

Schedule a private tour, or join us at one of 9 open day tours in 2018.



Visit Blue Rock Station to get ideas on how to create a sustainable living way of life, or just to marvel at the various construction techniques. Tour the 2,200 square foot house, currently under construction (always under construction... sigh!) that utilizes tires, cans, old barn wood, bottles and mud to form a home heated by the sun, earth and wood.

We will...

- **Tour the Earthship** - the 2,200 sq. ft. home made of tires, cans, bottles, salvaged lumber, mud, sand, sweat and tears. Annie & Jay will explain the various construction techniques and how the building uses the earth and sun to provide a comfortable place to live.
- Explore the vaulted **Straw Bale "Chicken Chalet"**. This building houses our rare breed chickens (you may even get a chance to feed them). It is built with a pounded tire foundation, straw bale walls, beer bottle front and back walls and a mud plaster finish.
 - Check out the **straw bale sleeping cabins** (with living roofs)
 - See the various innovative **water collection systems**.
 - Take a look at the **plastic bottle greenhouse**, made of over 1,000 2-liter plastic pop bottles.
 - See the **solar shower** (heated by the sun and powered by gravity)
 - Marvel at the **rocket stove** - an amazing wood heater that incorporates a pizza oven, a sleeping bench and an under-floor radiant heat system into this inexpensive and very effective heating system.
 - Learn about **rare breed chickens**. We will discuss the changes in agriculture in America that have lead to the near extinction of most of the most common and popular farm animals of our recent past.
 - Meet the goats and their kids, our **milk goats** - and discuss homestead milk production,

making cheese, yogurt and other healthy and natural products.

- Check out the **rain garden**.
 - Say hello to the **llamas** and check out the innovative "llama lounge".
 - The "under \$5,000" **Tiny House** project
 - See our **solar array** (new in 2014) that provides electric power to Blue Rock Station.
 - Explore how inexpensive **solar generators** can get you through those annoying (and potentially dangerous) periodic power outages.
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- The Wind Turbine Tower (new in 2016)
 - The Japanese Hot Tub, Solar Thermal System (new in 2016)
 - Learn a bit about **natural gardening**. We are exploring a number of creative (and common sense) ways of gardening here at Blue Rock Station. Learn to work with nature, not against it. Also, discover how we keep our plants growing year-round in our wetlands and pop-bottle greenhouse.
 - Rediscover or see for the first time some neat, good old common sense stuff like composting, cooking in a solar oven, weaving fences from brush, making maple syrup... or whatever other else takes our fancy that we happen to be doing at the time.
 - Mostly you will just enjoy the tranquil peace and good-natured feel of Blue Rock Station.

{module[185]}

Open Tours:

When word got out that we were building a house made out of tires, a lot of folks wanted to come see this place for themselves. Literally hundreds of people just showed up at all hours - making it pretty hard actually to get any work done. So we decided to set some hours that were open to the public, just to keep things a bit organized.

Well, literally thousands have visited (we estimate about 30,000) and to tell you the truth - it has become a bit overwhelming. So we have decided to cut back and offer only infrequent tours or group tours by appointment only. While this may not be the most convenient method for small groups - believe me, it was necessary to retain our sanity.

Several times a year we will be open to the public (sign up for your newsletter to receive notice of these dates - or check our site periodically). Other than these rare occasions, workshops, or llama treks - you will need to schedule a private group tour if you wish to see the first Earthship east of the Mississippi.

Open day tour fees are \$10 per person (infants and toddlers under 5 are free). Tours take about 2 1/2 hours (sometimes longer if there are lots of questions) and include refreshments. Tours begin promptly at 1 p.m.

Open day tours are limited to 25 people (we can handle larger groups for a private group tour). Please RSVP to ensure you will be able to go on the tour. Most tours sell out prior to the day of the tour.

2018 Tour Dates (all Saturdays):

- January 6th **(SOLD OUT)**
- April 7th
- May 12th
- June 2nd
- July 14th
- August 11th
- September 1st
- October 13th
- November 10th

If you have questions about tour availability or problems registering, call us at 740-674-4300

Ensure your spot by registering below*

\$10 per person (children 5 and under free)

{module[154]}

(*by registering, you agree to the [Terms of Liability](#) outlined in the

Group Tours:

Throughout the year we can accommodate group tours (up to 55 people at a time). A basic group tour requires a minimum fee of \$100 (for groups less than 10 people, or \$10 per person for larger groups) and must be scheduled in advance (e-mail us at Annie@bluerockstation.com or call (740) 674-4300). Flexible rates for student groups.

We do have parking and "turn around" areas for large tour busses - and can accommodate up to 55 people at a time.

Tours typically take about 90-120 minutes (although can be shortened to accommodate tight schedules), and can be extended to incorporate additional items of interest to your group (hey, we're flexible).

Additional ideas we have incorporated in past group tours include:

- a proper cup of British tea for you and your group
- a more formal presentation (on anything from Victorian Cottage Gardening to marketing your small business)
- Creative waste workshops and contests (great for school or scout groups)
- Team building exercises
- Llama trekking and a picnic lunch
- Or warm cookies made in our solar oven

What will you see and do?

The guided tour of Blue Rock Station takes about 120 minutes (a little more depending on how many questions you have). Check out the Workshops tab (or the Calendar) for scheduled open dates. Or you can schedule a private tour by giving us a call at 740-674-4300.

Smaller Groups or Consulting:

Individuals or smaller groups are also welcome, however there is still a \$100 minimum.

We often are asked to provide consulting to folks who are interested in building an Earthship or similar type alternative structure. We are happy to do this for \$75 per hour (dirt cheap if you have priced such services). In this way we can review blueprints, discuss project management issues, relate what went well, what we would do differently - and the like.

To schedule your visit, just give us a call at (740) 674-4300 or e-mail us at Annie@bluerockstation.com