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Sustainable House Day is taking a different shape this September as a virtual event due to the uncertainty around Covid-19 restrictions. We're calling on all participating households to create video tours or pre-recorded presentations about their home for publication on Renew/Sustainable House Day websites.

This is an exciting opportunity for households to share their homes for Sustainable House Day and beyond. The video content will be housed on our websites and YouTube after the event to inform and inspire future home builders, renovators and designers about energy efficient and climate resilient homes.

What is Virtual Sustainable House Day?

Sustainable House Day is on Sunday September 20 this year, with a series of home tours and opportunities to meet and ask questions of homeowners, designers and sustainability experts. We're also planning special virtual events including panel discussions and webinars in the week before and after the big day, which will give the SHD audience a chance to learn about various sustainable home features and topics, as well as more opportunities to ask questions of homeowners and sustainability experts.

We're asking homeowners to make video tours or presentations that can be published alongside your home's information page on the website. This will give SHD 2020 participants a virtual home tour, as they are not able to visit in person this year.

These videos and presentations will be available on the website one week prior to Sunday September 20. Some of these video files may also be used within webinars during the SHD 2020 main event. The videos will be housed on Renew/SHD websites and YouTube indefinitely.

Permission to publish your content in the public domain

When you register for Sustainable House Day 2020, we will be asking your permission to publish your video files and images on Renew and Sustainable House Day websites, as well as SHD social media, including YouTube. We'll be requesting permission to publish the content beyond the 2020 event. Please be aware of this requirement when signing up for SHD 2020.

Not everyone is comfortable with having a video or presentation about their home in the public domain, so we won't be offended if you decide to sit out the event this year.

Please be aware of your own privacy concerns when producing video or presentations about your home for SHD 2020; for example, you may prefer not to reveal too much information about where you live, such as street numbers. No addresses will be being published for the virtual events, only the suburb and state that the houses are located in.

Steps to Opening your Home and creating video content for SHD 2020

Register for SHD 2020 before making a video or presentation

Make sure you [sign up](#) to the event and that your house is approved by the SHD organising committee before making your video. The house profile you generate when signing up will also give you a ready-list of your home's features to help inform your video tour. Not all houses will be approved due to time constraints on staff.

For more information on registering your home, please see the “submit your home” guide in the forms section of the website.

Our SHD sign-up deadline is **Monday July 20 this year**, to give us more time to plan the virtual event. Please fill out all details required on the [Submit Your House](#) page by this date.

Tell us your video plans

We will be in touch with you on or before **Friday 24 July** to find out what type of video tour you are intending to produce for Sustainable House Day. This will greatly help us with planning the event, understanding any support you might require, and seeing if there's opportunity to put you in touch with any video helpers, or others in your local community you might be able to collaborate with.

Please note the deadline for submitting pre-recorded tours and presentations is **midnight Monday August 24**.

Planning, scripting and producing your presentation or video

1. Decide on the style of your pre-recorded video

We've selected five video styles that you could try to replicate for your tour below. These include basic and advanced options that require some prior video experience. Please pick one style that you are comfortable with, and have the resources to produce.

We're really excited by the idea of homeowners teaming up with an expert to talk about their home in [Style 1](#), so please let us know how we can support you if you're interested in this option.

Important note about the video styles

Please watch the sample video under each style (see pages 4 to 8) to help inform which one you choose.

Style 1: Q&A with you and your architect, energy assessor or trusted supplier – uses Zoom

What you will need:

- A sustainability collaborator
- [Zoom](#) video conferencing tool
- A presentation plan or script
- Photos and floor plan

This is a pre-recorded presentation featuring you and someone who you worked with to realise your sustainable home. You can use the freely available program [Zoom](#) to record such a presentation.

Example of this style: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tM-2rRzuKGs&t=442s>

The example above shows a Q&A with Anna Cumming (Sanctuary Editor) and Jenny Edwards (Lighthouse Architecture and Science). You could talk to your architect about teaming up for a pre-recorded chat about your home.

For sustainability experts, we encourage you to talk to your clients about working together to share a home renovation or build story.

Potential homeowner/expert collaborations:

- Architect
- Building designer
- Window supplier
- Home energy assessor
- Sustainable builder
- Solar installer/designer

How to make this type of tour?

