Tickets: Available in August at Ecohaus and online at www.portlandonline.com/osd

Contact: City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development (503) 823-7222, www.portlandonline.com/osd; or Solar Oregon, www.solaroregon.org/tours.

Attendance: 1200

Info Fair Attendance:

Attendee City/State:

Number Buildings: 20 residential

Twenty homes in the Portland metro area demonstrate the latest in green and solar building practices, from creative use of environmentally friendly materials to rainwater harvesting, energy efficiency and solar systems. Homeowners, builders and architects greet tour goers with expert advice on the design and construction of a healthy, comfortable 'green' home.

A post-tour reception and Information Fair will be held from 3:30-7:30 PM at Ecohaus, 819 SE Taylor, in Portland. Contractors, designers, non-profit organizations, and product/service vendors will be on hand to talk about their projects and answer questions about materials, costs, successes and challenges.

Corvallis Green and Solar Tour

Date: Saturday, October 4, 2008, 11-4pm

Maps available: After September 22, 2008 at both First Alternative Coops: 1007 SW 3rd St., and 2855 NW Grant Ave. and Footwise, 301 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis Environmental Center, 214 SW Monroe Ave., Your Green Home 160 NW Jackson Ave.

Cost: \$5 Suggested donation

Contact: James Reismiller, 541-231-8772, james@abundantsolar.com

Attendance: 100

Attendee City/State: Salem and Silverton, Oregon

Number Buildings: 7 residential, 1 commercial

Pre-Tour Workshops: Introduction to Solar Electric Systems presented by Ryan Mayfield for Solar Oregon

Pre-Tour Workshop Attendance: 75

The Corvallis Green and Solar Tour is being held on Saturday, October 4, 2008. Homes on the tour feature solar electric, solar hot water, passive solar design, geothermal heating, green building materials and other efficient and green technologies. All homes are connected to the electric power grid. Homeowners will be present to answer questions. The tour is self-guided and tickets are \$5 suggested donation with proceeds benefiting Solar CREEK. Maps to each tour location will be available at First Alternative Coop: 1007 SW 3rd St., and 2855 NW Grant Avenue, and at Footwise, the Birkenstock Store, downtown, 301 SW Madison Ave, Corvallis Environmental Center, 214 SW Monroe Ave and at Your Green Home, 160 NW Jackson Ave. The Corvallis Green and Solar Tour is part of the American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour and is sponsored by Solar CREEK (Clean, Renewable Energy for Everybody's Kids), a program of the Corvallis Environmental Center.

For more information about this tour and others being held around the state, visit www.solarcreek.org.

Tour Results

Turnout for the tour was great, and enthusiasm was high. New tax credit extension had people excited about solar electric. We had a difficult time recruiting volunteers to staff the homes this year, could use a paid organizer to make this happen next year, it's a lot of work for one person. Abundant Solar and Solar Summit were available during the tour for solar information.

Salem Green + Solar Home Tour

Date: Saturday, October 4th 2008

Time: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Start at Pringle Creek Community, 2110 Strong Road SE

Contact: Pringle Creek Community (503) 763-1770 or www.pringlecreek.com

Attendance: 150

Attendee City/State: Corvallis, OR

Pre-Tour Workshops: Green Building Revolution by Jerry Yudelson; Green Modeling Do's and Don'ts by Andrew Shephard

Pre-Tour Workshop Attendance: 160

Join us for a self-guided tour and for the opportunity to meet homeowners, builders, contractors and architects. The tour will be followed by a reception at Pringle Creek Community at 4pm. Early registration is \$10 per car, or \$15 per car after September 26th. Carpooling encouraged. Bicyclists are free. For more info, contact Pringle Creek Community (503) 763-1770.

