

Portland's Sustainable Building Week offers 30 ways to learn from energy experts

Updated: Oct. 10, 2022, 8:04 a.m. | Published: Oct. 10, 2022, 7:27 a.m.



Noyes Development's high-performance, solar-ready new homes are on the 2022 Homes of Tomorrow Today Tour Oct. 14-16. Noyes Development

By [Janet Eastman | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

People curious about homeowner benefits in the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), [solar rebates](#) and [do-it-yourself energy improvements](#) can talk to experts in design, construction and community planning during [Sustainable Building Week](#) from Oct. 10-15 in the Portland area.

About 30 events, many free, presented online or in person, cover a wide range of topics, from [upgrading home electrical panels](#) by [Electrify Now](#) to [rethinking ways to prevent wildfire](#) by [Sustainable Northwest Wood](#) as well as [re-imaging schoolyards](#) by [Oregon Green Schools](#) and Oregon's chapter of the [American Society of Landscape Architects](#).

Go inside 10 new, well-insulated homes that offer easy livability and low utility costs at the Home Builders Association of Metro Portland's 2022 Homes of Tomorrow Today Tour Oct. 14-16 (\$25, homesoftomorrowpdx.com).

Tour goers will hear about ways to upgrade a home, from replacing an inefficient water heater to installing alternative energy sources that can be used during power outages.

They will see smart thermostats, solar panels and electric car charging stations. Kitchens are outfitted with induction cooktops and the temperature of a whole house can be consistently comfortable with cost-saving heat pumps.

Interest in reducing home expenses while protecting the planet has grown since Sustainable Building Week started five years ago.

This year, event founders Weby Bowles and Terry Campbell introduced a year-round program, Sustainable Building Monthly, with talks held in Portland's PAE Living Building.

The five-story, brick-clad structure at 151 S.W. First Ave. generates its own power, collects and treats its own water, and composts its waste.

For details and to register for 2022 Sustainable Building Week events, visit sustainablebuildingweek.com.

Here are some highlights:

An introduction to Passive House construction's energy savings and enhanced indoor air quality by Passive House Northwest is 5 p.m.-8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 10 at the PAE Living Building, 151 S.W. 1st Ave. in Portland's Old Town neighborhood. Energy Trust of Oregon explains incentives and resources for the design and construction of resilient, high-performance buildings during a webinar from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Discriminatory housing policies and lending practices are the focus of ZERO Coalition and the Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's film program 5 p.m.-8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13 at the June Key Delta Community Center, 5940 N. Albina Ave. in North Portland's Humboldt neighborhood.

A discussion by Birdsmouth Design-Build on how homes can benefit from zero-energy retrofits using off-the-shelf products takes place 5:45 p.m.-8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14, at Steeplejack Brewing Company, 2400 N.E. Broadway in Northeast Portland's Sullivan Gulch neighborhood.

— Janet Eastman | 503-294-4072

jeastman@oregonian.com | [@janeteastman](https://www.instagram.com/janeteastman)