Work out the topics for your discussion beforehand and the information that you want to share with the SHD audience. Use Zoom to host your discussion, and please make sure you hit the record button at the start of your presentation. You can use the share screen function to show any pre-recorded video, or photos and floor plans.

Suggested length: Four to eight minutes max

Style 2: Slide show of still images of house and features narrated by homeowner/architect – uses PowerPoint

What you will need:

- PowerPoint presentation program, or other slideshow software like Keynote or Open Office
- Sustainable House Day PowerPoint template available at <https://sustainablehouseday.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PP-template-for-homeowners.pptx>
- Good quality photos and floor plan
- A plan for your presentation, including slide content

This is a pre-recorded presentation of photos and slides/dot points in PowerPoint. This type of presentation is made most interesting by you and your narration during the slideshow.

Example of this style: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8r4H6ihXiI&t=95s>

Please see this presentation above by Richard Keech on his all-electric home as an example of a PowerPoint house tour.

How to make this type of tour?

This is a simple presentation to make, especially if you don't have a camera to make a video. The key here is a collection of good quality photos (not blurry), key points for your slides and storytelling over the top.

Follow these instructions on how to create a PowerPoint presentation with recorded voiceover. Please refer to the section *How to Record a Voiceover for an Entire Presentation*:

www.lifewire.com/how-to-record-voiceover-powerpoint-4173784

Additional PowerPoint resource:

www.support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/record-a-slide-show-with-narration-and-slide-timings-0b9502c6-5f6c-40ae-b1e7-e47d8741161c

Important note: please use the Sustainable House Day PowerPoint template for your presentation. It includes a few introductory slides from us, including an Acknowledgement of Country slide. The PP template is available here: www.sustainablehouseday.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PP-template-for-homeowners.pptx

Please update the Acknowledgement of Country slide with wording more specific to the area that you live, if you feel comfortable to do so. Please see our Acknowledgment of Country guidelines for more information: www.sustainablehouseday.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Acknowledgement-of-Country.pdf

Please also record your presentation with Captions on if possible.

Suggested length: Four to eight minutes max

Style 3: Pre-recorded video tour with voiceover narration – uses Zoom or YouTube

What you will need:

- [Zoom](#) video conferencing tool
- Pre-recorded video of your home
- Video camera or phone video

This type of tour is presented by you or your architect showing pre-recorded video of your home in Zoom or YouTube, and speaking over the top.

Example of this style:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UasgGDjXylk>

How to make this type of tour?

The tour by SUHO was presented as a live YouTube webinar, however for SHD this type of tour could be recorded in advance instead, using Zoom.

Shoot a video tour of your home beforehand via phone or camera. Note the demonstration video shows a slow, detailed video tour of the home.

Note in the demo video that the presenter is very much controlling the tour, pausing the video where needed and switching to still images/floor plans where necessary.

We welcome these types of tours being run as live events on Sustainable House Day, with the ability for live chat and audience questions.

Suggested length: Four to eight minutes max

Style 4: One-take video tour – uses video camera or phone video

What you will need:

- Video camera or phone video
- Friend or family to shoot video, or a tripod

In this type of tour you are showing us around your home with a video camera while talking about your home's sustainability features.

Please see this example of a Russell Island house tour shot in one go:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XU3ghbTjDCQ

How to make this type of tour?

While you could use a selfie stick to record this type of video with your phone, we think the quality will be better if you ask a friend or family member to record the video for you. Talk to the video audience about your home's sustainability features.

If you're using a phone to create a video please check that the quality is ok first. You're welcome to send us a video sample beforehand. We recommend using a phone that is no older than four years old.

Suggested length: Four to eight minutes max

Style 5: Edited video tour – requires video camera and video editing

What you will need:

- Video camera or phone video
- Friend or family to shoot video, or a tripod
- Video editing software

Please see this tour of Scott and Leanne’s house in Melbourne for an example of an edited house tour:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aM6UxaQzco

How to make this type of tour?

This type of tour should be made by someone with prior video editing experience. You will need a friend to record the video with a video camera, or use a tripod. You will also need to plan your video, such as what shots you want to include, write a script, and either know how to edit a video yourself, or know someone who can put the final edited video together for you.

[Freely available easy-to-use video software](#) can be used to create the finished video.

Suggested length: Four to eight minutes max

2. Decide on three key features about your home

Please consider three key features of your home that you think are important to share in your presentation/video. It could be about your building materials, floor plan, energy use, orientation, windows or something else! Please see the section [What's interesting about your home?](#) below for ideas.

