

Tour of 23 dwellings, all designed with energy efficiency, sustainability in mind, showcases a wide array of styles, designs and locales

A taste of the green LIFE



COURTESY U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL NEW MEXICO CHAPTER



ABOVE: This contemporary Placitas home is done in the coastal style. Inspired by the Hawaiian Islands, there is a large coral reef and bird aviary visible from the front door. The home, at 20 Anasazi Trails Loop in Placitas, is equipped with photovoltaics and thermal hot water systems. **RIGHT:** This is the interior of Casa de Paja at 1053 Camino del Bosque in Bernalillo. The home is constructed of straw bales and 90 percent recycled steel. It has a Moroccan flair and the design is based on Fung Shui basics. Floors and countertops are concrete.

STORY BY JANE MAHONEY
For the Journal

So, you think all green homes are alike? Think again. The upcoming GreenBuilt Home Tour, scheduled for June 12-13, should forever alter your perception of energy-efficient homes. "Green" can be contemporary or rustic in style, large or small in size, contain traditional New Mexican elements or show off the latest trends in urban multifamily townhomes.

Twenty-three homes, plus one virtual home in Silver City, will open their doors to the public during the 11th annual GreenBuilt tour, which kicks off the Sustainability Week series of green education events sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council New Mexico Chapter (USGBC-NM).

Tour goers can take self-guided tours through any or all of the homes in a swath that cuts from Los Lunas and Peralta through Albuquerque, Corrales, Placitas, the East Mountains, Santa Fe and Embudo. The homes will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. In keeping with this year's theme of "As Simple As," tour tickets are just \$1 per home visited, available at the door.

The tour offers a smorgasbord of

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This 1,360-square-foot straw bale home, located at 3 Stagecoach Junction Place in a pre-existing subdivision in the East Mountains, has passive solar glazing and orientation. Wraparound porches and an integrated gray-water system are among the many green features.

Green living tour

WHAT: 11th annual GreenBuilt Tour sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council N.M. Chapter. The theme is "As Simple As..."

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, June 12 & 13

DESCRIPTION: A two-day, self-guided tour (and one virtual tour of a Silver City residence) of 23 innovative homes built to integrate green living techniques and reduce energy use. All the homes have been certified under Build Green New Mexico or the LEED for Homes rating systems.

WHERE: The homes are scattered throughout Albuquerque, the East Mountains, Placitas, Santa Fe, Embudo, Corrales,

Bernalillo, Los Lunas, and Peralta.

MAPS AND DIRECTIONS: Free GreenBuilt tour guide booklets are available at the USGBC-NM office at the NM Design Center, 4801 Alameda NE, or at La Montanita Co-ops and Whole Food stores in both Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Can't find a booklet? Here are a few places to get started.

- Maps and descriptions also are online at www.usgbcnm.org or call 505 227-0474.

- Many of the home tour addresses are featured in this story. Start at any home on the tour and pick up a map at that location.

COST: \$1 per home visited, so take cash. Money will be collected at each home.



This home in Embudo is a work in progress. The nearly net-zero 3,000 square foot home provides some food for the occupants. Passive and active solar systems produce 95 percent of the heat and hot water. An interior atrium and attached greenhouse provide beauty, light and oxygen.

Tour opens green home doors

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building materials, each adding a particular flavor to the home. Along the way, see homes built not only of traditional framing materials, but also of straw bales, insulated concrete forms, adobe, a food-growing dome and steel frame construction.

Get a practical sampling of passive and active solar heating and cooling systems, rooftop water catchment systems with cistern capacity, grey water distribution to provide a stream and pond, solar-tracking photovoltaic panels, and use of indigenous materials such as timbers and brick.

"You name it and it's there," said Kent Beierle, the owner/architect of Environmental Dynamics Inc., and co-chair for Sustainability Week. "There's everything from high end custom homes to continuing projects done by the homeowners. The purpose of the tour is to highlight sustainable building practices that are attractive, practical and affordable."

Each of the featured homes has been certified under Build Green New Mexico or the LEED for Homes rating system, added Gail Rubin, spokesperson for the USGBC-NM. Contractors and many of the owners will be on hand to talk about green features, innovative materials and energy-efficient building techniques. As part of Sustainability Week, the Green Central Expo and lecture series, coming up from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 19 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, will give viewers a hands-on look at innovative products ranging from insulation to recycled materials such as

The U.S. Green Building Council New Mexico Chapter has scheduled its Sustainability Week series of green education events, including the GreenBuilt Tour and Green Central Expo, for June 11-19.