Tour Results

GENERAL COMMENTS

- We had a nice crowd of 150 enthusiastic, high quality people with lots of good questions.
- Homeowners were happy to participate. Actually appreciated the lower number of tour-goers compared to last year (less stress, higher quality).
- We had almost all new faces – few people who came last year came again this year, wonder why. Possibly poor communication that there were four new homes on the tour?
- Things ran smoothly. The schedule worked well, started at 8:30am, with Earth Advantage speaker at 9am. Well attended presentation.
- Jerry Yudelson presentation the Thursday before was good, had about 80 people.
- Lower numbers than last year, when we had over 350 people, why so few this year? Could be a result of: last year we were better organized; the workload was spread out more; the event made it onto listserves and publications earlier; Statesman Journal did a story the day-of last year; all the talk of “bail-out” and the economy has scared people into hunkering down, not thinking about remodeling or new construction. However, the tour was announced at the Salem Progressive Film Series to over 200 people, and had an eight page feature article in the newspaper the week before.

EVENT SPONSORS & BOOTHS:

PGE, Energy Trust, Marion County Public Works Environmental Services, Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center, Willamette Valley Vineyards, Taylor Metal, Salem AIA, DeSantis Landscapes, LifeSource Natural Foods, Wild Pear, Pringle Creek Community, Nathan Good Architect, Neil Kelly, Earth Advantage, Bilyeu Homes, Black's Construction, Glen Rea Construction, City of Salem, Shelterworks, and Spectra Construction.

FOR NEXT YEAR:

- Include the Marion County Green Building Guide with each ticket, in addition to Solar Oregon brochure & magazines.
- Need a core committee to do the work, more people with higher involvement.
- Do everything earlier, especially PR, get it out there earlier (July).
- Possible idea to reach-out to senior communities as an activity, they may want to organize a bus tour of the homes.
- Communicate that there are new homes with new technologies.
- Possibly change focus from “environment” to “building the local economy” and “cost savings” to be more relevant to current events and the Salem target audience.
- Contact high schools and colleges, student admission free with ID, send students on a “treasure hunt” for their classes.

Eugene Area Solar & Green Building Tour

Date: Sunday, October 5th

Time: 12:30PM - 5:00PM -- Rain or shine. Sign-in begins at 12:30PM; Presentation starts at 1:00PM.

Location: Eugene Water & Electric Board, 500 East 4th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401

Cost: \$5 cash donation per map. Please ride your bike or carpool! Free parking in the EWEB lot. Tour limited to first 150 people.

Contact: jenna.r.garmon@ci.eugene.or.us

Web: <http://solartour.nweei.org/>

Attendance: 134

Attendee City/State: Eugene metro area (Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove, etc.)

Number Buildings: 1 residential, 2 commercial, 1 multi-use

Pre-Tour Event: Opening speech by John Reynolds with ASES

Post-Tour Event: Reception at The Green Store

Join us for the 2008 Eugene Area Solar & Green Building Tour! We'll begin with a brief presentation about energy efficiency and the status of solar technologies in our community. Participants will tour four buildings that feature energy efficient and passive solar design, solar electric, solar hot water, green building materials and other efficient and green technologies. Tour sites are centrally located in downtown Eugene and easily accessible by bicycle. Each location will have a site representative to answer questions and discuss features. Join us for an afternoon full of information and motivation about solar technologies and sustainable building.

Be sure to register at the tour website - <http://solartour.nweei.org/reserve-your-spot/> - as we are limited to the first 150 people. Also check the website for more information and an after-tour celebration location! This event is sponsored by the City of Eugene, Eugene Water and Electric Board, and the Northwest Energy Education Institute.

Tour Results

Contractors Represented at Tour:

Dan Neal, 2FORM Architecture, Rainbow Valley Design & Construction, Three Muses Group, LLC, SOLARC Architecture & Engineering, William Roach Design, Advanced Energy Systems, Good Company.

Lessons learned: focus on residential sites, involve more stakeholders in planning event, hold earlier in the year due to weather issues, ensure fair representation of solar energy firms.

Newberg Chehalem Mountain Green & Solar Home Tour

Date: Saturday & Sunday, October 4th & 5th, 10am to 5pm
Location: Abundant Renewable Energy, 22700 NE Mountain Top Road, Newberg, OR 97123
Registration: Free, pre-registration is recommended
Contact: Abundant Renewable Energy, Becky McEnulty, (503) 538-8298, info@abundantre.com and www.abundantre.com.

