



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Record number of homes to open for Sustainable House Day this weekend**

A record 270 homes will open their doors to the public **this Sunday 12 September** for Sustainable House Day as millions of Australians continue to embrace renewable energy, recycling and other practices designed to lessen our impact on the environment.

Following on from the success of last year's event which attracted a record number of homes and 30,000 visitors, this year's event has inspired a huge response from homeowners.

"There is no other national event like this, providing people with a real-life look inside houses that have been designed, built or fitted out with sustainability in mind, and the opportunity to talk to owners, and receive unbiased advice." Event Manager Judy Celmins says.

"With so many homes on display this year, from those that have been retro-fitted with DIY solutions to custom designs showing off the latest advancements, we're expecting this event to be just as inspirational for those keen to learn more about sustainability."

A study conducted by the Ehrenberg Bass Institute found that Sustainable House Day can have a real impact on people's behaviour. Of the thousands of people who attended the event last year, 75% of those had made or were going to make sustainable changes to their own homes.

At the event presented by Solar Shop Australia, visitors will be able to see firsthand benefits such as solar, ventilation, water harvesting and recycling, shading, thermal mass (materials that absorb and release heat), glazing and window treatments. Architects and builders will also be on hand at many of the homes to provide expert tips.

Solar Shop Australia founder Adrian Ferraretto says sustainable living is at the core of what Solar Shop Australia does each and every day, making homes sustainable with the installation of solar power systems.

"However, we want every Australian to realise that making their home or business sustainable doesn't have to cost you the earth and Sustainable House Day is the perfect way for all Australians to see how simple it can be," Mr Ferraretto said.

The Association for Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA) has also come on board as a major sponsor of the 2010 event and will provide sustainability assessors at many of the open homes.

The Home Sustainability Assessor provides independent unbiased advice. In fact, they cannot sell product as part of this program so a local tradesman or supplier will be needed to recommend and install the products. ABSA CEO, Alison Carmichael, says "these programs are all part of a groundswell of change at all levels of the Australia community. It will involve governments, businesses and individuals, whether homeowners or renters. We will all start the journey to put our 'house in order' for a sustainable future.

To find about more about ABSA's programs including training, how to find an assessor or even become an assessor yourself go to [www.absa.net.au](http://www.absa.net.au).

Ms Celmins said there was an extra incentive to visit Sustainable House Day this year with new laws - expected to be in place for residential properties by May next year - requiring mandatory energy-efficiency assessments before homes can be sold or rented. The new laws are expected to rate homes by an energy efficiency star system and are likely to impact on home sale prices.

Did you know that the energy rating of a modest brick and tile bungalow can be increased from 5 to 7 stars for under \$4000 if the house is well-aspected, well insulated and double glazed energy rated (WERS) windows are used. Six stars can be achieved for less than \$500 under the same conditions as double glazing. Energy cuts of 24% for 5 and 6 star homes and 45% for 7 star homes are often possible.

For more information about Sustainable House Day visit [www.sustainablehouseday.com](http://www.sustainablehouseday.com)

**Media Inquiries: Judy Celmins on 0403 290371 or [judy@shmeco.com](mailto:judy@shmeco.com)**