

# Sustainable House Day

2025

*Empowering households  
to tackle climate change  
through peer-to-peer  
knowledge sharing  
since 1980*

Council Partnership Opportunities

Presented by  
**renew.**

Coorparoo, QLD





# renew.

Leading sustainable living

Renew is a national, not-for-profit membership organisation working to transform Australian homes for climate and energy resilience.

Renew engages with thousands of people each year around Australia and beyond. Our network of active members' branches across the country engage with the community on a wide range of sustainability topics. Our community of change includes readers of our two market-leading sustainability magazines *Renew* and *Sanctuary*, attendees of our expert event series and Sustainable House Day, users of our online resources and calculators, people contacting us for advice, and our research and advocacy partners.

Renew advocates 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.

## You and SHD 2025

Sustainable House Day is a key opportunity for Councils, community groups and individual homeowners to tap into a national network to drive forward the efficiency and comfort of homes in their own neighbourhoods.

Your organisation can directly support knowledge sharing across the community. Empower homeowners to access the best technologies, materials, design and tools available in Australia as well as discover the local businesses supplying them.

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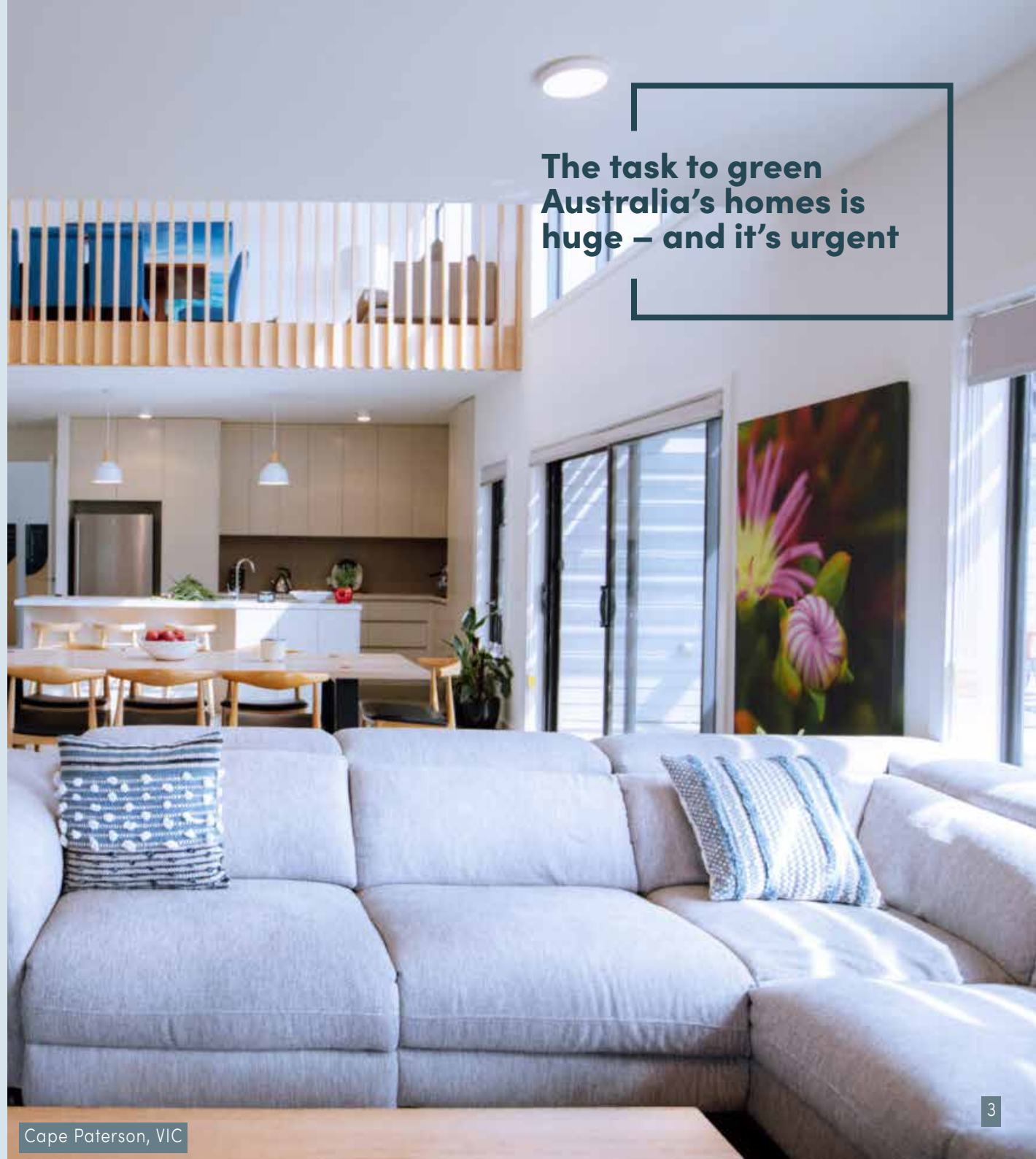
## Sustainable homes are critical for the future of the planet

Every year, the impacts of climate change are becoming more severe and devastating. Households generate at least one fifth of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions, and energy prices only ever seem to increase. The task to green Australia's buildings is huge and urgent.

