



Dorset Open Greener Homes*

We are organising an event to showcase ways of living more sustainably. We are looking for people who are willing to invite visitors to their homes*, to talk about ways we can lower our carbon footprint. Do you think you might be willing to take part?

(*Homes' here includes gardens, allotments, churches, schools, village halls –venues where you have taken steps to save energy)

It will involve your home being open to visitors for a day (or perhaps two half days) around the 1-2 October or 8-9 October 2022.

We have run these events in Dorset for nine years, and feedback from the visitors to the homes has been really enthusiastic – unbiased advice, inspiration, sharing experience, technical discussions, building networks - and many of the visitors have gone on to make changes to their homes and ways of life.

Your Home

Some of these homes are quite technical, with heat pumps and ventilation systems, and have had a lot of money spent on them. But many of the most inspiring have simple low-cost solutions, repurposing materials, cutting down waste, growing vegetables or ditching the car. Visitors also want to see solar panels, batteries, heat pumps, electric cars and bikes, or heat storage systems in action

The main criterion is that you can inspire visitors, share your experience, and give unbiased advice. Your home does not have to be perfect!

Last year was the first time we ran this across all of Dorset, and 50 homes opened last September. We rely on local teams with their coordinators to research the venues and give support. Your local coordinator will be your first point of call – we will put you in touch if you don't know them.

Next Steps

If you think you might be willing to take part (and remember your house does not have to be perfect!) you might think about how you will open: there are three formats for the visits. You should decide which you prefer: Either:

- Visitors Book their slot. This has the advantage that you can limit numbers, and you know who they are. However if you are in the countryside people turn up late, or don't come, and people arrive who haven't .
- Decide on Tour times eg 10.00, 11.30, 2.00, 3.30. 5.00. Ideally people will arrive on time, and you won't have to repeat yourself.
- Visitors Just turn up. If you have an assistant then they can gather people in the garden until you have enough for a tour, and then bring them round as a group. Or let them wander at will.

We will provide signs, Public Liability Insurance, publicity and assistance on the day if you need it.



The overwhelming feedback from hosts in the past has been positive, and many of them have been very happy to do it again year after year. I hope you will enjoy it.

Any questions? Talk to us or your local coordinator if you know who it is, or email us:

[Sam Wilberforce](#) and [Colin Tracy](#): DCAN organisers