Attendance: 65

Attendee City/State: Portland, Newberg, Hillsboro, Salem, Aloha

Number Buildings: 4 residential, 3 commercial, 1 multi-use

Pre-Tour Workshop: Residential wind by Robert Preus; PV and Solar thermal by Greg Price

Pre-Tour Workshop Attendance:

Discover how to trim your energy bills by harnessing the power of the sun and the wind. The ASES 13th Annual National Solar Tour presents solar powered and energy efficient buildings across the United States with tours in our communities. Attend the local Newberg Chehalem Mountain - Green & Solar Home Tour. Doors will open for public tours from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday, October 4th & 5th. Rain or Shine! Tours will remain open throughout the day.

Abundant Renewable Energy of Newberg will be providing 45-minute talks on the hour covering; wind and solar energy basics, as well as energy conservation. Information will be available on how to choose a solar dealer and installer. Talks will be followed by an open house tour of solar and wind power in use.

Maps and information on the other homes in the tour will be provided at Abundant Renewable Energy. Visit www.AbundantRE.com or call 503-535-8298 with questions and for free pre-registration. Drop-in visitors will also be welcome. Feel free to bring a sack lunch. Restaurants are a bit of a drive from the tour.

Southern Oregon

Klamath Falls Solar Tour

Date: Saturday, October 4th, 9:00am

Location: Meet at Klamath County Court House, 305 Main Street

Registration: Free

Contact: Scott McMahon (541) 882-9923

Attendance: 48

Attendee City/State: Klamath Falls, OR

Number Buildings: 2 residential, 1 commercial

Tour Results

The Klamath Falls Tour once had record attendance and this year they were the first to expose a vertical axis wind turbine. Eco Solar, GreenWay Ecomart, Dussel Construction Inc. were available for questions and expertise.

Ashland Solar Tour

Date: Saturday, October 11, 9:00 am

Starting Location: Ashland Civic Center, 1175 East Main Street

Registration: \$10 at <http://activenet3.active.com/ashlandparks/> or North Mountain Park Nature Center.

Participation is limited to 100 people over age 12.

Contact: City of Ashland Conservation Division at (541) 552-2065

Attendance: 98

Attendee City/State: Oregon, California, Washington

Number Buildings: 4 residential, 1 Civic – Ashland Community Solar System

Find out how solar energy can be used to power and heat your home and water, and how homes can be more energy efficient, healthier and better for the environment. Participants will visit homes with solar electric, solar hot water, solar swimming pool heat, solar space heat, increased energy efficiency, healthier indoor air, and reduced environmental impacts. Learn about current technologies, and financial incentive programs to implement them. The tour will begin at 9:00 AM at the Ashland Civic Center 1175 East Main St., and travel by buses to four home sites with a bring-your-own lunch stop along the way.

October is Energy Awareness Month. The Ashland tour is one of hundreds of events planned throughout the state and across the country to raise awareness about energy conservation and clean, renewable energy. The City of Ashland and Home Power Magazine sponsor the tour, for more information call the City of Ashland Conservation Division at 552-2065.

Tour Results

Ashland's Tour offered a diversity of building techniques, systems and lifestyles. One unique feature was a homeowners new all electric car which she charges with her new PV system and still produces a net electric surplus. A number of building and solar professionals were available during the tour including: Architect Heiland Hoff; Builders John Fields with Golden Fields Construction, Robert Atkins with Pinao Construction, Dennis Grover with Dennis Grover Construction; Solar Thermal Installer Luke Frazier with The Solar Collection; and Solar Electric Installer Bob-o Schultz with Electron Connection.

Applegate Valley Green & Solar Tour

Date: Saturday, October 4

Time: 10am-5pm

Location: Tour begins at the Ruch Community Bible Church (190 Upper Applegate Rd, Ruch OR), gathering at 9:30 AM and Bus departs promptly at 10am

Registration: \$10 per person register online at: www.earthadvantage.org/classes_and_events/ follow links to Applegate Valley G & S Tour. Onsite tickets will be available.