Many homeowners lack funds or do not know where to start. Apartment buildings are complex. Landlords are often reluctant to invest, and renters fear being left behind with rising energy bills.

Upgrading Australia's millions of existing homes, whether free-standing or in multi-unit buildings, requires collaboration between homeowners, landlords, strata managers, architects, building trade experts, technology suppliers, research institutions, and trusted independent organisations like Renew that provide actionable advice about efficient buildings and sustainable lifestyles. Governments must ensure social equity underpins all policies.

**The task to green Australia's homes is huge – and it's urgent**







## Sustainable House Day empowers

For decades, Renew's Sustainable House Day has enabled the public 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 about building, retrofitting and renovating sustainably.

Sustainable House Day mobilises peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and insight to inspire, educate and empower the community to make their homes healthier and more sustainable.



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## Appetite for improvement is growing

The National Construction Code now requires new buildings to achieve 7-Star energy efficiency. The ACT and Victorian Governments plus many local councils across the country are phasing out use of fossil gas in buildings, and the movement to electrify is growing. Electric vehicle sales are accelerating.

The products, technologies and knowledge to make our homes and personal transport greener already exist, so reducing carbon emissions from households is a key opportunity to cut Australia's total emissions and reduce demand for polluting fossil fuel energy.

**Reducing the carbon intensity of our houses has the added benefits of making homes healthier and more comfortable to live in, and reducing energy costs for residents.**

**Low-carbon homes  
are the forerunners  
driving interest in  
housing sustainability**



Flinders, VIC



Beulah Park, SA



Kaleen, ACT



Strathfield South, NSW



Carina Heights, QLD



Mount Lawley, WA





Clifton Hill, VIC



Ironbank, SA



Lynham, ACT



Moore Creek, NSW



Pirates Bay, TAS



Fremantle, WA

## Looking back at Sustainable House Day 2024

Our flagship event, Sustainable House Day, took place on 21 April 2024, opening the doors—physical and virtual—to Australia’s most energy-efficient and eco-friendly homes. In addition, the SHD2024 program included community partner events around the country, online house tours, and a series of online information-sharing sessions featuring experts and homeowners.

**162**  
participating  
homes

### Featuring:

- 88 new builds
- 36 renovations/retrofits
- 92 all-electric homes
- 44 Passive Houses
- 29 with battery/solar systems
- 39 built with natural materials



### Geographic spread:

9 ACT, 33 NSW, 1 NT, 10 QLD,  
18 SA, 14 TAS, 57 VIC, 20 WA.

**103**  
Open  
Homes

**3,077**  
in-person  
visitors

**2,168**  
online event  
attendees

**22,000**  
house  
tour video  
viewings

**23**  
community  
partner  
events

**7**  
major  
sponsors

**5**  
council  
partners

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## Sustainable House Day 2025

The Sustainable House Day program continues to evolve. After a successful pivot to an online event in 2020, by 2024 SHD was running as a hybrid event - in person and online. In 2025, we want more homes across the country to be open to enable the peer-to-peer information sharing that makes Sustainable House Day so valuable.

**Nothing beats the experience of visiting these homes in person**

Alongside these in-person events, we will deliver a comprehensive program of online events, offering a deep-dive into a range of sustainability topics led by experts, architects and tradespeople.

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## Key dates

### Sunday 4 May 2025

On this day, private homes around the country will be open to the public. Participants will be able to book into one of several tour times at each home, with 15 to 20 people in each tour. Each home will also have an online profile and video house tour to reach a wider audience.

We would like to work with you and the local community to identify open houses in your LGA, and provide Councils with the opportunity to showcase programs or benefits that might be on offer in the sustainability space.

### May 2025

Renew will host a month of live online extension sessions with experts. Recordings of these sessions will become available later in 2025.

Events hosted by community groups and partners will continue around the country to provide more in-person and online ways for participants to engage with the Sustainable House Day program.







