

Open Eco Homes 2017 Report



This year [13 Cambridge-area homes](#) attracted the most visitors since 2012:

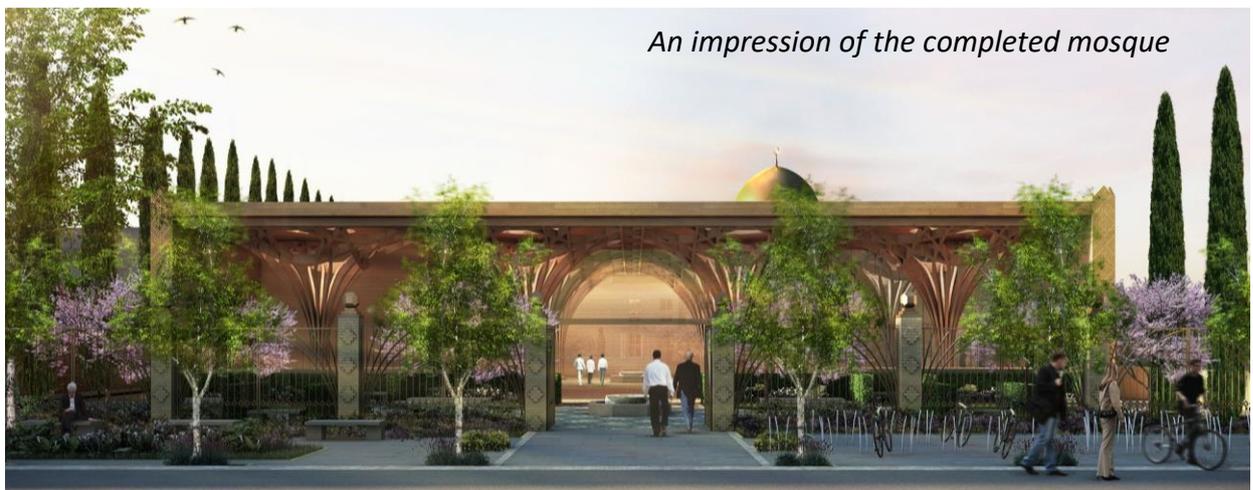
- 444 one-hour tours were made by 207 visitors
- 86% of available tours were booked
- 66% of visitors were new to OEH
- It inspired or enabled improvements, that will save an estimated 757 Tonnes CO₂

'It's impartial, unbiased advice from peers' - 2017 visitor

As usual, most open homes were retro-fits, like [Macfarlane Close, Impington](#). Dramatically improved insulation, mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, along with solar thermal and PV mean this 1960s home now has miniscule gas consumption. Numerous clever design features make it delightful, comfortable and efficient.



The new [Cambridge Mosque](#), which is still under construction, attracted massive local interest. It's Europe's first eco-mosque, with a stunning laminated-wood arched structure, passive climate control, heat pumps and more. Visitors, including the city's MP, heard how traditional Islamic design permeates this modern building, as with its open space, gardens, and flowing water - collected from the roof.



An impression of the completed mosque

Visits to [The Treehouse](#) were also very popular. It exemplifies excellence in modular new-build. After detailed design work, fully involving the home-owners, it was made in large sections from local timber in [Baufritz](#)' Germany factory with wood-fibre insulation made from off-cuts. Then it was [erected in 3 days](#), ready for fitting out. It has a beautiful, healthy ambience and superb environmental performance. We're pleased to have Baufrizt as one of [our sponsors](#).



Other homes showed a wide variety of low-cost and DIY solutions, to suit households on any budget.

After the tours we ran 5 practical evening **events**: Natural & Reclaimed Materials, Energy Meters & Controls, Insulation, Alternative Energy and a Human Library with experienced and expert 'books' available for one-to-one discussion. 97 attendees were able to hear and discuss detailed advice, to help them turn their energy-saving ideas into reality.

"I went round a lot of Open Eco Homes before we built this: it was really helpful" - William McVey, Rathmore Rd OEH host

OEH [publicity](#) influences more people than those who come along, helping normalise eco-choices for homes that cut energy bills and carbon emissions with improved comfort.



Thank you to all our funders and sponsors, host householders and to all the other volunteers organising, helping run the open days and events, including the speakers.

Hoping you can help us again with a fresh and further-improved Open Eco Homes in 2018,
Tom Bragg, *Open Eco Homes co-organiser, with Allan Shepherd and Alana Sinclair*

[Open Eco Homes](#) is an annual project of [Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#)

