



A 'greenovated' home tour in Haverford Twp.

Published: Thursday, April 26, 2012

odigg     

By Lois Puglionesi

CORRESPONDENT

[View and purchase photos](#)

HAVERFORD TWP. —About 30 residents had an opportunity to visit some of Haverford's most environmentally progressive properties on Sunday, when the township Environmental Advisory Committee hosted a green homes tour in recognition of Earth Day.

Stops included Alan and Jan Marie Rushforth's "solar palace" on Darby Road. The Rushforths dramatically lowered their fossil fuel use by installing a solar hot water system, a photo voltaic system and solar hot air. The house also employs a semi-passive solar design with large south-facing windows and overhangs.

Additionally, the Rushforths filled leaky basement and attic walls with foam insulation. Alan Rushforth said they use no natural gas and electric bills go as low as \$8 per month in summer.

Brian Dooner's home on Highland Lane featured a photovoltaic solar rooftop array for producing electricity. Installed in 2010, the 42 south-facing roof panels produce nearly 10 megawatt hours annually. Dooner recently built a new green garage as well, using structural insulated panels and insulated concrete forms. His property also contains pervious concrete and porous stone driveway paving.

The final stop on Llandover Road was an older, stone colonial home completely "greenovated" by Brian Walters, Factotum, Inc. Walters said he used closed cell spray foam insulation to provide a "super-efficient, air tight envelope," and also sealed and pressure tested air ducts. Additionally, Walters installed Energy Recovery Ventilation, high efficiency HVAC water heat, a rain water harvesting system and more.

"It's a brand new 60-year-old house," Walters said. "You can take an old house and make it better."

The tour began and ended at the grandest facility of all, the township's new Community Recreation and Environmental Center at Haverford Reserve. Slated to officially open June 14, the 35,000 square foot, LEEDS certified building is a "green dream come true," complete with geothermal energy, bioswales and rain gardens,

a white "cool roof," energy recovery systems, low-flow/waterless fixtures, recycled building materials, computerized lighting control and an interactive "green touch screen" that will, among other things, calculate payback on greening one's home.

Parks and Recreation magazine recently recognized the center as one of the top 10 green buildings in parks nationwide.

The afternoon ended with a reception at Oakmont Pub. Participants rode together on a school bus to save energy.

Maria Smith of Havertown said the tour "has been a wonderful, educational opportunity to gather many new ideas for being green and solar. I wish everybody could have seen this...We were very impressed with how everything can be made better and more ecologically friendly," Smith said.

Smith said she planned to look into installing solar panels on her home.

Margie Lyon said she would consider porous concrete for an upcoming driveway project.

"There was a lot of good information for homeowners, a lot of new technology I wasn't familiar with," said John Wright, another tour participant.

While everyone may not be in a position to take on big projects, Jan Rushforth, who is a member of the Environmental Committee, mentioned simple measure for reducing energy consumption, such as switching to compact fluorescent bulbs and unplugging appliances not in use.

The Committee developed a Climate Action Plan for Haverford, available through the township Web site, www.haverfordtownship.com.

[Follow us on Facebook](#) [Follow us on Twitter](#)

[Follow us on Google+](#) [Return to Paging Mode](#)



Reader Comments

•

Disqus Like Dislike Add New Comment Post as ... Showing 0 comments

Popular now



[Subscribe by email](#)



[Subscribe by RSS](#)

Real-time updating is **paused**. [\(Resume\)](#)

comments powered by **DISQUS** [Related Stories](#) [A 'greenovated' home tour in Haverford Twp.](#)

© Copyright 2012 Main Line Media News, a [Journal Register Property](#) & part of Journal Register PA -- All rights reserved

[Our Publications](#) | [About Our Ads](#) | [Privacy Policy/Terms of Service](#)