

Sustainable House Day

Community Partnership
Opportunities
2022/2023



renew.

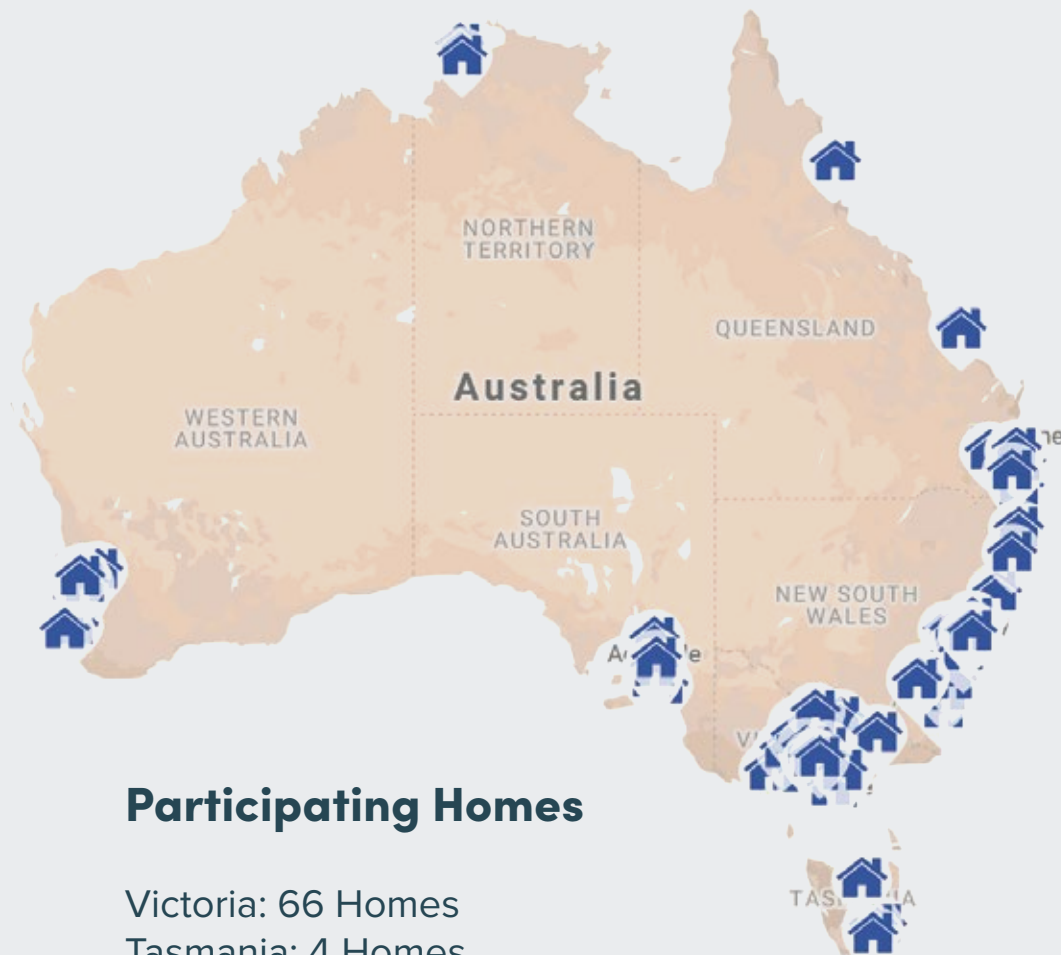
Sustainable House Day provides the opportunity to explore some of Australia's most unique and inspiring homes, and learn from the people who designed them, built them, and live in them.

With a community of over 52,000 people, this major annual event is a trusted source of expert advice, insight, and peer-to-peer education about building, retrofitting or renovating sustainably.

Households generate at least one fifth of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions. The products, technologies and knowledge to make our homes and personal transport greener already exist, so reducing the carbon emissions from Australian households is a key opportunity to reaching our goal of achieving a net-zero emissions world.

Reducing the carbon intensity of our houses also has the extra benefits of saving residents' money and creating homes that are healthier and more comfortable to live in.

Many Australians are overwhelmed by the amount of information on what actions they can take in their home or rental properties, and need guidance sifting through sources and opinions. Sustainable House Day provides important advice and resources that help Australians put their desire to live more sustainably into action.



