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Press Release: 10th anniversary

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Open Eco Homes meets zero carbon homes challenge with tenth anniversary event

Popular annual open doors event Open Eco Homes will celebrate its tenth anniversary on September 10th with a special one-off event, bringing together five expert speakers including Baroness Brown of Cambridge Julia King and award winning Cambridge based architect Meredith Bowles.

The event, *Cambridge 2030 – meeting the zero carbon homes challenge* will compliment the usual mix of Open Eco Home tour days (September 22nd and 28th) and workshops (between September 17th and October 9th). Other speakers include Greater Cambridge Senior Sustainability Officer Emma Davies, leading community housing developer Chris Brown and particle physicist eco-home retrofitter Bart Hommels. The focus of the evening will be the challenge of meeting the Greater Cambridge goal of becoming zero carbon by 2030, as set out in their Climate Emergency declaration earlier this year.

“Our tenth anniversary is a good opportunity to create a city-wide conversation about the next ten years. What do we want our homes to be like by 2030? Will they answer the challenge of the climate emergency, whilst still delivering comfort and inspirational living spaces? We’ve reached out to people who are working at the forefront of these questions and asked them to bring their wisdom and experience to Cambridge 2030.”
Organiser Allan Shepherd

“Open Eco Homes is the longest running event of its kind, and has delivered over 4000 tours over the last decade. It has helped hundreds of Cambridge families to improve their homes in an environmentally friendly way. We want people to use the opportunity of celebrating this achievement to spark some creative fires and inspire long term relationships that can take Cambridge forward through the next ten years of transition to the low carbon economy.”

Two of the speakers, Bart Hommels and Meredith Bowles, also have homes open as part of the Open Eco Homes open days on September 22nd and 28th. Bart Hommels, a particle physicist, has transformed his home, Whitwell Way in Coton, with an impressive largely-DIY retrofit that has slashed energy bills and carbon emissions. Meredith Bowles is the chief architect at Mole, the architects of RIBA award winning cohousing project Marmalade Lane in North Cambridge. There are 12 Open Eco Homes, including the largest passive house development in Cambridge and a newly refurbished Victorian terrace house.

Workshops (all free) include a Beginners Guide to Retrofit by Manchester based Carbon Coop, Draught-proofing and ventilation, Better Insulation and Smart Electric Homes.

Editor's notes



1. Visitors to **Open Eco**

Homes can book tours via www.openecohomes.org.uk or by phoning 01223 301842. Homes are open September 22nd and 28th and most offer four tours per day, with a maximum of 8 people on each tour. All tours are free. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**

- Interviews with householders and photographs are available on request. Contact Allan Shepherd for more details - allan@openecohomes.org
- Open Eco Homes also features Cambridge 2030 (entry price £5, including free drink) and four free workshops run by experts from across Cambridgeshire. Dates and details below, and at www.openecohomes.org/events/
- Cambridge 2030 – meeting the zero carbon homes challenge**, brings together politicians, policy makers, developers, architects, engineers, constructors, thinkers and a special category of particle physicist DIY retrofitters, for a one-off evening of inspiration, imagination and conversation. Booking essential via openecohomes.org £5 ticket price includes free drink.
- The workshops**, which run between September 17th and October 9th are:
 - Successful draught-busting and ventilation** – Tuesday 17th September, 7.30-9.30pm. The Refectory, Wesley Methodist Church, Christ's Pieces, CB1 1LG. Led by CCF Chair and OEH host Tom Bragg.
 - Beginners Guide to Retrofit** – Saturday 21st September, 2.00-4.00pm, Upper Hall, Wesley Methodist Church, Christ's Pieces, CB1 1LG. Led by Manchester based Carbon Coop, Jonathan Atkinson, Marianne Heaslip.
 - Better Insulation** – Thursday 3rd October, 7.30-9.30pm, St Paul's Cambridge (Lower Hall), Hills Road. Speakers include Architect Margaret Reynolds, Tim Acheson of Green Hat Construction and Transition Cambridge householder Stuart Dyer.
 - Smart Electric Homes** – Wednesday 9 October, 7.30-9.30pm, Old School Hall, St Barnabas Centre, Mill Road CB1 2BD. Speakers include Energy Consultant Nicola Terry, Owen Morgan of Cambridge Solar and Thomas Whiffen of Green Energy Options.
- Through the winter CCF are also offering free thermal imaging training and loans of cameras that can show where buildings leak heat.
- Open Eco Homes is supported by a range of funders and sponsors.
 - Our major funders and Gold sponsors are Cambridge City Council, Cambridge Forum for the Construction Industry, Baufriz and Cambridge Solar (British Renewable Energy Installer of the Year and East of England Solar Installer of the Year award winners 2018).
 - Our Silver supporters are the Ecology Building Society and Bidwells
 - Our bronze supporters are Mole Architects, Margaret Reynolds Architect, AC Architects, Anglian Energy Solutions and Green Hat Construction.
- Open Eco Homes is organised by Cambridge Carbon Footprint (CCF), a registered charity committed to creating environmental, economic and social benefits for Cambridge. Other CCF projects include Circular Cambridge and the CirculART Trail. Registered charity no. 1127376.
- Working with householders across Cambridge and surrounding villages Open Eco Homes organises booked one-hour tours so people can learn how to transform their homes in an ecological way. Homes range from Victorian terraces, through 50's semi-detached to modern new-builds.

10. This is the 10th year for Open Eco Homes. A high percentage of the hundreds of visitors go on to improve their homes in an ecological way. Householders save energy and carbon emissions, whilst making their homes nice and cosy.
11. On the tours householders share practical information, inspiration and advice, showing people the changes they have made and explaining what sort of difference it has made to their lives. "Meeting the householders will be a great experience for visitors. Every one of them has unique knowledge to pass on because every house is different and everyone has carefully chosen the home improvements right for them and their home. During their renovation or new build project they become experts in cosy home making. " Allan Shepherd