

LAWRENCE ENERGY CONSERVATION FAIR 2008

Sustainable Homes Tour, Sunday, October 19, 2008

The Lawrence Sustainable Homes Tour was part of the 13th Annual National Solar Tour which showcases homes and buildings using solar energy, energy efficiency, and other sustainable technologies to reduce their monthly utility bills and help tackle climate change. The tour offered a first-hand look at earth-friendly building technologies.

Approximately eighty people filled two tour buses departing from the Lawrence Energy Conservation Fair, one in the morning and another in the afternoon, to tour seven different sustainable homes in and around the Lawrence area. Homeowners and builders were on hand to explain the various energy-saving features and products used in their homes.



Tour guests load the bus for the sold out 10:30 AM tour, departing from the Lawrence Energy Conservation Fair at Free State High School.



(on left) Tour guests wait their turn to walk through the O'Brien cottage, a smaller structure on the tour, featuring timber frame construction, straw bale and straw light clay walls and adobe floors.

(below) Neal Ezell explains how this Energy Star rated home is 60% more efficient than a standard construction home. The techniques he used included added spray foam insulation, a heat recovery ventilator and a ground source heat pump.



(above) Tour participants examine the Ferrara home, which features straw bale construction, an integrated greenhouse, salvaged materials, sustainable wood siding and natural plasters.