Participating Homes

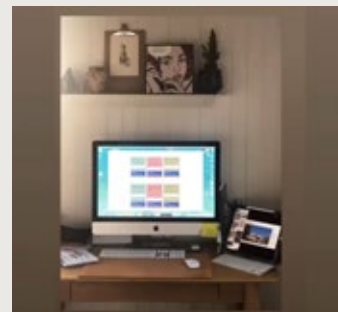
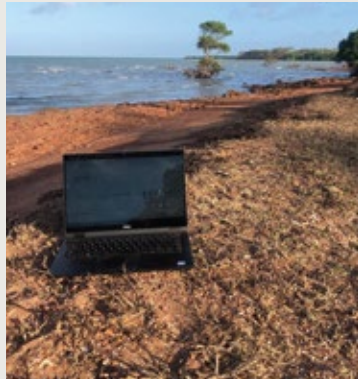
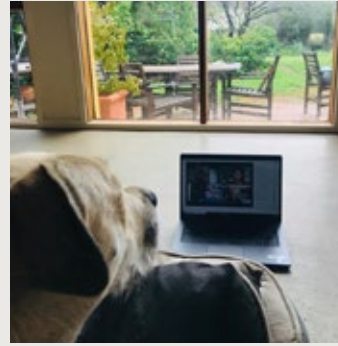
Victoria: 66 Homes
 Tasmania: 4 Homes
 South Australia: 11 Homes
 Queensland: 17 Homes
 Northern Territory: 5 Homes
 New South Wales: 34 Homes
 Western Australia: 28 Homes

Looking back at Sustainable House Day 2021

In 2021, Sustainable House Day expanded into a month-long event, featuring four themed weeks of webinars with experts and homeowners as well as an all-day program of free online events on October 17 2021.

In addition, our community partners around the country hosted their own in person and online events during this period. On our website, 180 house profiles were available, with video house tours providing peer-to-peer information sharing and an insight into our homeowners' journeys.

- 52, 124 people engaged
- 4,705 attendees to online events
- 35,638 subscribed to email updates
- 500+ peer-to-peer conversations facilitated
- 15,000+ house tour video views
- 15% of online attendees tuned in for 7hours+
- 5 event sponsors
- 5 Council Partners
- 24 Community Partners



2021 Audience

Demographics

63% of survey respondents identify as female, 33% identify as male, and 2% self-define or preferred not to answer.

64% of respondents are 55 or older, while 35% are 54 or younger. Young people are a potential and necessary demographic for audience expansion in the future.

35% of respondents are already members of Renew, while 17% say they intend to join after attending the event.


39% have never attended Sustainable House Day before.

Insights

82% of respondents rate their Sustainable House Day experience as either “excellent” or “very good”.

Most Sustainable House Day attendees are existing homeowners. 78% of respondents are existing homeowners and 41% are looking to build a new home. Only 3.6% are apartment owners and 7% are renters.

Sustainable House Day makes people more confident in making sustainable changes and sharing knowledge with their friends and family. Of our survey takers, 85% said they felt more confident about making choices around sustainability after the event, and 82% said they’d share what they learned with their friends and family.

A bright, modern bedroom with a wooden bed, a window with a view of trees, and a red armchair. The room features a white ceiling with a fan and a light fixture, and a wooden floor with a patterned rug. The window has a white frame and a view of lush green trees. A red armchair with a colorful patterned pillow sits in the corner. A wooden bed with a white sheet is visible in the foreground.

Treehouse Extension by Emma Scragg

Looking ahead to Sustainable House Day 2022/2023

SHD is evolving. As you know, the desire to live in a sustainable home is becoming more mainstream — as energy prices rise and climate events intensify, more Australians want to build and retrofit their homes to be more resilient to external pressures. With this in mind, we've expanded the Sustainable House Day program to be bigger and better than ever before, with an annual calendar of events offering more opportunities for peer-to-peer education sharing and access to expert advice, to a broader range of people.

The SHD that we are familiar with will now take place on 19th March 2023.

By shifting the main Sustainable House Day program to the end of Australia's warmer months, ideally we can mitigate the risk of COVID-19 impacts.

SHD will be complemented by a month of online in-depth webinars offering a deep-dive into a range of sustainability topics led by experts, architects, and homeowners. We'll also be teaming up with community groups around the country on a busy calendar of events throughout this month; including expert panels, in-person house tours, and peer-to-peer information sharing sessions. In addition, 150 of Australia's most sustainable homes will be open for interactive tours on our website, where participants can learn directly from homeowners, architects and designers.



Get Involved

Sustainable House Day is proud of its identity as a grassroots event supported by a diverse group of homeowners and Community Partners across Australia.

Community Partners organise events in their region in the months of March and April 2023. This might be a panel event with local experts, or a technical demonstration of a sustainable building material, or a bus tour to local sustainable homes. These events will be promoted as part of the Sustainable House Day calendar Australia-wide, and are a key part of the impact of this grassroots event.

We know some groups have a long history of holding these events, and we are looking forward to hearing about your plans for 2023. Even if you have never held a Sustainable House Day event before, we encourage proposals for safe and impactful events in your community or online.

If you're interested to hear more, please get in touch to discuss your ideas! Please email shd@renew.org.au to start the conversation.

Please note that to become a Sustainable House Day Community Partner, you will need to sign our partnership agreement laying out the terms and conditions of our engagement.

Suggested Community Partner event formats:

Local house tours

Organise tours of homes open for Sustainable House Day in your community. This may consist of a bus trip with a set number of attendees to tour several homes, or a self drive tour to open homes, or one open home with a homeowner who is willing to stay open throughout the day. If you are interested in pursuing this type of event, we can put you in touch with homeowners in your area who want to participate.