Contacts: Tom Carstens 541-846-1025; groucho@apbb.net

Fred Gant 541-324-2902; fgant@earthadvantage.org

Critical Info: Busses (with guides) will be provided at no extra charge; vehicles are allowed to follow (carpooling is encouraged) maps will be issued at the start

Attendance: 123

Attendee City/State: 75% from Applegate Valley

Number Buildings: 3 residential, 2 commercial

Four great diverse sites including an award winning Passive Solar Home, a commercial PV application; Healthy Indoor Air, Tax Credit and Incentive Information; PV Systems, Solar Hot Water, Innovative building materials, Energy Efficient existing home retrofit, Builders, Designers, Installers, and Homeowners' presentations.

Plus: Our last site will include a celebration featuring local Applegate Wineries, Green Building products and demonstrations.

Sponsors:

Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC)
Earth Advantage Inc. (a non-profit Green Building Advocate and Rater)
Home Realty Group

Tour Results

The Applegate Valley Green + Solar Tour was a huge success. The tour sold out two weeks in advance. Tour participants filled two large buses. Each of the homeowners conducted a thorough tour of their home. At each stop, the installing contractors and builders were on hand to explain green and energy efficient systems, materials, and techniques. Patrons were subdivided into groups at each stop and rotated to a designated docent who explained a different aspect of the home, such as solar installation, design, heating systems, construction, etc. The vintner on the tour explained the commercial applications of solar and an Oregon Department of Energy representative was on hand to handle tax and rebate questions. The final stop was at a local passive solar winery, where patrons enjoyed wine, food, and the opportunity to discuss what they had learned on this very full day.

A variety of contractors and vendors were also on hand in a miniature style homeshow to help answer questions including: Rain Tube, Spring Air Heating, Completely Floored, Home Health Systems, Design Residential, Electron Connection, Blue Sky Program, Hoag Roofing, Bank of America, Dorris Construction, Alternative Energy Systems, Solar Connection, Pacific Heating and Cooling, Oregon Dept of Energy, Earth Advantage, and Reward ICF.

Douglas County Green and Solar Tour

Douglas County Global Warming Coalition sponsoring the annual Green and Solar Home Tour

Date: Saturday, September 27, 2008

Time: Workshop presented by the Energy Trust of Oregon, 9 am - 11 am, followed by the self-guided tour, 11 am - 5 pm.

Location workshops/tours: Elkton, Roseburg, and Canyonville.

Maps: Maps and directions to the homes are available at the workshops.

Registration: call for registration. Pre-registration is encouraged. Registration at the door is first come first served. Fee: \$15.00

Information: www.solardouglascounty.com, Scott McKain (541) 679-5597 or Al Walker (541) 496-3987

Attendance: 45

Attendee City/State: Roseburg, Sutherlin, Elkton – Oregon

Number Buildings: 7 residential, 2 commercial, 1 multi-use

Pre-Tour Workshop: 1 Energy Trust of Oregon

Eastern Oregon

John Day Solar Tour

Date: Saturday, October 4

Location: Grant County Fairgrounds followed by guided Tour

Contact: Jennifer Barker, EORenew – (541) 575-3633, info@solwest.org, www.solwest.org

Attendance: 7

Attendee City/State: Richland, Mt. Vernon, Prairie City, Canyon City – Oregon

Number Buildings: 3 residential

Pre-Tour Workshops: Renewable Energy Systems by Jennifer Barker

Pre-Tour Workshop Attendance: 5

Homes on the John Day Solar Tour have solar electric and/or hot water systems and/or sustainable design features such as passive solar. At least one remote, stand-alone off-grid solar electric system will be included. Tour begins at the Grant County Fairgrounds with a 1-hour introductory class on solar architecture and energy conservation, followed by a guided tour of homes and businesses in the urban/rural area. Participants should bring a lunch and dress for the weather.

