



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Gordian Raacke, 516-313-6611 cell

### **NORTH HEMPSTEAD HOMES SHINE FOR NATIONAL SOLAR TOUR**

Five solar-powered homes in the Town of North Hempstead will be open to the public for free visits on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> 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 renewable energy directly from the people in their community, watch electric meters run backwards, and see the actual savings on utility bills.

These local open houses are part of an island-wide tour of about 100 sites that use solar energy for electricity or heat. The Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) and Renewable Energy Long Island (RELI) are co-organizing the tour on Long Island, with Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) at the regional level and the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) at the national level. The tour is expected to attract tens of thousands of visitors nationwide and has been billed as the largest public renewable energy education event in the world.

Of particular interest is the NYIT Solar Decathlon House displayed at the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point. This is an entire home designed to use sustainable, clean energy systems featuring a hydrogen storage as opposed to traditional batteries. High-efficiency solar panels work with an electrolyzer to generate the hydrogen for fuel cells. For more information visit: <http://app.usmma.edu> or <http://iris.nyit.edu/solardecathlon>.

One home available to tour, the Amzler residence in Carle Place features an 8 kW solar electric system which significantly reduced the owners' electric bill. Another home, the Greenstein residence has a 9.3 kW system. Other homes on the Tour within the Town of North Hempstead are located in Albertson and Westbury.

"My husband loves to receive the LIPA bills and that's the truth. They have ranged from between \$4 and \$6 since February. He really looks forward to seeing it!" said Jane Greenstein of Roslyn Heights with a laugh.

Tour Host Robert Amzler of Carle Place said, "It's nice to see your electric meter run backwards. My meter readings are already down 1,000 kWh from last year."

LIPA currently offers substantial, upfront cash rebates (up to \$37,500) for the installation of solar electric systems. Combined with the new income tax credits, these incentives can reduce the cost by 2/3.

"The annual Solar Tour is a great way for people to gain first-hand knowledge about the residential application of PV systems," said LIPA Chairman Richard M. Kessel. "LIPA's rebates go a long way toward making the installation of a residential solar system more affordable, and the enhanced state tax credits help lower the overall cost even further. We hope the Solar Tour will encourage others to join the ranks of Long Island's Solar Pioneers."

"The Solar Tour is really the best way to 'kick the tires' and talk to home and business owners directly to find out whether solar energy would work for your home or business", said Gordian Raacke, Executive Director of RELI.

The public may participate in this self-guided tour free of charge but will need to obtain a free Visitors Pass from RELI. The Visitors Pass and information on the tour and solar energy technologies & incentives are available at [www.RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org](http://www.RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org) or by calling (631) 537-8282.

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#### PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD:

Solar Decathlon House: <http://ishines.org/solarregistry/propertyimages/1155144177.jpg>

Amzler residence: <http://ishines.org/solarregistry/propertyimages/1148044127.jpg>

Greenstein residence: <http://ishines.org/solarregistry/propertyimages/1156790816.jpg>

To arrange pre-tour interviews and for location information, call RELI Program Manager Kathy Cunningham at (631) 537-8282 Ext. 0.