

Summary

This project in a box is about setting up and running a **green open homes** event, inviting visitors to visit homes to see low carbon improvements in real life, and discuss them face to face with the householder. Ultimately the project is intended to result in more people making energy saving improvements to their homes.

Resources for this project draw on those developed originally for the national Green Open Homes network which was established in 2013 by CSE in partnership with Bristol Green Doors, and funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.



See www.greenopenhomes.net for examples of green open homes in action.

A green open homes event is where a collection of people open their homes to visitors to show and talk about low carbon improvements they have made.

It engages people in a very practical way, and has been shown to be effective in inspiring change. Events can involve dozens of homes or just a few. They can cover a small or large geographical area, and can run over several weeks or just an evening. They can be very simple, or can include features like a central hub, a star opener (e.g. a SuperHome), quizzes, tours, workshops and talks.

What's in the box?

Guidance: A complete Green Open Homes organiser handbook, together with top tips and case studies from other event organisers, printed guides to help prepare home openers and train your volunteers, a short animated video about running an open homes event.

Resources and promotional materials: template posters, postcards, flyers for promoting events; , an easy way to set up a website for your own event, balloons to use on the day, examples of publicity used by other event organisers.

Evaluation support: guidance on evaluating the project; template visitor feedback questionnaires and pre-printed postcards.

Outcomes and impact

As a result of running the project, event organisers and participants will:

- have created a local network of homes with low carbon improvements
- be better able to discuss the costs, logistics and suitability of a range of improvements
- have gained confidence and experience to run more green open events in future
- have engaged more people locally with the idea of low carbon home improvements and have made it seem a more normal thing to do.