

Frequently Asked Questions

What is “green building”?

Green building involves optimizing the way a building uses resources (air, water, energy, light, materials) in order to create a health-promoting, well-functioning space for the inhabitants while minimizing the negative impact on the environment.

Sites in the 2009 Green Buildings Open House illustrate a variety of green building approaches. Each is as varied as the owner’s goals, definitions of ‘green,’ aesthetics and budget. The tour includes conventional homes incorporating energy efficiency and renewable energy, renovation projects using recycled and non-toxic materials, and newly constructed homes designed and built to be as environmentally sustainable as possible, as well as several commercial buildings, ranging from renovated former homes to the 38,800-sq ft LEED-Platinum-certified Park Center at Ithaca College.

Any building project involves many decisions and trade-offs. We hope that seeing and discussing with homeowners and building managers their choices and experiences with different green building practices and technologies will inspire and inform you in enhancing the comfort, health, and sustainability of your own home or workplace.

How does the event work?

Please visit the sites only on the days that they have agreed to be open!

You do **not** need to visit the sites in order. Homeowners and/or builders will be on hand to show you their site’s features and answer questions. Additional sites may have registered since printing of this guide. Visit cctompkins.org for all the latest information or to print additional guides or maps.

Guided Tours

(see icons in descriptions for routes)

Shuttle van tours led by green building professionals will leave from Cooperative Extension and visit four sites on Saturday and five sites Sunday between 10:30am and 4:30pm for a fee of \$10/person or \$15/two from the same household. A free **guided walking tour** will be offered only on Saturday, Oct. 3 (no rain date) leaving from Gimme! Coffee, 430 N. Cayuga St., at 10:00am A free **guided bicycle tour** will be offered only on Saturday, Oct. 3 (no rain date) leaving from Gimme! Coffee, 430 N. Cayuga St., at 10:00am. The bicycle tour will be approximately 20-25 miles at a relaxed pace. Riders will need roadworthy bikes and helmets. Advance registration is required for all tours—and don’t forget to pack a lunch. Call 607.272.2292.



www.ithacagreenbuilding.org

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Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County and the Ithaca Green Building Alliance are local organizers for this annual event sponsored by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association in conjunction with the American Solar Energy Society’s National Solar Tour. Special thanks to Ithaca College and the Tompkins County Tourism Board for their support, and to Apollonya Porcelli and Sandy Repp for their hard work.