

Won't You Be My Neighbor? NREL's Community Open House Returns

Driven by curiosity, networking opportunities, and a desire to learn, nearly 300 visitors braved the heat to attend NREL's Community Open House event on July 24. The annual event offers NREL's South Table Mountain Campus neighbors a glimpse into what and who is in their own backyard and allows NREL staff to shed light on the great things happening on our campus and in our laboratories.



Local community members gathered at the Electric Vehicle Charging Station booth to learn about NREL's electric vehicle research and to check out the all-electric Hummer. *Photo by Gregory Cooper, NREL*



Dan Dupuis, an Advanced Catalysis Engineer, gives a Flash Talk on sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). *Photo by Gregory Cooper, NREL*

This year's lineup included Flash Talks—20-minute presentations followed by a 10-minute Q&A session—allowing NREL employees to discuss their latest research or programs in more depth, an intern poster presentation, self-guided tours of the Research and Innovation Laboratory (RAIL) and Energy Systems Integration Facility (ESIF), and a booth fair consisting of 19 booths including NREL's giving efforts, electric vehicle research, campus expansion, solar research, and more.



This year's Community Open House offered a variety of booths for guests to enjoy. *Photo by Gregory Cooper, NREL*

“Showing future scientists the importance of energy efficiency was really rewarding,” said intern Dylan Barton, who supported the Education booth, sharing the knowledge he gained from working at NREL this summer. “All the kids were excited to put their energy into turning on an old incandescent lightbulb using a hand crank, but when asked what lightbulb they would rather have in their house, all of them preferred the easier-to-turn-on LED lightbulb. It is great to see how quickly young kids can piece together engineering improvements when simplified into a fun activity.”

Although NREL frequently hosts events and welcomes visitors onto our campus, the Community Open House stands out as a particularly special event. It’s a chance for the laboratory to connect with our South Table Mountain neighbors, showcase our work, and inspire the next generation of leaders.

Visit [nrel.gov](https://www.nrel.gov) to learn more about our in-person and virtual tour offerings.