



Contact:  
Gordian Raacke 516-313-6611

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For Immediate Release

## BROOKHAVEN HOMES FEATURED on NATIONAL SOLAR TOUR

Six solar-powered homes and three public buildings in the Town of Brookhaven will be open to the public for free visits on Saturday, October 3rd from 10 AM to 4 PM as part of the National Solar Tour & Green Buildings Open House on Long Island. Tour visitors can learn about solar and other forms of clean energy directly from the people in their community, watch electric meters run backwards, and see the actual savings on utility bills.

These open houses are part of an island-wide tour of about 90 sites that use solar energy or other green building features. The National Solar Tour is organized on Long Island by the non-profit Renewable Energy Long Island (RELI) and by the American Solar Energy Society at the national level. Last year's tour attracted 140,000 visitors nationwide and has been billed as the largest public renewable energy education event in the world.

One of the homes available to tour is the residence of County Legislator Fisher in East Setauket. The Wygand residence in Medford, has a solar electric and solar hot water system. Other homes on the Tour within the Town of Brookhaven are located in Mount Sinai, Patchogue, Medford, Ronkonkoma, Bellport, Sound Beach, Lake Grove, and Davis Park.

"Protection of the environment is important to me not only as a lawmaker, but as a way of life. I hang my wash, compost my vegetable waste and reduce my carbon footprint in many ways", said solar homeowner and County Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher. "We can all work at making our world a little healthier, putting solar panels on our roof is one way."

"I do love my system. The only thing that I had to pay to LIPA is the monthly hook up charge between \$5-7 per month", said Diana Wygand of Medford. "With the solar hot water heater, I saved 250 gallons of fuel oil which is a big savings."

LIPA currently offers substantial, upfront cash rebates (up to \$35,000) for the installation of solar electric systems. Combined with increased federal income tax credits and state tax credits, these incentives can reduce the cost by 2/3.

"The Solar Tour is really the best way to see first-hand what solar is all about and to talk directly to the owners to find out whether solar energy will work for you", said Gordian Raacke, Executive Director of Renewable Energy Long Island (RELI).

"The tour provides a unique opportunity to learn about the benefits of going solar," said LIPA President and CEO Kevin S. Law. "LIPA's nationally-recognized *Solar Pioneer and Entrepreneur Program* continues to help our customers reduce energy consumption and lower electric bills, diversify Long Island's energy portfolio, strengthen the local economy, and to transform the solar photovoltaic marketplace to help reduce our dependency on costly fossil fuels."

Visitors are encouraged to first visit one of the central tour hubs where they can pick up materials and participate in educational activities. Brookhaven Town Hall is the central hub location for Brookhaven and features a 10 kW wind turbine. The Mt. Sinai Heritage Trust and the Suffolk County Police Headquarters in Yaphank are additional hubs.

The self-guided tour is free of charge but visitors will need to obtain a free Visitors Pass from RELI. Every visitor will receive a free copy of the Long Island GreenGuide, a 64-page publication with handy information and a green business directory. The Visitors Pass and more information on the tour and clean energy technologies & incentives are available at [RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org](http://RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org) or by calling (631) 329-8888.

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD:

Wygand residence: <http://sunshineisfree.org/solarregistry/propertyimages/1248111890.JPG>

To arrange pre-tour interviews and for location information, call the RELI Media Line at 516-313-6611.