## Renew's vision for SHD 2025

**In 2025, Renew wants to expand the scope and reach of Sustainable House Day, pushing into new regions and bringing more Councils, local businesses, and community sustainability groups into the program.**

**Renew will zero in on the retrofit and electrification agenda that sits at the heart of Australia's energy transition by recruiting comfortable, energy-efficient homes that demonstrate attainable improvements and lifestyle changes that ordinary homeowners and renters can achieve.**

## Get involved

In 2025, we would like to work more closely with Councils to identify homes in your area that will be open for viewing on 4 May, and support Councils to promote and attend Open Home events. We will work to connect you to homeowners who already participate in Sustainable House Day, and aim to facilitate the best experience for visitors to homes. Your Council can leverage Renew's annual national Sustainable House Day to reach a wider audience for your sustainability objectives and programs.

Renew will also engage with local sustainability and climate groups and seek to connect them, you and (potentially) local sustainability businesses to create informative and localised Open Home experiences for the community that bring together information from a range of sources.

Councils and Community Partners are invited to organise events, such as a panel discussion, demonstration or workshop, in their region in the month of May 2025. These events are key to the impact of this grassroots event and will be promoted as part of the Sustainable House Day calendar Australia-wide.

Some groups have a long history of holding these events with Renew, and we are looking forward to hearing about those plans for 2025.

If you have never held a Sustainable House Day event before, we encourage proposals for innovative and impactful events in your community or online.

Your organisation can tailor the suggestions on the next page to align your objectives with the needs and priorities of your community and local businesses that work to transform Australian homes for climate and energy resilience.

**Be part of this respected national grassroots event**



# Sustainable House Day 2025 Council Partnership offer

## Identifying homes in your LGA as Open Homes

We will work with you, and local sustainability and climate change groups, to identify homes in your local government area that would be suitable to participate in the Open Homes program on 4 May 2025. These homes might be nominated from local community groups, contacts or databases that you have (such as building project approvals), or homeowners from previous SHD programs. We will register them on the SHD website and manage the administration with homeowners.

## Working with homeowners to host Open Home events

Open Home events can be hosted by the homeowners with materials and support solely from Renew. However, there is greater value for everyone where Councils collaborate with homeowners. We will identify registered homes in your LGA and aim to facilitate a connection between you and homeowners so that you can work together to provide locally relevant materials for open house attendees (such as Council programs) and/or attend Open Home events to interact directly with attendees.

## Council promotion of SHD

You will have the use of the Sustainable House Day name and branding, including logos and communication materials to promote events within the national SHD program to those in your LGA through your own communication channels.

Your Council will be listed on the SHD website as a Council Partner, with a link to your chosen webpage, for instance, sustainability rebates and resources available to residents of your LGA.

## Discounted access to Extension webinars

Renew will offer Council Partners discounted access to the series of live expert webinars that complement Sustainable House Day. As part of the Partnership package, Renew will set up a unique discount for your Council that you can promote to your staff and constituents in your LGA which will take 50% off the full price of the Series Pass for every purchaser. This is an attractive bonus for your constituents.



### From dream to drawing board: Permits, planning and finding your team

Tue 30th Apr 2024, 6:30 pm AEST

The first session in our program is all about taking that first leap towards your sustainable build or renovation. The panel will discuss how to get ideas out of your head and into a plan of action; tackling how to navigate planning requirements, identify opportunities and constraints, and find the right team to bring your vision to life.

[View Recording](#)



### Acing the basics: Orientation, Insulation and air flow

Thu 2nd May 2024, 6:30 pm AEST

This session covers all the basics that are essential to understand in order to achieve a sustainable build or renovation that is warm in winter, cool in summer, and cheap to run. Our expert panel will discuss what a difference orientation can make, as well as correct air flow and insulation.

[View Recording](#)



### Foundations to finishes: Choosing the appropriate building materials

Tue 27th May 2024, 6:30 pm AEST

Choosing the right sustainable building materials for your project can be a daunting task. In this session we will talk through the pros and cons of various natural building materials like rammed earth, strawbale and recycled timber, as well as exploring innovative new materials and the ideal environments for their use.

[View Recording](#)



## Sustainable House Day 2025 Council event suggestions

Renew encourages Councils to create their own events within the SHD program.

This is an excellent way to tailor the SHD program for your community's needs and Council priorities. We can put you in touch with community groups that are also planning SHD events – together you could create something exciting with wider reach and benefits for your community. You create it and we will promote it across SHD marketing.

### Local Open House promotion

Promote SHD in your newsletters and social media by featuring local homes from the SHD website. Help more people in your community to visit them by creating a downloadable map or list for your area with public transport information.

### Webinars and virtual events

Host an online event featuring homeowners or sustainability experts from your Council or community. We recommend checking against the SHD Extension Sessions program (which will be published on the SHD website) to ensure the topic and timing of the event doesn't clash with our webinar program. Or volunteer your Council experts for Extension Sessions hosted by Renew.