These events are designed to educate the public about what a green home can be, how sustainable homes are built, and why they are good for the environment. This year's theme is "As Simple As..." to show how easily green practices can be incorporated into everyday life.

The following are the week's planned events:

6:30 - 9 p.m. June 11:

A kick-off event honoring homeowners who opened their homes for the tour will be held at the Albuquerque

carpets made from plastic or the latest in nontoxic paints and sealers.

While each home brings something new to the tour, here are a few of the more unusual homes you can see:

■ **Small Potatoes Sustainable Home/Farm** at 26 Camino del Torreon in Placitas boasts energy-saving features ranging from solar trackers and photovoltaic panels, which generate electricity that can be sold back to PNM. A large portion of the roof has a white, heat-reflecting surface. A food-growing dome uses passive solar design and solar panels to provide energy and a 1,200-gallon water tank to regulate temperature. A pond and removable shading lessens the impact of summer sun yet does not block the sun in winter.

Sustainability events

BioPark Botanical Garden. Keynote speaker will be U.S. Rep. Martin Heinrich. Tickets for the event, which includes dinner, a live concert and a BioPark visit, cost \$30. To purchase tickets, visit www.usgbcnm.org or call 505-227-0474.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. June

12-13: The 11th annual GreenBuilt Tour.

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. June

16: A guided tour of commercial green buildings in Albuquerque will feature LEED-certified buildings including the Pete Domenici Education Center at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, Rio Rancho High School, the Andaluz Hotel (pursuing LEED Gold), and other properties. Lunch and transportation are included. Cost is \$40 for USGBC-NM members,

\$50 for nonmembers. The tour meets at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. To purchase tickets, visit www.usgbcnm.org or call 505-227-0474.

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. June

19: USGBC-NM will hold Green Central, a free exposition event featuring businesses with green products, services, and/or professional organizations. The event will take place at the National Hispanic Cultural Center's Pete Domenici Education Center simultaneously with USGBC-NM's Green Living Lecture Series. Lectures will cover such topics as xeriscape, water conservation options, renewable energy and recycling. Outside, there will be an electronics recycling truck that will be accepting electronics from attendees.

multifamily properties, all in Albuquerque. These projects are good examples of higher-density housing alternatives to support sustainable cities, Beierle said.

■ **The Downtown @ 700-2nd** project owned by the Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico is a downtown housing project at 700 Second NW. It is designed to provide compact, 300-square-foot rental apartments to low-wage earners or the formerly homeless.

■ **The Villa Loma Estates** townhome project, 4501 Villa Loma Lane (near Tramway and Montgomery) is under way with its first two completed townhomes. An infill project at the site of a former Rowlands Nursery, the three-story townhomes will offer an optional elevator.

■ **Elements Urban Townhomes**, 335 Platinum SE in Downtown, also a vertical design plan offers energy efficiency features, rooftop decks, and solar hot water heaters. It is close to commuter rail and bus lines.

■ **The single "virtual" home tour** on the GreenBuilt agenda is a small, passive solar, and well-insulated home in Silver City. Visit www.silvercitygreen.com/index.html for a peek.

New homes that meet certain energy efficiency and sustainable building practices can earn substantial tax credits and rebates, said Rubin. The guide booklet offers an array of articles ranging from green rebates and incentives to discussion on topics ranging from evaporative air cooling advantages to recycling drop points.

photovoltaics for electricity and thermal solar domestic hot water.

■ **The Anderson residence** at 1 Peralta Farms Court in Peralta is an example of ICF (insulated concrete forms) wall construction system built on a raised foundation. It features radiant heating, solar domestic hot water and a domestic hot-water storage tank.

■ **In Embudo** (north of Santa Fe near Dixon), the Stout residence on Road 1103 #48 is a continuing project — a net zero 3,000-square-foot home with passive and active solar systems producing 95 percent of the heat and hot water. An interior atrium and attached green house provide beauty, light and oxygen.

New to the GreenBuilt Tour this year are several

The water catchment system utilizes swales, mulch, roof run-off and slope. All this is on an acre.

■ **A passive solar straw bale home** at 3 Stagecoach Junction Place in the East Mountains is created of walls of low embodied energy-renewable straw bales with minimal wood for wall frame and pre-manufactured trusses. Local earthen material has been used for the interior and exterior walls. There is a graywater system, gutters and cisterns for capturing and storing roof rainwater. The home has a small footprint (1,360 square feet) and wraparound porches.

■ **Artistic Homes** offers its LEED Platinum Net Zero home at 1580 Camino Rustica SW in Los Lunas. This production builder has incorporated