The details you supply when [submitting your home](#) can also help you decide what's important to share about your home, or look to the list below.

What's interesting about your home?

- What were you looking to achieve with your home build or renovation?
- What resources helped to plan or inspire your home?
- Did you give special consideration to window types or treatments/retrofits/types to improve thermal efficiency? Are there any tips that can be shared with the audience?
- What type of insulation did you install/upgrade to when building/renovating your home and do you have any advice on this topic?
- What building materials feature in your home and why?
- How is your home to live in, for seasonal comfort and functionality?
- Is your home all-electric, or self-sufficient for energy use?
- Do you have solar PV and how did you plan your system to give you the most benefit?
- What have you done to make the garden more environmentally sustainable?
- Do you have a NatHERS rating, or information about how well your house performs or costs to live in?
- What would you do differently in hindsight?

3. Decide on who else could feature in your video. Can you work with an architect, building designer, tradesperson or someone else in your community to make your presentation or video?

Perhaps you could team up with your designer to produce a video about your home? Or another trusted supplier such as your window supplier or energy assessor? See [Style 1](#) in our list of video styles.

Video script guide

These questions and topics can be used as a guide, or to draw inspiration from when developing and framing your story and writing the “script” for your video. **It is strongly recommended that you develop a bit of a script to help you tell your story, before recording.**

To begin:

- Welcome your audience and Acknowledge Country. Please see the Sustainable House Day website for Acknowledgement of Country guidelines:
www.sustainablehouseday.com/wpcontent/uploads/2020/06/Acknowledgement-of-Country.pdf

- Introduce yourself and anyone else that might feature in the presentation (first name only is fine)
- Share with the audience whether your tour is showing a new build, renovation or retrofit, and any unique details about the home and the climate zone for the area that you live in. Whether or not you reveal information about your suburb or town is up to you. This will be displayed in your house profile, but your address won't be.
- Describe your current house including the footprint size, number and type of rooms, build time, floorplan and costs (only if desired)

Inspiration on framing and telling your story in your “house tour”

Below are some topics you could select from to include in your video. Please know you can't speak to all these points as your video or recorded presentation can only be between 4-8 mins long.

- Talk about up to five key sustainability features of your home and why you made the choices you did. These could be (but are no way limited to):
 - Passive design features
 - Materials used internally and externally
 - Renewable energy assets and uses onsite
 - PV and/or battery storage
 - How your system is planned for maximum energy saving
 - Windows and glazing? E.g. double glazing, shading louvres
 - Thermal mass
 - Style of sustainable house
 - Water saving/recycling/other water efficiency measures
 - Garden or outdoor area
 - Lighting, paints or wall finishes
 - Orientation
 - Active/passive heating or cooling
 - The list could go on....
- Share with the audience the reasons why you love your sustainable home, how it's performing. How it meets/exceeds your expectations.
- Share your story on what were you looking to achieve with your home build or renovation? Have you achieved this? What changed along the way? What have been some key lessons or learning experiences?
- Talk about what resources or people helped to plan or inspire your home? Describe the journey to the final decision to proceed with this project. You could include any relevant resources you used (i.e. *Your Home*, visits to other sustainable houses or reading *Renew* or *Sanctuary* magazines)
- Talk about how you achieved sustainability on a modest budget, and how! Share key tips and lessons learned. Talk about how you prioritised certain features against your

budget and what you were trying to achieve in terms of sustainability/thermal performance/energy efficiency

- Who were key members of your build project team and how did you find them? What was your experience of engaging sustainable designer/architect/builder or other sustainable experts? What are your tips or recommendations for finding experts?
- Go into some more depth about the building materials that feature in your home and why you made these choices? Include external and internal materials. *E.g. Type of materials used, re-use of existing materials, low embodied energy or recycled materials.*
- Talk about universal/accessible features of the home
- Discuss your experience of active/passive heating and cooling? *E.g. do you need it? What's the cost of these to purchase or to run? What's the comparison to your previous home if relevant? Do you have reverse cycle air conditioning and ceiling fans? What are your energy bills like compared to your previous home?*
- Talk about any renewable energy systems (solar PV, off-grid solar, battery system, heat pump or solar hot water systems) and how you planned these systems to cover your household energy needs
- What was your project time and cost? Was this more or less than you expected and why/why not?
- Talk about anything you would do differently if you had your time to create this home again
- What have you learnt that you feel is good to share with others considering building a sustainable home?