Wallowa County Green & Solar Renewables Weekend

Sat & Sunday October 11 & 12

Saturday: Solar Workshops, Enterprise

Sunday: Tour/Open House(s), valley locations

Full details at www.wallowaresources.org or call Susan Badger-Jones 541.263.1103, sbadgerjones@eoni.com

Columbia Gorge

Columbia Gorge Enviro-House Tour

Date: Saturday October 4th

Location: Self Guided Tour throughout the mid-Columbia Gorge Region of Oregon and Washington

Time: Homes open from 11am-5pm. Pre-tour and mid-day workshops also available. Harvest and brew celebrations after the Tour. Please visit www.cgec.org for complete details on all activities.

Cost: \$20 per car (please carpool), bikes free!

Registration: Guidebooks available from 9-1 on Tour day at the Gorge Rebuild-it Center (995 Tucker Rd, in the Heights of Hood River). Pre-registration and directions available on-line at www.cgec.org.

Workshops: 4 workshops will be held on Tour Day, please visit www.cgec.org for information. Sign up by September 29th.

Contact: Tara Keairnes at 541-386-5562 or email us Tour@cgec.org

Attendance: 142

Attendee City/State: Oregon – Hood River (65%), Portland (4%), Mosier, Dalles, Corvallis. Washington (11%) - Lyle. New Jersey

Pre-Tour Workshops: 2, Building with Straw: Straw Bale and Straw Clay primer by Tom Reid and Steven Todorov of Green Home Construction; The Basics of Solar PV Systems by Tod LeFerve of Common Energy

Pre-Tour Workshop Attendance: Straw Bale-19 and Solar-15

The 7th annual Gorge Enviro-House Tour will showcase 7 spectacular homes featuring passive and active solar, water harvesting and efficiency techniques, the latest in green products and methods, and the best in natural building with strawbale and earthen structures. Workshops will be held this year, so you have more real knowledge to learn and take home with you.

Make a weekend of coming to the Gorge! On Friday we will have a special Green Drinks celebration with keynote speaker and representatives from local sustainable organizations and businesses. Then, on Saturday after the Tour you can enjoy harvest and brew celebrations!! Please visit www.cgec.org for updated information on all events.

Tour Results

We had a great Tour, though attendance was down this year. We were featuring the great number of straw bale homes here in the Gorge, with 5 of our 10 homes being straw bale. We didn't have a great new 'feature' home this year, and that may have been partly responsible for our drop in numbers although we think weather and economy were the main factors. The workshop format was great, we had 2 workshops in the morning from 9-11 located where the Tour ticket sales were held, and then shifted the Tour times one hour so that it was 11-5. We will surely do this again next year, encouraged by the great attendance at each workshop.

We started the Live Green! Weekend this year, put on by the Columbia Gorge Earth Center. It included a Green Drinks Celebration, the Pre-Tour workshops, and the Tour. The Green Drinks celebration was great success, with speaker Mark Lakeman coming out from Portland, to speak to 50 people. The workshops were great for the instructors and participants although they could have been longer.....it's hard to teach much in 2 hours yet the format was good for the day. The tour was of high quality this year, though we had a few repeat homes. All in all, with the Tour Stipend and the Ad Revenue generated by ads in our Guidebook we were able to cover all of our costs for the whole weekend, and to raise funds for the Earth Center. Thank you so much for your great help Tania, ASES, and everyone at Solar Oregon.

Green Home Construction, Contractor Scot Sorensen, Common Energy, and solar supplier/contractor Fritz Reuter were all available during the tour for public questions.

Central Oregon: Bend/Redmond/Sisters/Prineville/Crooked River Ranch

Date: Saturday & Sunday, October 11th & 12th

Guided or Self-Guided Tour Throughout Central Oregon

Reception with sponsor tabling and speaker

Registration: Tickets are \$25 each available on-line at 3EStrategies.org

Contact: info@3estrategies.org or (541) 617-9013 for more information or visit the web site at www.3EStrategies.org

Attendance: 120

Attendee City/State: Roseburg, OR

Number Buildings: 10 residential

Come see a selection of the greenest homes in Central Oregon while supporting the efforts of 3E Strategies. Though smaller than years past, this tour will showcase the very greenest homes in our area with a strong educational component through presentations by homeowners, green builders, solar installers and many more industry professionals. You will be treated to an informative speaker and a semi-guided tour. Purchase your tickets on-line and join us October 11th to receive your tour route and learn about green building materials and techniques while experiencing active and passive solar systems in action.

