

BIG GREEN HOME SHOW

As the recession sees more frustrated homeowners turned homebuilders, self builders could be the ones to lead the way in sustainable building

For any budding self builder or renovator, the choice to build and live 'green' can take up a lot of energy! Deciding which methods are the 'greenest', researching which products will save energy and calculating carbon footprint can be confusing. However, for anyone committed to a more sustainable, environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient way of living, the Big Green Home Show at the National Self Build & Renovation Centre is a great place to learn about building and living 'green'.

The National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon will host its second Big Green Home Show in October (23rd - 25th), aimed at prospective homebuilders baffled by all the eco jargon and green technology. The three-day Show will look at all aspects of green homebuilding and eco-friendly lifestyles, with an array of hands-on demonstrations, leading industry experts and professionals, and an opportunity to see and learn about the latest 'green' products and systems.

The Big Green Home Show will demonstrate that a green lifestyle isn't just about putting a giant compost heap in the back yard, or sticking a wind turbine on the roof. Building and creating an environmentally-friendly house requires good planning and budgeting, and it's important to understand all the different options available. As well as eco experts, visitors to the Show can also hear from people who have built their own eco-homes, tour the EDF Energy Renovation House to discover how to renovate to improve energy efficiency, and check out the latest materials and products to help minimise carbon emissions and reduce energy consumption.

Tim Doherty, of the National Self Build & Renovation Centre, explains:

"We have gained fantastic insight into what our visitors enjoy most and what types of projects they are undertaking to fit their lifestyles. As expected, the sustainability issue is a key feature of many self build and renovation projects, with our visitors looking for the latest energy-saving ideas, eco-friendly materials and products, along with 'green' lifestyle advice to complement their new eco-friendly homes."

"Although many people are interested in becoming 'greener', there is a lot of confusion about costs, benefits and the payback of eco-friendly products and green living. The Big Green Home Show will help visitors to decide which products and methods best meet their needs and how to complement these with lifestyle changes to create a truly 'greener' way of life. Our expert speakers, building and product demonstrations, and presentations, coupled with the Centre's permanent educational exhibits and features, means that the Big Green Home Show can provide all the answers to unearth the real story on sustainable housebuilding and living.

Visitors can bring their plans to life with the help of the CAD design team, take a guided tour of the EDF Energy Renovation House, get hands-on with building and product installation demonstrations, check out hundreds of products, consult leading industry experts and professionals, find out how to finance their new building project, discover how to get exclusive offers and discounted prices on building materials, and get tips and advice from those who have built their own eco homes.

For comprehensive and impartial advice on green self build, renovation and home improvement, visit the **Big Green Home Show** (23rd - 25th October 2009) at the National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon, just off Junction 16 of the M4. To book free tickets or for more information, visit www.buildstore.co.uk or call 01506 409 616.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

BuildStore, the company behind The National Self Build & Renovation Centre, offers an end-to-end service to the self builder and people wanting to renovate or convert an existing property. To capture this rapidly growing market, The National Centre was opened in February 2007. The 67,000 ft² Centre is on a different scale to anything seen before in the UK self build and renovation sector. It has a dual role of helping to educate people interested in self build and renovation and ensuring those actively building can access all the services and materials they need. Visitors can learn about the different stages of the self build and renovation process from the "Education Zone", which features six life-sized exhibits including, plant, groundworks, walls and roof structures. They can also find inspiration inside the Potton show home, and in the "Renovation Zone", discover techniques for renovating, with a full-sized house transformed from an 'old wreck' to a fully renovated home.

For visitors just starting their self build or renovation journey, the Centre can help them find a plot of land, renovation or conversion opportunities, with PlotSearch, consider finance options for their project with the in-house financial advisors, or simply get advice from the team of experts. Those actively involved in the process can take advantage of TradeCard, a unique card which offers discounted prices building materials and tool hire from leading merchants and suppliers. Plus, over 250 industry suppliers showcase their products and services in a dedicated "Trade Village", complete with a bar code system, allowing visitors to easily order brochures and further information, which will be sent to them at home.

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