

## Visit the old houses transformed into homes of the future

You can get the inside story on some exceptional home improvement projects this September as SuperHome Open Days return. SuperHomes are older homes refurbished by their owners for much greater comfort, lower bills and far fewer carbon emissions - at least 60% less!

These are some of the UK homes most improved for energy use, making them fit for the future. Most have superior insulation; many have alternative heating sources and some produce their own energy.

In every SuperHome you can learn about a range of installed technologies. Examples include heat pumps, solar panels, advanced ventilation and water saving devices; also triple glazing, wood stoves and all types of insulation. Tours and Q&A sessions will let you quiz the owners, so you can discover what worked and get frank feedback on anything that didn't.

You can visit over 50 refurbished Victorian, Edwardian and post-war properties in September. Most will open during Heritage Open Days (10-13 Sep) and Open House London (19/20 Sep). SuperHome Open Days are coordinated by the National Energy Foundation. Entry is free.

To find out more or to pre-book a place on a free tour, visit [www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)



*Photo: Sanya Polescuk's is one of 8 SuperHomes to visit in London*

Notes for Editors:

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### 1. SuperHomes

SuperHomes are older homes that have been refurbished by their owners to the highest standards of energy efficiency. This means greater comfort, significantly lower running costs and a reduction in carbon emissions of at least 60%. SuperHome Open Days let visitors see for themselves both the challenges and benefits associated with making an older home energy efficient. Over 70,000 people have already visited a SuperHome. Currently there are 198 registered SuperHomes and 85% of the population in England and Wales live within 30 miles of one. The network's long term objectives are to recruit 500 UK SuperHomes by 2020 and to attract 2 million visitors to SuperHomes (physical and online) by 2020. SuperHomes is run by the National Energy Foundation.

### 2. SuperHome Open Days

SuperHomes was the first national UK network of mostly privately owned quality retrofits opened to the public. Since 2007 SuperHomes has promoted the benefits of eco refurbishment using free open days which offer a practical touch-and-feel experience. SuperHome Open Days let visitors see for themselves both the challenges and benefits associated with making an older home energy efficient. They also make it possible to see retrofit technologies in situ in real homes. These include biomass boilers, heat pumps, mechanical ventilation and heat recovery and water saving devices; also triple glazing, modern wood stoves and all types of insulation.

### 3. National Energy Foundation

The National Energy Foundation (NEF) is an independent charity that has been active since 1988. NEF aims to give people, organisations and government the knowledge, support and inspiration they need to understand and improve the use of energy in buildings.

### 4. The Big Picture

The UK's government is committed to a target 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. New build homes will not provide the answer. The UK's 25 million homes currently account for at least 27% of UK carbon emissions. It is estimated that as many as 80% of all homes that will be in standing in 2050 have already been built. This means that retrofitting existing homes is a priority if the government's target is to be met. Of particular concern are the 7 million solid wall properties in the UK, most of which are expensive to heat and can be cold in winter. The Government's Green Deal launched in January 2013 and offers loans for energy efficiency improvements. To meet the 80% carbon reduction target it is estimated that we should be refurbishing 600,000 homes a year, making them energy efficient. **The homes of the future will necessarily be dramatically improved older homes - like SuperHomes.**