To end:

Summarise any points you feel necessary. Make any final comments such as the three key tips for someone thinking of going down a similar path to you, how people can find out more information, or any key websites/resources you think they should access.

How to upload your video

Below are a few different options for uploading your video tour. You can decide which option is easiest for you. Whatever you decide on, make sure to clearly label your file with your house name (i.e. Joe's_Place_Home_Tour). With over 100 hundred videos coming to us, we need to be able to track and match them with house profiles quickly and easily. Once we receive your file, we will be adding relevant logos to the videos, including the details of our sponsors of the events.

Upload options:

1. **WeTransfer** – If you decide to use WeTransfer, please send your file to shd@renew.org.au and **make sure you include the title of the house profile in both the file name and the message you send when transferring. This is the easiest option recommended** as you are not required to have an account with WeTransfer to send us a file.
2. **Dropbox** – To share via Dropbox you will need to have an account with Dropbox or be willing to use your Google account to access Dropbox. If you wish to use this option please email shd@renew.org.au and we will give you access to a Dropbox folder where you can upload the file.
3. **YouTube** – If you have an account with YouTube, or a Google account, you can also upload your file as an unlisted video and share the link with us. Find more information on how to do that [here](#).

What video quality should you use?

If you're editing the video yourself, please keep your video resolution to 1080p maximum to save file space. Find more information about video quality [here](#).

What is the maximum file size we can accept?

- If you are using WeTransfer, the maximum file size is 2GB.
- There is no upload limit for files on Dropbox, but our ability to take large files will depend on what else is stored in the file.
- While there is no limit with YouTube, larger files will take longer to upload .

Whichever method you use, try to keep your file size as small as possible without compromising quality.

What format do I need to upload the video in?

While it is preferable that we receive files in MP4, we can accept other formats. Below is a list of file formats that are compatible with YouTube and our purposes. ***Formats that are compatible with YouTube include:***

.MOV .MPEG4 .MP4.AVI .WMV .MPEGPS .FLV 3GPP WebM DNxHR ProRes Cine Form HEVC (h265)

What will happen to my video once I share it with the Sustainable House Day team?

Once we receive your presentation or video file, we will check it and get back to you quickly if there are any issues. We will also place logos for Renew and our sponsors in the videos. Once this is complete, we will be available on our YouTube channel in the Sustainable House Day playlist and also embedded in your house profile page.

Deadline for video tours and pre-recorded presentations

The deadline for submitting pre-recorded tours and presentations is **midnight Monday August 24**.

Some Important things to consider

A note on video quality

We don't expect professionally-made videos for Sustainable House Day 2020, but we might not be able to publish videos of a lesser quality. Make sure your house is well lit for the video, either by picking the right time of day for natural illumination, or by turning the lights on. Try to avoid hand-held video tours.

What does the SHD audience want to know?

Our audience is really interested in the nitty gritty of how sustainable features work in the home, and information such as where you bought your recycled building materials, how you found your architect/building designer or how you made decision on different options, such as deciding between a heat pump or solar hot water system. And, according to past event surveys, they have a high level of interest in your window, insulation and building materials choices.

This is just a starting point - you know what's most interesting about your home and experience, and have a unique and important story to share.

Think you might need help?

Sustainable House Day staff don't have the resources to assist individual households to produce or edit their video tours, so we do recommend selecting a video or presentation type from the [Video Ideas](#) list that you can produce on your own as much as possible.

The team might be able to put you in touch with an SHD volunteer in your local area to help you out with production, depending on what type of tour you want to produce. The SHD staff and volunteers are happy to talk through your video ideas as well – please [get in touch](#).

Thanks for supporting Sustainable House Day 2020 and we can't wait to share your home and experience in a new and exciting way this year.

Virtual Sustainable House Day 2020 Checklist and Important Dates

- Have you [registered for SHD 2020](#)? The deadline for registrations is Monday July 20.
- Have you [told us your video plans](#) by Wednesday July 22?
- Consider contacting your designer or other expert to [participate in your presentation](#).
- Select your [video or presentation style](#).
- [Plan the content of your presentation](#), including any photos or plans required.
- Submit your video or presentation by Monday August 24.