

Tips and advice as Open Eco Homes returns

Following on from their 2017 event, Open Eco Homes is back, offering members of the public the chance to learn more about environmentally-friendly homes in Cambridge.

This festival of green ideas is on in Cambridge until October with the aim of kick-starting a new generation of eco-homes.

Supported by Cambridge City Council and award-winning green companies, Baufriz and Cambridge Solar, Eco Homes for All will give people access to the best expert advice from across Cambridgeshire for free.

Occasions of note include five free workshops and two days of free householder-led Open Eco Home tours around 10 homes. The series of events, which began on September 18 and runs until October 18, fast-tracks home makers towards their dream home giving participants the tools, knowledge and expert advice they need to start creating a vision for their own future home.

"It's an exciting time for home makers in Cambridge," said festival organiser Allan Shepherd. "There's a lot of inspirational new eco-homes opening this year, which change the way we think about buildings.

"They are smart, stylish, low-energy and ready for the

future. From individual houses like *Housebuilder Bible* author Mark Brinkley's new low-energy self-build, to the new Athena homes at Eddington.

"The festival aims to tap into all this knowledge to help create the next generation of Cambridgeshire eco-homes, equipping people for free with the knowledge and inspiration to make it happen.

"The festival exists to kick-start the imagination and get people to the point where they're able to say, 'Wow, someone made this happen, what could I do?'"

Eco Homes for All will give people the opportunity to tour award-winning homes for themselves and attend workshops by the people who built them.

There will also be free advice and materials for people who want to retrofit their existing homes, with workshops on draught-proofing, solid wall insulation and getting your home ready for climate change.

Eco Homes for All runs until Thursday, October 18. The Open Eco Home householder-led tours are on Sunday, September 30 and Saturday, October 6. Tour bookings are essential.

■ All bookings, workshop dates and a full programme of information can be found at openecohomes.org, or by calling 01223 301842.