



Eco-Solar Home Tour 2025

Saturday 7 June, Noon to 5 pm

Thorncliffe Straw Bale Addition



Tour Day: Sat 7 Jun
Address: 8412 176 St NW
Hosts: Homeowners
Parking: on street
Energuide: n/a



What will people see and learn about at your home?

- Straw bale addition
- Five water barrels
- 16 - 405-watt, Solar Photovoltaic Modules (roof and wall)
- Cold climate Carbon Dioxide Heat pump outside - domestic hot water combination and home heating
- Battery - first high voltage certified for indoor use.
- Learnings: rain water harvesting; gardening; local food production; local electricity production and local hot water production without using natural gas.
- Local food and fruit production





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Thorncliffe Straw Bale Addition

Why is this home on the tour?

I moved to my home in the year 2000 and my goal was healthy living and reducing my carbon footprint and consumption footprint. First thing I added rain barrels one at a time, until I had five. Then I added a straw bale room. We insulated the basement from the outside. Secondly, we did some drainage work so the basement would not flood. Then we put a sump pump in. We planted some trees in the front, then stopped mowing the lawn. A no mow policy. The front lawn requires minimal work and is naturalized.



What features save on energy costs?

- 4 inches of rigid insulation to a portion of the west wall.
- Fixed door latch to tighten on the addition. The payback was instant.
- Some windows have argon fill and are double glazed.
- Light tubes in kitchen and in the basement.
- Heat pump will be the primary source of heat. Furnace as back up.



What features save on water costs?

Rain barrels are providing the water for landscaping and grey water is used for indoor plants.

Other special features

My lifestyle and vision include

- Cooking from scratch;
- Gardening;
- Picking berries from trees and bushes;
- Knitting and sewing by hand.

You can add other sections here if needed to describe your home

Strawbale house structure; extra insulation warmed up the kitchen to be cozy.

