

National Solar Tour Comes to Cowlitz and Clark Counties

Saturday - October 6, 2007



Cowlitz PUD is pleased to be a co-sponsor of The American Solar Energy Society's 2007 National Solar Tour for Cowlitz and Clark Counties. The event takes place on Saturday, October 6 at 10 Clark County sites and six Cowlitz County homes.

Organized by Solar Washington, this year's tour will feature "green buildings" with passive solar space heating, a "solar envelope" home, active solar water heating (both flat plate and evacuated vacuum tube), solar window shading, highly-insulated air-tight construction using insulated concrete forms, spray-in BioBase™ soy foam, residential and commercial grid-tied photovoltaic solar and micro-hydro electric systems, geo-thermal heat pump, and more.

The cost is a one-time charge of \$5.00 per adult to visit all participating homes – and children are free.

We encourage you to bring the family and tour the homes on display in either or both counties on October 6th. Here are all the details:

Kick-Off Presentation: 9:00 a.m. at Clark Public Utilities, Public Service Room
1200 Fort Vancouver Way in Vancouver, WA.

Directions: From Cowlitz County take I-5 south to Exit 1C (WA-501, Mill Plain Blvd). Turn left on Mill Plain Blvd., go under I-5 and turn right at the first traffic light onto Fort Vancouver Way. Turn right into the first driveway on the right.

Home Tour Sites:

Clark County Homes (open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

The list of ten Clark County sites will be distributed at the kick-off presentation, and will also be available at any of the Solar Tour homes presented in Cowlitz County (listed below).

Cowlitz County Homes (open 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Tour visitors may go directly to any of the participating Cowlitz County home sites. There is no requirement to attend the Kick-Off presentation. Of the six tour homes in Cowlitz County, three are just off I-5 near downtown Kalama, and three are off Lewis River Road, four miles east of Woodland (I-5 Exit 21). Directions follow.

Kalama Homes:

The three Kalama tour homes are new Energy Star® Homes built by Radiant Building, Inc. All three homes are for sale and have one or more of the following features:

- ✓ Passive solar design with south-facing Low-E windows
- ✓ Insulated concrete form (I.C.F.) walls
- ✓ BioBase 501™ spray foam insulation in attic and floor
- ✓ Recycled cellulose insulation in attic
- ✓ High efficiency (90%+) gas furnace
- ✓ Timed hot water recirculating system
- ✓ Energy Star® refrigerator and dishwasher
- ✓ Air-tight two story construction for natural stack effect cooling without artificial refrigeration
- ✓ Engineered and manufactured “TJI” brand silent floor trusses in lieu of old growth lumber

Directions:

From the north: Take I-5 south to Kalama Exit 30. At the stop sign, continue straight ahead on the frontage road to a stop sign at the first intersection. Turn left on Elm Street, under I-5, to the stop sign. Turn right (south) on 1st Street and then left at the second road on the left (Ashland Loop) which becomes Birchwood Drive. Follow the National Solar Tour signs.

From the south: Take I-5 north to Kalama Exit 30. At the off ramp stop sign, turn right onto Elm Street to stop sign at first intersection. Turn right (south) on 1st Street and then turn left at the second road on the left (Ashland Loop) which becomes Birchwood Drive. Follow the National Solar Tour signs.

Woodland Homes:

These three homes were all designed to be solar heated. The homes of Grant Sawyer and Pat DesChene and Norm and Pauline Yonemura (which were on last year’s tour) are passive solar, and the third home on the tour is an active solar envelope house owned by Glen and Suzie Keto and is for sale. Features include:

- ✓ Modestly-sized for maximum efficiency
- ✓ Well-insulated and air-tight thermal envelope
- ✓ South facing windows for passive solar space heating
- ✓ Solar shading overhangs or installed window shading devices for summer comfort
- ✓ Low E glass vinyl windows
- ✓ High efficiency heat pump with non-greenhouse gas 410-A refrigerant
- ✓ ENERGY STAR® efficient clothes washers
- ✓ Heat recovery ventilation systems
- ✓ Radiant hydronic floor heating systems
- ✓ Electric tankless-on-demand water heater for domestic hot water (DHW) and space heating
- ✓ Concrete tubes in insulated slab on grade floor for solar energy storage for space heating
- ✓ Solar water heating systems: Evacuated tube for DHW and space heating. Flat plate collector for DHW
- ✓ House built with manufactured wood “I” beams, made with tree farm lumber - not old growth timber
- ✓ Sustainable bamboo hardwood floors which are 25% harder than oak or maple but grow back in four years

Directions:

Take I-5 to Woodland Exit 21. If coming from the north, follow the frontage road to the traffic light and turn left (go under I-5) onto Lewis River Road (Hwy. 503). Then, if coming from either north or south, go east on Hwy. 503 for four miles. Just past the “Heritage Marker” sign on the right, turn left on Finn Hall Road. Go up Finn Hall Road for one-quarter mile. Turn right on Hawks View Road. Turn into the first driveway on the left. Tour signs will be posted on Hwy. 503 and up Finn Hall Road. A free car shuttle service will be provided for the short distance to the solar envelope home of the Keto’s.

For more information on the Cowlitz County portion of the tour, please contact Grant Sawyer at Cowlitz PUD, phone 360-577-7511 or his cell phone at 503-799-5472.