

Open Eco Homes 2018 Report

[10 Cambridge-area open homes](#) attracted even more visitors that last year, the most since 2012:

- 461 one-hour tours of homes were made by 218 visitors
- 60% of visitors were new to OEH
- It inspired or enabled improvements that will save an estimated **722 Tonnes CO₂**

'A great way to see homes making big steps towards becoming zero carbon.' 2018 visitor



Self-build was a theme, with South Cambs and Cambridge City Councils providing self-build [plots and advice](#). This included Mark Brinkley, [Housebuilder's Bible](#) author, opening his new home, with beautiful woodwork and plenty of natural light, even on a rainy day. Using low-G glass, it remained comfortable throughout this summer's heatwave. It's built to the [Low Energy Building Standard](#), rather than full 'Passive House', because it's on a narrow plot.

Architect Michael Goodheart gave tours of his self-build in Grantchester, which he designed in more traditional style, with beautiful arts and crafts interiors. 5kW of PV is integrated into the roof, which overhangs and shades the home from summer sun. An air source heat pump provides most of the heating, complemented by a woodstove.



'It makes such a difference seeing it in the real world and getting impartial advice'.

Renovations featured too, like Phil Evans' conversion and extension of a 1920's bungalow. The brick ground floor was externally insulated and high spec timber-frame added above, with ingenious use of little corners to provide more cosy space in this family home for five.



'Seeing is believing - inspired to incorporate all the best bits into own home improvements'

One of the [5 evening events](#) was on Community Trusts and Co-housing, which is also surging in the Cambridge area, with support from [East Cambs Community Housing](#). Others were: 'Draught-Proofing and Ventilation', 'Eco Self-Build', 'Getting Your Home Ready for Climate Change' and 'Solid Wall Insulation Choices', attracting **131 attendees** in total.



[Marmalade Lane Cohousing](#)'s build-completion was delayed and so was unable to open: they'll run Open Eco Homes **tours in February**, along with the completed [Cambridge Mosque](#).

Thank you to all our funders and sponsors, host householders and to all the other volunteers organising and helping run the open days and events, including the speakers. Hoping you can help us again with Open Eco Homes in 2019: our **10th year will be special!**

Tom Bragg, Open Eco Homes Manager, with Allan Shepherd and Alana Sinclair



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