Tour Results

I am pleased with how the tour turned out, although I would have done a few things differently. We made some significant changes from the format carried out in previous years and our reasons for that were right on track. The successful execution of a tour that incorporates these changes was more difficult than I thought and could have been done better.

PRESENTATIONS: Two of the homes had organized, prepared presentations that they were prepared to give. Most of the other homeowners did not prepare anything. I spoke with each of them about this, but left it up to them to present how they choose.

VENUE/SPEAKER: Mike was awesome! I think this created a wonderful atmosphere for the tour and kicked – off the event beautifully. The ability to have a venue and have one spot for ticket sales and general organization was very helpful. I felt this was clearly stated on the website and our other marketing materials. The idea that you are essentially buying the directions to the homes worked well, I think.

MAPS & DIRECTIONS: The bulletin has been very helpful and supportive and I feel we took advantage of the free publication well this year. However, I feel we should have included the location of each home and the general map. Not the exact directions, but general location (Sisters, Prineville, Westside of Bend etc).

CARPOOLING: One of the most difficult issues with this tour is getting the participants from one home to another all over CO with ease in as few vehicles as possible. The tour route/table idea was meant to facilitate that this year, while a price per car was used in previous years. The cost per car seems to have been more effective, but I am not sure... Using the venue and tour routes could possibly create a carpooling situation if executed in a more effective fashion.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION: Great!

REPEATS: Some houses have been on this or different tours recently. Some people were disappointed they had already seen them. We considered this during the selection process. Many tour goers do not go on the other home tours such as the one presented by COBA. I think our event is so unique that you have a different experience even if you have already seen the home. The homes that were on previous years had both assured us they had made a lot of improvements over the year and are worth seeing again regardless. This must be taken into consideration when charging a more substantial fee.

HOME SELECTION: Pictures and a general map of all of the homes would have made the selection process much easier and interactive and informative. While selecting the homes the steering committee and myself strayed from our original plan since it was so hard to choose homes. We stuck to selection criteria we had developed by realized there were a few things we had not discussed such as repeat homes and how far away is really too far. BUT we did a great job creating a truly Green and Solar Home Tour!

Coast

Coos County : Green Living & Solar Home Tour

Date: Saturday, October 4th

Location: Self guided Tour (11 AM - 5 PM) and coffee kick off at Sol Coast Companies office suite: 161 Anderson Ave, Coos Bay (10-11 AM) Grow Local & E-Car Cocktail closing, location TBD (5-7pm)

Registration: \$10 per car

Tickets: Available August 15th through day of the event at Sol Coast Companies 161 Anderson Ave, Coos Bay more info at www.solcoast.com

Contact: Shannon Souza (541) 266-0877, info@solcoast.com; or Solar Oregon (503) 231-5662, info@solaroregon.org, www.solaroregon.org/resources_education/solar-home-tours.

Attendance: 65

Attendee City/State: Bandon, Coos Bay, North Bend, Coquille, Reedsport

Number Buildings: 5 residential, 1 commercial

Pre-Tour Workshops: 1, Solar 101 and Bio-diesel: Vegetable Oil RV and "Strayhound" Bus by Dick Kent

Pre-Tour Workshop Attendance: 65

Post-Tour Workshops: Electric car presentation and demonstration by Adrian Deleon; Earth Advantage Home Virtual Tour by Steve Wenbourne

Post-Tour Workshop Attendance: 20 (10 for each workshop)

Ten homes in the Coos Bay area demonstrate green living and solar building practices including: rain harvesting, Earth Advantage, Passive Solar Design, Grid-tied photo-voltaic, flat plate, evacuated tube and pool solar water heaters, energy efficiency, ground source heating/cooling and innovative re-use of locally available materials. Homeowners, builders and designers greet tour goers with answers and advice on the design and construction of a healthy, comfortable 'green' home.

