

Press Release — March 2024

Renew's Sustainable House Day is back with in-person open homes, and bigger than ever

Sustainable House Day 2024, a community-driven event hosted by Renew, will showcase over 150 homes across Australia that have met the challenges of reducing energy bills, getting off gas, being more climate-resilient, and providing a comfortable home environment.

Since 2001, Sustainable House Day has grown, and is now a month-long national celebration of building and living sustainably. The main event on Sunday 21st April will see homeowners throw open their doors to welcome those who are seeking inspiration and peer-to-peer advice on their sustainability journey. There will also be a series of eight online events that will deliver expert guidance from Australia's leading sustainable architects, designers, and builders, with topics centered around key areas of sustainable building and design.

Open home tours will take place across the country allowing visitors to see a diverse range of properties, from a strawbale house on the west coast that feels like a warm hug, to a bushfire resilient home with sprawling views of the Tasman Peninsula. Renew has also partnered with community organisations around the country to include a host of other activities and provide opportunities for grassroots knowledge sharing. This year these include live demonstrations of all-electric homes, guided ecovillage tours, meet and greets with energy efficient homeowners, factory walk-throughs, information evenings, webinars, and even a sustainability fair!

In the weeks following Sustainable House Day, there will be something for everyone at the series of eight online workshops which will be run on key topics including: orientation, insulation and air flow; solar, home batteries and EVs; prefab and modular house design; and building small and clever.

From drafting the initial concept and seeking planning permissions right through to sustainable tech and automation for the home, participants will gain insight from Australia's leading sustainability experts and have the chance to ask questions about their own projects.

With this community-focused national program, Sustainable House Day provides countless opportunities for education and inspiration for those looking to reduce their homes' environmental impact, accessible to everyone across Australia.

Renew CEO Helen Oakey said, "We are excited to have open homes in person this year after the event went online during the covid years. There is nothing quite like being able to see and experience the benefits of a sustainable home and share in the enthusiasm that homeowners have for what they've been able to achieve, whether that is an innovative new build home made of recycled content, or a retrofit of an existing home that is now cheaper, more comfortable to live in and uses less energy."

“This year will certainly provide that opportunity for people across the country to see the very best of Australia’s sustainable homes, from a clever extension in Queensland’s Sunshine Coast that enhances ventilation and illumination through an innovative pop-up roof, to a small but beautiful hemp home in Victoria that features a kitchen and walk-in pantry that reflects the homeowner’s focus on growing, processing and cooking food, to a cozy traditional 1904 cottage renovation in South Australia, that uses orientation and cutting-edge technologies to achieve an 8.2-Star thermal performance rating.”

Sustainable House Day provides countless opportunities for inspiration and learning for those looking to reduce their homes’ environmental impact and live in a more comfortable home that has lower energy bills.

— END —

EVENT INFORMATION

[Sustainable House Day](#) is hosted by [Renew](#), a national, non-profit membership organisation working to transform Australian homes for climate and energy resilience.

Sustainable House Day Open Home tours are on Sunday 21st April 2024.

- Open Home tours are \$7.50 per person per tour. For the safety and comfort of visitors and homeowners, places are strictly limited timed sessions throughout the day.

Online Extensions Sessions (workshops)

- Individual sessions are \$12, or a series pass can be purchased at a heavily discounted rate of \$50 for new and existing Renew members and subscribers of their publications.
- Bookings for the entire program are open on our website, sustainablehouseday.com

—

Renew Media Contact: Belinda Brown media@renew.org.au

Sustainable House Day would not be possible without the support of our sponsors and council partners:

- NSW Architects Registration Board
- Bank Australia
- ACT Government - Suburban Land Agency
- Witchcliffe Ecovillage
- Cargocycles
- Envirotecture
- Light House Architecture and Science
- Banyule City Council
- City of Cockburn
- Merri-Bek City Council
- Wingecarribee Shire Council
- City of Yarra