

## Solar Tour 2010

For the last 15 years the American Solar Energy Society has sponsored and encouraged local groups to set up tours of solar homes in their own communities. This encourages exchange of information about solar energy at a grass roots level. Homeowners open their houses to strangers with the common interest in solar energy. Does solar energy have a payback? How much maintenance is required? These would be some questions, but others might be more interested in aesthetics or what it is like to live in a house with solar energy. Other aspects come into consideration such as total energy use and tax incentives. What about other "green" questions such as carbon footprint or sustainability? Most homeowners who have taken the trouble to research alternative energy, including wind turbines, have a concern about the environment and global warming issues.

John Garlow, president of Eco-Structures, and architect Megan Nedzinski, have organized this tour in an effort to increase interest in these green issues. He has built a model home on his farm that incorporates wind, solar, and many other aspects of a "green" house. This model home is always open for tours, and is part of the tour of solar homes. "Ever since the energy crisis of the '80s we have been focusing on super insulation and solar, but more on a passive basis—this is the first time that I have tried to build a house that could be totally energy independent." There will be two houses open to visitors on his farm on October 2 since his neighbors, Megan and Joshua also live in a passive solar design house.

In the South Park area of Morgantown, Paul Brown, a retired physiology professor and environmental activist, has over 20 solar panels on his roof and is getting about a 90% reduction in his electric bill. On Grand Street, his house is easy to pick out because of the panels and also because he has painted the roof white to reflect heat in the summer. He also added solar hot water and geothermally linked mini-split system heat pumps to even lower gas bills.

October 2, 2010, Saturday, will be Morgantown's second participation in the national solar tour. Any people interested can find out more information at [www.eco-mod-structure.com](http://www.eco-mod-structure.com), or by calling John Garlow at 304-276-3655. Most houses will be open from 12am until 4 pm, but look for yard signs that say OPEN HOUSE for the Solar Tour.

Participating homes and structures include:

John Garlow—625 Crafts Run Road  
Faulkner/Nedzinski—627 Crafts Run Road  
Paul and Sally Brown—Grand Street  
The Book Exchange—Patteson Drive  
Northside Fire Station—Van Voorhis Road  
Brooks Hall, WVU—may participate



Tour greater  
Morgantown  
solar homes  
and businesses  
from 12 to 4pm  
**Saturday**

**FREE**  
Look for green  
balloons on yard  
signs

**Come on in!**

Passive solar, wind generator, LEED—Garlow



**GARLOW**

Take University Ave Exit (155) on I-79. If travelling north, take right (or East) to 2nd traffic light. Left turn on 19N. Go approximately 4.5 miles to Rt 100 on right. Take this right on Rt 100 three miles to Lazelle School Rd. Turn left up the hill 1 mile+. Look for the EcoStructures signs on recycled tires which mark Crafts Run Road and the right turn to the driveway.

**FAULKNER/  
NEDZINSKI**

Passive solar timberframe—Faulkner/Nedzinski

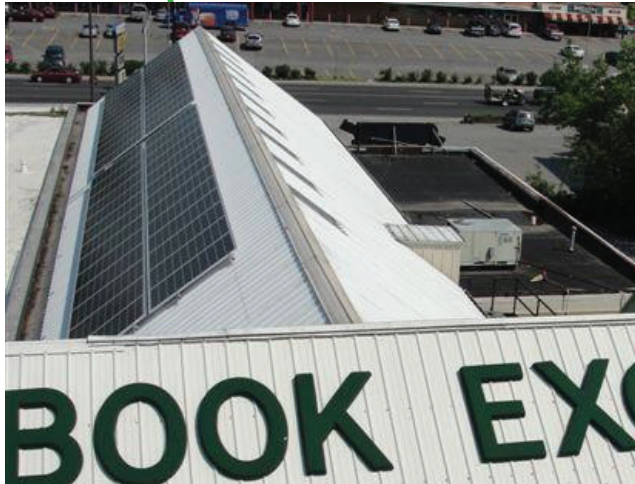


Solar hot water—Brown South Park



**BROWN**  
**BOOK EXCHANGE**

Solar-powered business Book Exchange Evansdale



**FIRE STATION 3**

Morgantown's first LEED approved city structure Van Voorhis Ave

Northside is Morgantown's newest Fire Station located at the corner of Van Voorhis and Chestnut Ridge Road. The city is proud of this totally green city building. Trevor Lloyd, an engineer from the City will be giving tours from 2-4 only, on the hour and half-hour.

Paul Brown believes that it will take a concerted effort to reverse the trends that have led to climate change, and that it is an urgent imperative.

Also in Maudsville, the Joshua Faulkner/ Megan Nedzinski home is an approximately 1900SF, 3-bedroom, 2bath, private residence that employs passive solar strategies. The sizes and locations of building apertures on the various building facades was considered in order to maximize passive solar opportunities while mitigating the negative effects of northern, eastern and western exposure. This strategic placement allows the home's interior spaces to be naturally day lit while also utilizing the winter's low sun angle to passively heat the interior spaces. Local Architect and LEED AP, Megan Nedzinski, will be on hand at this location to explain passive solar design in greater detail and to answer questions from visitors.

The Book Exchange, located by Kroger on Patteson Drive in Evansdale, has 52 solar panels on its roof. it actually generates income by auctioning the surplus energy created to power companies that need to meet a quota of green-produced energy. The Fleming family, who owns the business, is leading by example. Not only is the 12-kW PV array the largest in the state, it is also the only PV system installed on a commercial building in all of Morgantown. The decision to forge ahead with this project reflects the Fleming's desire to be good stewards of the environment, responsible corporate citizens, and savvy business owners.

Matt Sherald from PIMBY Energy will be at the Book Exchange (next to Kroger) from 10AM to 3PM to answer questions about this project. Visitors can tour the inverter room, handle a PV panel, and have their questions answered by West Virginia's only NABCEP certified PV installer.