A post-tour reception featuring Locally Grown foods and Electric Car discussion and demonstration will be held from 5-7 PM, location TBD.

Other Tours

Homegrown Prosperity RE Bus Tour

Dates: August 20th - Grant County Fair, John Day

August 21st - Baker City

August 22nd - Grande Ronde Valley

August 23rd - La Grande

August 25th - Pendleton

August 26th - Hermiston

August 27th - Malheur County

Contact for more info: www.homegrownprosperity.org, Liberty Merrill, Homegrown Prosperity Tour Organizer, liberty@oregonrural.org, (541)910-8040, Oregon Rural Action: (541)975-2411

Solar Washington SW Solar Tour

October 4th, 2008

10:00 am to 4:00

Clark County's PUD Community Room

1200 Fort Vancouver Way

About the Solar Washington SW Solar Tour

The Solar Washington SouthWest Solar Tour is part of Solar Washington Solar Tour. SW Tour has at least 18 communities involved State wide to exhibit how people can live with Solar Energy.

Solar Washington SouthWest (SWSW) has 8-10 sites in two Counties to show solar examples. This Year our tour will start at Clark County's PUD Community Room at 10:00 am. There you will obtain a map for a \$5.00 donation. Carpooling and bikes encouraged.

This year we have 2 residential Solar Electric systems, X Commerical Solar Electric Systems, 3 different types of Hot water systems, radiant floor heating, microhydro and geothermal examples. Come take a look at new ideas to save your energy dollars.

Non-Active Tours

La Grande:

Date: Sunday, October 15, 10:00 am

Location: Tour begins at 105 Fir, La Grande

Registration: Free; Donations welcome to Oregon Rural Action: a 501(c)3 non profit organization promoting renewable energy.

Contact: Oregon Rural Action (541) 975-2411, or Chuck Koch (541) 437-2344

The La Grande Tour will include homes in La Grande, Cove, Elgin, and Summerville, and will include solar hot water, photovoltaic, passive solar, wind energy, and geothermal heat pump. Following the tour, will be a meeting with questions answered by some of the homeowners and an Oregon Rural Action Representative. Discussion will include installation of renewable systems, working with utilities on installation, building sustainably, and working to gain community support for renewables.

Newport: Lincoln County Solar and Habitat Restoration Tour

Date: Sunday, October 8

Location: Lincoln City, public parking lot on corner Hwy 101 and NW 17th Street

Contact: Lincoln County Sustainability Coalition, Cindy Ashy – (541) 270-0588,
www.lincolncountysustainabilitycoalition.org

With the help of the Solar Energy Association of Oregon and in association with the ASES National Solar Tour, the Lincoln County Sustainability Coalition will host the first ever Lincoln County Solar Tour. It is expected to be a fun interactive way to learn about solar systems and see how habitat restoration is done first hand. The Lincoln County Solar Energy Tour will be kicked off by a Sustainability Summit on October 6 & 7th, check out the Lincoln Sustainability Coalition's website for more details.

The tour will begin in Lincoln City, meeting in the large public parking lot on the corner of Highway 101 and NW 17th Street (Maxwell's Restaurant is on the corner and the Bijou Theatre is across the street). Tour attendees will see a house equipped with a grid-tied 18 panel 1500 Watt PV array with a dual axis tracking system, a cabin completely off the grid, and a restaurant using solar panels and other sustainable practices. After lunch featuring food from our local farms, we will tour 2-4 habitat stream restoration projects at various stages of development.

Grants Pass Solar Tour

Date: Saturday, October 14, 8am – 4pm

Location: Self guided, tour maps will be available in the Josephine County Homebuilders Association's booth at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

Registration: Free

Contact: Christopher Houghton at (541) 476-4200 ext. 114, chris@energyoutfitters.com

The Grants Pass Tour is being held in conjunction with the Josephine County's Fall Tour of Homes. The tour will feature solar electricity, solar pool heating, and geothermal heating/cooling. All homes are grid connected and the homeowners will be present to answer questions.

West Linn