What is the Environmental Collective Housing Organisation?

The Environmental Collective Housing Organisation (ECHO) is a not-for-profit association providing affordable, community based rental housing for people on low to moderate incomes in Canberra’s inner north.

ECHO’s Aims:

To provide secure, affordable accommodation for people on low to moderate incomes, who may be otherwise disadvantaged in the housing market and want to live in tenant-managed housing in Canberra’s inner north.

To develop ecologically sustainable practices and infrastructure for tenants.

To provide a successful model of tenant-managed housing (that can be duplicated by other groups in need of housing) and to cooperate with and assist other bodies with similar goals, especially those in the local community.

To build on ECHO’s identity, which ECHO members defined as:

- being an inner north community;
- being environmentally aware and ‘green’;
- being participative/collective in nature;
- being ‘arts’ oriented;
- valuing space in a crowded environment;
- providing security of tenure;
having an opportunity to participate in decision making (empowerment);

- contributing to the community; and

- modeling an effective, socially just, alternative approach to housing.

**What accommodation is offered by ECHO?**

ECHO currently manages over thirty properties in Canberra’s inner north. Properties range from 1 to 5 bedrooms.

ECHO also offers a variety of share properties which are targeted at different groups and household compositions. For more information on group-share options contact ECHO.

Prospective tenants should be willing to participate in tenant-managed housing and support ECHO’s aims.

ECHO offers both income-based (25% of an individual’s assessable income) and affordable (74.9% of market rent) rental options.

**Who can apply?**

To be housed with ECHO you must:

- have been approved and referred to ECHO by Housing ACT (HACT) after undergoing an eligibility assessment;

- become a member of the association;

- attend an interview where applicants are able to ask questions to be sure that ECHO is an appropriate housing option for them;

- be able to demonstrate a capacity to live independently and participate in tenant-managed housing;

- be compatible with the ECHO community of tenants; and

- sign an Occupancy or Tenancy Agreement (depending on which accommodation option you are offered).
How much will it cost?

To be housed with ECHO you must agree to pay two weeks’ rent paid in advance.

What is tenant-managed housing?

ECHO is an incorporated association managed by an elected committee (including tenant and non-tenant members) and part time staff members. Income is generated through tenants’ rent. ECHO provides opportunities for tenants to be involved in the management of the organisation and encourages participation.

How can I get involved?

ECHO ensures that tenants are well informed and have the opportunity to participate in decisions concerning the management of ECHO and its tenancies.

Tenants are kept well informed of the operations and policies of ECHO through regular newsletters and by ensuring that policies and procedures are fully available.

Tenants are encouraged to attend general meetings at least twice each year and strategic planning meetings every two years.

ECHO aims to ensure that the rights of all tenants are respected and that the interests of all members are taken into account when decisions are made.

How can I contact ECHO?

If you would like further information about ECHO please contact:

Environmental Collective Housing Organisation
PO BOX 775
DICKSON ACT 2602

**Phone:** 02 6262 8275
**Email:** office@echohousing.org.au
**Website:** [www.echohousing.org.au](http://www.echohousing.org.au)
Further Information

For more information, contact your Housing Manager or telephone the Community Services Directorate on 133 427.

For more assistance on Housing ACT matters, please telephone 133 427.

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