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**AMMEND SECTIONS IN RED ACCORDINGLY FOR YOUR GROUP**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Xx April 2015

Contact: Joe Bloggs, 01234 567890, joe.bloggs@sustainablesunnydale.org

**Eco Homes Open in Sunnydale**

For Immediate Release

Householders available for interview: contact Joe Bloggs: 07123 456789

Sunnydale (change this to the actual name of your town or village) residents who have insulated their home, put solar panels on the roof and found other ways to cut their energy bills and help the environment are opening their doors to the public this May in a bid to inspire others to do the same. Local householders are invited by local community group Sustainable Sunnydale to visit three homes in the village/town that are taking part in the third annual *Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Open Homes* event*.*

The three homes are:

Provide one short paragraph of details for each house. Include its address, the type of house it is, a brief description of its eco features, and the dates and time it will be open. For instance:

* 81 Warmer Road is a Victorian terrace which has had external solid wall insulation installed. It also features solar panels with generate electricity and a vegetable garden which generates half of the vegetables eaten by the householders. Open on 6th May, 7pm-9pm and 10th May, 10am-4pm.
* 18 Sunny Street is a 1980’s semi-detatched house which has a straw bale extension added three years ago. It also features high levels of insulation and a greywater system. Open on 2nd & 9th March, 10am-3pm both days.
* The residents at 10 Flower Court have reduced their energy usage by 25% over two years through a number of measures including loft insulation, thermally lined curtains, draft proofing and behavioural change. The tenants will be explaining how they worked with their landlord to make some of the changes. Open 5th May, 6pm-9pm and 10th May, 10am-1pm.

*Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Open Homes* will involve around 10 homes in total featuring an impressive range of improvements such as insulation, solar panels, water saving measures and draughtproofing. It is being organised by local charity Marches Energy Agency and local authorities in the area. For more information on open homes in other parts of the two counties: [www.everybodys-talking.org.uk/ecohomes](http://www.everybodys-talking.org.uk/ecohomes)

Joe Bloggs, Chair of Sustainable Sunnydale, said:

*‘Rising energy bills are affecting everyone and there’s also a pressing environmental need to reduce our energy use and get energy from renewable sources. This event is an exciting opportunity to see real solutions in real homes and talk to the people who live there.’*

Caroline Harmon of Marches Energy Agency said:

*‘There’s nothing like seeing energy efficiency measures in a real home and talking to the people who live there about them. We’re lucky to have lots of energy efficient, eco homes like those in Sunnydale in the area. Last year, more than 300 people visited a home in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Why not be one of the visitors who gets inspired this year?’*

ENDS

Contact: Joe Bloggs, 01234 567890, joe.bloggs@sustainablesunnydale.org

**Notes for Editors:**

* Add a short paragraph describing your community group. E.g.: **Sustainable Sunnydale** exists to tackle the twin challenges of climate change and peak oil. Since 2009 we have been working to make Sunnydale more resilient to these challenges. Our projects to date have included an Apple Day held in the town square and a bulk purchase solar panel scheme. More than 50 people subscribe to our emailing list. [www.sunnydaletransition.org.uk](http://www.sunnydaletransition.org.uk).
* **The Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Homes Open Week** is being organised by Marches Energy Agency (MEA) and the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities energy Partnership (LAEP).
* **Marches Energy Agency (MEA)** is a registered charity and not-for-profit social enterprise working across the Midlands. We specialise in the delivery of practical, effective and creative ways of promoting energy reduction and renewable energy solutions. We have won awards for our work including the prestigious Ashden Award and the West Midlands Social Enterprise Mark. Our mission isto address fuel poverty, to enhance local energy security and resilience, and to help create low carbon citizens, communities, organisations and economies.[www.mea.org.uk](http://www.mea.org.uk).
* **The** **Local Authorities Energy Partnership (LAEP)** is made up of 18 local authorities in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, including the Peak District National Park Authority. It supports and co-ordinates activities to tackle fuel poverty and climate change and to develop sustainable energy solutions across the two counties. This includes high profile public campaigns which encourage individuals and communities to reduce carbon emissions and save money. [www.everybodys-talking.org](http://www.everybodys-talking.org).
* [**www.everybodys-talking.org**](http://www.everybodys-talking.org)is the climate change portal for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. It includes a wealth of information about tackling climate change and fuel poverty locally as well as resources to support local community groups. It is funded by the LAEP and is currently run by MEA.

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**NB: A press release should never be longer than two sides of A4 inclusive of Notes for Editors.**