



Open Eco Homes 2013
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PRESS RELEASE

Journey to Victorian eco home

When Judith Green started to think about reducing household waste a few years ago, she had no idea it would lead to a complete eco renovation of her Victorian terraced home. Keen to reduce her impact on the environment by bringing less packaging into the house, Judith began by making small switches in what she bought. But as concerns about climate change increased, she decided she needed to take larger steps to reduce her carbon footprint, the largest of which was doing away with the family car.

Having done that much already it was only natural when the family decided to extend their home last year that they would not just make it bigger, but more energy efficient as well. They made it a priority to install solar panels and a wood burning stove, and some extra money from an inheritance meant they could afford to insulate the whole house too. Judith says this has not only made their home more comfortable but has reduced their energy bills and their carbon emissions.

Judith's passion for recycling and minimising waste was also a priority. They reused as much of the materials from the demolition as possible, including bricks, roof slates, kitchen cabinets, windows, internal doors, kitchen appliances, carpets and blinds. "The reclaimed bricks are one of the features we are most pleased about, both environmentally and aesthetically", says Judith. "They really sit well with the rest of the house."

Eager to share her experience with other would-be eco renovators, Judith is opening up her home as part of the Open Eco Homes project run by Cambridge Carbon Footprint. Their house is one of 16 eco-homes in and around Cambridge which will be open for guided tours on Saturday June 15th and Sunday June 23rd. The tours give visitors the opportunity to see inside new and renovated eco homes, and hear how the home owner went about it.

“Open Eco Homes is not just about providing people with the information on how they can green their homes” says Alana Sinclair, Coordinator at Cambridge Carbon Footprint, “it’s about people being able to visit a home just like theirs and see what others have been able to do. It’s inspiring. And as well as being very knowledgeable about the eco features of their homes, all of the homeowners (like Judith) have a story to tell, so it’s a bit of fun too.”

For more information on the Open Eco Homes project or to book your visit go to www.openecohomes.org.

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Editor’s notes

- For interviews with Judith Green or other home owners/renovators participating in Open Eco Homes contact Alana Sinclair
- Photos of all of the homes participating in Open Eco Homes are available on request from Alana Sinclair

Open Eco Homes: The open days are on Saturday 15th and Sunday 23rd June 2013.

Visitors can choose homes to visit at www.openecohomes.org. Bookings can be made online, or by calling Cambridge Carbon Footprint on 01223 301 842.

Organisations

- For details of Open Eco Homes see: www.openecohomes.org
- For details of Cambridge Carbon Footprint see: www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org

Photos



Demolition work begins at Judith Green’s home.



The finished extension with recycled bricks and roof slates.

For further photos or an interview contact Alana Sinclair.