

Local Solar Home/Building Tour

“Real Places for Real People”

Saturday, September 29th

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The self guided tour starts with a 9 a.m. presentation at City Hall, or you can pick up maps from Willow Bend Environmental Education Center from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Coconino County’s Sustainable Building Program and the City of Flagstaff’s Sustainability Program have organized a Solar Home/Building Tour as part of the 12th anniversary of the American Solar Energy Society’s National Solar Tour and the Flagstaff Festival of the Science. The event has grown to include open-house tours in nearly every state in the country. The theme of this year’s tour is “Real Places for Real People.” The tour will provide the public an opportunity to visit solar homes and buildings in their own community, speak with homeowners and experts, and learn how the technology works, what it costs, and why it makes sense.

As in previous years, the tour will showcase a variety of homes and buildings such as Willow Bend Environmental Education Center and Mountain Meadow Permaculture Farm’s Bioshelter. This year’s tour will provide a unique occasion to explore Flagstaff City Hall’s vertical solar panel (one of the few of its kind), NAU’s Applied Research and Development (ARD) building, and a home designed by Architectural and Environmental Associates Inc., which is poised to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification. Additionally, several other homes and businesses will be on display showcasing the work of local companies such as Northern Arizona Wind and Sun and Solar Design and Construction.

The tour will be held on Saturday September 29th and will begin with a kickoff at Flagstaff’s City Hall at 9:00 with a presentation by Jason Campbell, Vice-President of Renewable Energy at Architectural and Environmental Associates Inc. Following the presentation, individuals participating in the tour will receive a map and information which will guide them to the location and provide the times available to see each Solar Home Tour participant’s structure. Please note that NAU’s ARD building is only available for one tour starting at 1:30 p.m. The tour will last from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Maps and information will also be available at the Willow Bend Community Education Center from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

This is a wonderful, once a year opportunity to speak with solar designers and learn more about advances in solar home designs. For further information on this year’s tour, contact Amanda Acheson, Coconino County Sustainable Building Program Manager at (928) 679-8853, aacheson@coconino.az.gov.