

The Louisville Solar Tour this past Saturday was hailed a success by organizers, with a record attendance of over 200. This was double the number of attendees from the previous year. It was a nice surprise for event volunteers who worked so hard; especially since the tour competed with other local, popular fall events such as the St. James Art Festival and Harvest Homecoming.

The Louisville Solar Tour is part of a grass-roots event that occurs annually across America in 49 states and sponsored by the American Solar Energy Society (ASES). The purpose of the event is to educate the public regarding energy and its usage as well as display efficient, low-carbon buildings utilizing solar technologies. The event kicked off in the most appropriate of places: the Green Building (<http://www.thegreenbuilding.net/index.html>), located in the East Market District of downtown Louisville. The over 100 year old building was renovated with reused materials whenever possible, and many of the new materials are made from recycled goods. Renewable technologies incorporated into the building include natural lighting, a geothermal heat pump and, of course, 81 solar panels just to name a few.

Local renewable energy vendors set up booths throughout the building. A number of talks educating the public on passive solar, solar PV, solar hot water and solar energy policies were given by Claude Stephens, Gary Watrous, Jeremy Coxon and Tom Fitzgerald. There were even activities for children. A self-guided tour included residential, commercial and church sites in the local community. Organizers, *energized* by the event, are already planning to boost numbers for next year.