Panel discussions

Organise a panel discussion at a venue on a sustainable housing topic with local homeowners and/or sustainability experts.

Demonstrations

Host a demonstration of a sustainable technology led by experts or community members in your area. This might include a tour of a local renewables project, a demonstration of a sustainable material like hempcrete or CLT, or an academic project.

Webinars and virtual events

Host an online event featuring homeowners or sustainability experts from your community. We recommend checking against the virtual Sustainable House Day program (found on our website) to ensure the topic of your event doesn't overlap.

Support from Renew for Community Partner events:

- You will have the use of the Sustainable House Day name
- You will have access to Sustainable House Day branding, including logos and generic promotional materials
- Your event will be listed on the Sustainable House Day website and promoted via our social media channels and email lists
- We will connect you with local homeowners in your community if needed.

All in person events must be held between March 19th and April 16th 2023, and must follow all COVID-19 public health advisories for your area. An agreement detailing the terms of any in person event for Sustainable House Day 2023 must be signed by both Renew and your organisation before organising efforts begin. You or your community group will be solely responsible for organising any in person events and will assume all risk of cancellation in the event of health guidelines changing or for any other reason.

To start planning an event for Sustainable House Day 2023, contact shd@renew.org.au with the subject line "Community Partner event".

CLT Passivehouse, Betti & Knut Architecture



Get in touch

We are always keen to hear other ideas for partnerships and events as part of the Sustainable House Day calendar. Please get in touch to start the conversation:

James King
shd@renew.org.au

sustainablehouseday.org.au
renew.org.au

Thinking Paddock House, Open Creative Studio



Sustainable House Day is organised by Renew

Renew is a national, not-for-profit organisation that inspires, enables and advocates for people to live sustainably in their homes and communities.

Renew engages with more than 250,000 people each year around Australia and beyond. We work with more than 10,000 members and a network of 12 active members' branches throughout the country. Our community of climate change action includes readers of our two market-leading sustainability magazines Renew and Sanctuary, attendees of our Speed Date a Sustainability Expert event series and Sustainable House Day, users of our online resources and calculators, people contacting our advice service, and our research and advocacy partners.

Renew advocates in government and industry arenas for policies that promote renewable energy and cut emissions, make our homes healthier, more affordable and climate resilient, and protect consumer rights in our rapidly changing energy markets through our Climate Resilient Homes campaign. Our Green Rebuilt Toolkit program launched in 2021 provides resources and advice to homeowners who are rebuilding after being impacted by bushfire. Renew also provides consultancy services based on our technical expertise in energy, water and communications.

Expanded SHD Program

October 2022: Sustainable Design 101

We're getting back to basics. This event series provides a starting point for people just learning about sustainable design. Panelists vary from homeowners, designers, building scientists, architects and energy analysts from across the country, and will be hosted by Sanctuary magazine editor Anna Cumming.

November 2022: Retrofitting for Resilience

The devastating fires throughout the Summer of 2019/2020 made it clear that Australian homes need to be ready for future climate disasters. As part of our Green Rebuild Toolkit project, this year we're focusing on retrofitting existing homes to be more resilient in the face of bushfire. You'll hear from fire experts, architects, builders, designers, and homeowners who have first hand experience. Each session will feature a panel discussion and a Q&A hosted by Renew CEO Fiona Gray.

December 2022: Sustainable Renters' Week

In this special series of online events, we'll explore ways to live more sustainably in rental properties. Learn how to make easy improvements to your home that will improve comfort and energy efficiency, as well as encourage your landlord to access rebates for more permanent improvements. We'll also be shining a light on the reality of Australia's rental properties that are often freezing in winter and sweltering in summer, and advocating for an uplift in energy standards.

March 19th 2023: Sustainable House Day

This day is all about peer-to-peer information sharing, with over 100 homes open online, and a day of free sessions featuring homeowners offering insight into a range of topics:

- Do it yourself: Owner building
- Creating sustainable housing: Eco communities and co-housing
- Quick and easy? Exploring prefab and modular homes
- Running on sun: Using solar energy at home
- Design for life: Accessibility and ageing in place
- Maximum efficiency: Lowering your energy bills
- On the cheap: Sustainable design on a budget
- EVs and the grid: Understanding sustainable transport

March and April 2023: Extension Sessions

These sessions feature experts and homeowners coming together to offer a deep-dive into a range of topics:

- March 21st, 2023: First Steps: Planning, permits and practical solutions
- March 23rd, 2023: Finding your team: Sustainable builders, architects and designers
- March 28th, 2023: Embedded carbon considerations: Choosing the right building materials
- March 30th, 2023: Glazing: How to select the right windows
- April 4th, 2023: Warm enough, cool enough: The principles of passive solar design
- April 6th, 2023: Comfortable And Affordable: Making the most of insulation and energy efficiency
- April 11th, 2023: Going all electric: A how-to guide
- April 13th, 2023: Getting solar right: Choosing the right system for your home