

## National Drive Electric Week, Solar Tours and Infrastructure

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National Drive Electric Week is coming up September 25<sup>th</sup> through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. (<https://driveelectricweek.org/attend>) The American Solar Energy Society (ASES) has the National Solar Tour Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. (<https://www.nationalsolartour.org/>) These events have both virtual/online events and live/in-person events. Also happening this week is the ongoing debate and negotiation regarding the Build Back Better Act.

According to their website the “ASES National Solar Tour is the largest grassroots solar, renewable energy, and sustainable living event in the nation.” To find Colorado events one can search by state, city, solar site type, etc., using the map on the tour’s main page. A few of the Colorado events include the Boulder Green Home Tour (in person September 25, tickets \$27) (<https://www.bouldergreenhometour.org/>) ; the Graves Solar Site, Delta High School (virtual October 2 & 3 - <https://www.nationalsolartour.org/tourmap/graves-solar-site/>) ; a 60 Year Old Ranch Retrofit (virtual October 2 & 3 - <https://www.nationalsolartour.org/tourmap/60-year-old-ranch-retrofit/>) ; and the 2021 Metro Denver Green Homes Tour (in-person October 2, tickets start at \$10 for Tour Pass and Booklet - <https://www.newenergycolorado.com/home-tour>) . New Energy Colorado (NECO) also offers a virtual tour online. (<https://www.newenergycolorado.com/2020-tour-homes>) The virtual Solar Sites available October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> include the Estes Park United Methodist Church site, in which I discuss the Energy Efficiency Upgrades and Net zero Solar PV Rooftop. (<https://www.nationalsolartour.org/tourmap/estes-park-united-methodist-church-solar-site/>)

The National Drive Electric Week in-person events include the Longmont EV Fair October 3, and the Electric Vehicle Roundup on October 2 in Golden in which owners, not dealers, talk about their cars. On September 26 the Forney Museum in Denver hosts an Electric Car Show. At the Five Points DMV in Denver October 2 the Rise and Ride Electric – Five Points event shows off the new electric charging station and electric CarShare program. (<https://carshare.org/>) The local online events include “GoEV Cities and Counties: What leading Colorado municipalities are doing to 100% electric” (Monday September 27 noon – 1pm - <https://driveelectricweek.org/event?eventid=3013>) A national focus on alternatives to cars is presented online on Sept 25 (12-2 MST) “Cars are Overrated: e-Bikes, Buses, and Box Trucks, Oh My!” (<https://driveelectricweek.org/event?eventid=2865>)

Much is being made by politicians of the \$3.5 trillion price tag of the proposed Build Back Better Act being debated in congress. Less emphasis is being put on the value to all US citizens of much of the proposed spending. Investment in our infrastructure has been massively neglected since the 1980’s. The nature of infrastructure has evolved, as our communications have progressed from Pony Express to postal service, from dirt roads to an interstate highway system, from in-person meetings to virtual platforms allowing hundreds to meet simultaneously without travel. The positive impact to rural communities in 1956 by the US Interstate Highway System making goods and services much more accessible, can be compared to those now struggling with a lack of affordable high speed internet service, decent housing, childcare and eldercare for working families trying to stay afloat. American citizens should be afforded the opportunity to shoot higher than just scraping by.

As pointed out by Heather Cox Richardson in her September 21 Letters from an American (<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/september-21-2021>) the GOP administration of POTUS 45 contributed “\$7.8 trillion to today’s \$28 trillion national debt” much in the form of tax cuts to the super wealthy and corporations. Those of us in Estes Park remember clearly the impact of the October 2013 government shutdown in the wake of historic flooding, our local economy already reeling from the destruction. The game of threatening (and allowing) government shutdowns impacts us all. Contact your elected officials and tell them to stop playing games with the lives of their constituents.

<http://bennet.senate.gov/> ; <https://www.hickenlooper.senate.gov/> ; <http://www.senate.gov/> ;  
<http://www.house.gov/> ; <https://www.joeneguseforcongress.com/>

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