### Panel discussions

Organise a live, in-person panel discussion at a public venue on a sustainable housing topic with local homeowners and/or sustainability experts. Batteries and electric vehicles are very popular topics right now!

### Demonstrations

Team up with a local business, expert or homeowner to host a demonstration of a sustainable technology. This might be a tour of a local renewable energy project, a demonstration of a sustainable product or material like hempcrete, or an academic project.

### Workshops

Collaborate with local training or education providers to host a workshop or deep-dive class into a practical action that homeowners can implement for themselves, such as draughtproofing or window shadings.

### Market or fair

Collaborate with local business and community groups to hold a market day of sustainable living products and information. Feature locally grown produce!



**We are always keen to hear other ideas for partnership events**





## Our partnership principles

Renew is proud of its independence and Sustainable House Day's identity as a grassroots event supported by a diverse collection of homeowners and Community Partners across Australia.

Our partners share our values of sustainability and social justice, and build relationships that are mutually beneficial.

### Get in touch

To participate in the 2025 Sustainable House Day program, please contact us for a conversation.

Email [shd@renew.org.au](mailto:shd@renew.org.au)  
with the subject line  
**"SHD 2025 Council Partnership"**

**Sign up as a group of  
3 or more Councils in a  
region to each receive  
10% off the partnership  
contribution**

## Council Partnership terms

- Renew requires a minimum contribution of \$2000+GST for a Council Partnership, which helps fund SHD administration.
- Any events that Council might choose to host in association with Sustainable House Day 2025 must be held between 4 May and 1 June 2025.
- Access to Open Homes should conform to Renew's national approach to ensure coherent communication about SHD.
- A Council Partnership Agreement must be signed with Renew before beginning SHD organising efforts in your local government area.
- Your organisation will be solely responsible for organising and funding your events, providing insurance, and will assume all risks from cancellation for any reason. (Open Homes that are signed up via the SHD program will be covered by Renew's insurance.)
- The Renew team will do its best to support SHD Partners, however, offerings are subject to change due to technical or operational reasons.





Kaleen, ACT

**“We are committed to raising awareness of sustainable housing and helping the broader community. We do that locally in various ways but SHD allows us to extend that reach to a national audience. It is fabulous!”**

**Light House ArchiScience  
Bronze Sponsor**



Lyonville, VIC



Kew, VIC



Coorparoo, QLD



Coburg, VIC

**“SHD is a great opportunity to learn more about local climate action and the changes big and small you can make to your home to live more sustainably.”**

**Banyule City Council**

**“Envirotecture has been a proud supporter and contributor of Sustainable House Day since it first started in Australia – with our clients regularly opening their homes, and our directors sharing knowledge in SHD sessions. We are also now a proud sponsor of this national event to help the advocacy, education and inspiration spread to a wider audience!”**

**Envirotecture, Bronze Sponsor**



Mittagong, NSW



Wilyabrup, WA





Fitzroy North, VIC

**“It was wonderful to have so many curious and passionate people attend the Sustainable House Day Tour this year! I enjoyed ... the wonderful visitors who showed such a genuine interest.”**

**Open House homeowner**



Fitzroy North, VIC

**“First time hosts and overall had a great day and great experience – a credit to SHD organisation and planning. Made it very easy.”**

**Open House homeowner**



South Hobart, TAS



Dulwich Hill, NSW

**“I think the day went really well, the website and listing were great and I think many people were inspired and will feel motivated to work to retrofit their own homes.”**

**Open House homeowner**



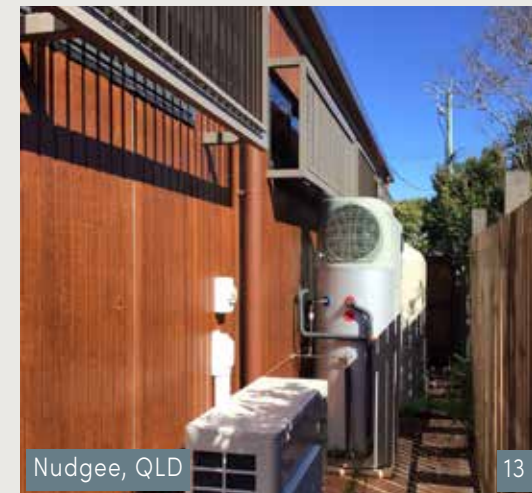
Blackburn North, VIC

**“It was extremely affirming after all the research, hard work, blood, sweat and tears that went into our home to hear so many lovely things from visitors who understand better than most about your vision and the result. So many people were very outwardly thankful in a very genuine way and it just left us feeling grateful that the world might improve slightly from our small act.”**

**Open House homeowner**



Moore Creek, NSW



Nudgee, QLD