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SUNRISE

is a member of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada and is a chapter of the American Solar Energy Society.

We are a non-profit formed in 1996, promoting sustainable living practices that lead to a comfortable earth friendly lifestyle.

Table of Contents

Sustainable Living & Renewable Energy Roundup.....2

Reducing Electrical Demand..... 3

Solar 2007 4

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Printed on 50% PCC recycled paper

President's Letter

Pass the water, please. The squandering of water in our region has many people shaking their heads in dismay. Water pours down from over-watered lawns into street gutters, creating small rivers that carry fertilizers, oil residue, and water bill dollars straight into storm drains. Water erupts from broken irrigation lines along street medians, creating gushers that flood streets at night and costing residents unnecessary dollars for wasted water and repairs. Water takes flight in clouds of wasted spray that evaporate and never reach lawns because residents irrigate during the sunny mid-day. And why does this mass wasting of our most precious resource occur? When it comes to front lawns, many feel compelled to display what everybody else has. A full, chemical-green front lawn that

you never really use is simply what you do – a “no brainer”. When it comes to medians along suburban developments, the rationale is simply aesthetics. Lots of water-hungry trees and shrubs look nice and help sell houses – a “no brainer”. The problem with no-brainers is that the thought process has been eliminated. There is no law that mandates you grow non-native water-intensive plants in a desert. There is no penalty for having a xeriscaped front lawns or medians with native desert plants. If we developed our lawns and medians into common-sense landscapes today, the economic and environmental benefits would literally be enjoyed tomorrow. Remember...we are all in this together.

Brian Bass
 President

2007 Northern Nevada Solar Tour

Sunrise is proud to again be hosting the Northern Nevada Solar Tour on Saturday, October 6th. This tour is part of the 12th annual American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour. This year, homes, business, and schools in 46 states will be on display for the anticipated 100,000+ participants.

Closer to home, the Northern Nevada Solar Tour will be in the Carson Valley this year. In coordination with the recent Sustainable Living and Renewable Energy Roundup, we will be showing many of the sites reviewed at the event. So far, the tour includes:

- The Bently Biodiesel plant, with a presentation from General Manager Carlo Luri,
- A 20 year old passive solar home still providing excellent performance,

- Two newly built homes that have both energy efficiency and renewable energy components, one that has computer monitoring of its performance,
- The Kit Carson Development project that is providing ENERGY STAR homes and is looking to become LEED certified, and
- A ground source heat pump project developed for Douglas County.

The tour starts at 9:00 AM at the CVIC Hall in Minden. The individual sites will be open for touring starting at 10:00 AM. There is limited space for the tours of the Bently Biodiesel Plant tour and Douglas County facility, so register early. More information can be found about the tour on the Sunrise web site or by calling Philip Moore at 775-224-1877.

Sustainable Living & Renewable Energy Roundup

Roundup Web Site
www.CVSustainables.Com

2007 Sustainable Living & Renewable Energy Roundup, Minden, NV

By The Committee

The Committee to organize the First Annual Sustainable Living and Renewable Energy Roundup declared it a success and has begun planning for the 2008 event.

As with any "first" event most of our projections were guesses. How much will it cost? How much income will we bring in? Who will support us? Where will the exhibitors come from? How many T-shirts do we need? How many people do we need to get the work done? We came close sometimes and were way off other times.

We initially budgeted for expenses of \$27,500 for tents, sani-huts, printing, web pages, speakers expenses, etc. and hoped for \$45,000 in income, including sponsor money, parking and entry fees. Just prior to the event, we dropped the parking and entry fee charges to encourage higher attendance.

Actual expenses were \$19,886 (including repayment to Sunrise of a \$5000 loan plus 5% interest). We may have a couple of small bills outstanding according to our very diligent Treasurer who expects to close the books on 2007 shortly. Income is \$21,708 so far with an additional \$8000 grant from the northern Nevada WalMart stores expected for a total of \$29,708. We expect to have about \$9000 seed money to finance next years event.

Our Friday evening speakers event, at the Minden Elementary School, was attended by 125 people. Architect David Arkin from Berkeley, CA, was the lead speaker, followed by Brad Collins, Executive Director of the American Solar Energy Society & publisher of Solar Today magazine, Boulder, CO. Landscape architect Tom Stille, owner of Interpretive Gardens in Reno and Craig Witt of Full Circle Compost, Minden, rounded out the evening.

Weather was perfect for Saturday and Sunday's events at Bently's beautiful Ferris Park and the Douglas campus of Western Nevada College. Our program included 43 speakers and workshops, 9 keynote speakers, movies and 60 exhibitors. The Children's Tent was a favorite with everyone - great solar baked cookies, bread, and even pies.

There was no way to track actual attendees but estimates, based on worm entrails and raptor fly-overs, range from 1,000 to 1,200. Feedback from exhibitors and the public has been very positive and some exhibitors have already told us they plan to do it again next year.

At the post-event meeting held Sept. 6 in Gardnerville, the group decided to incorporate and create an organization run by committees, with the board of directors made up of committee chairs. In business this is called project management and can be quite successful, depending on the willingness of people to be both responsible and accountable. It's an interesting experiment in democracy and we're enthused about putting it into action. We took note of what didn't work well this year and are building in defaults. Like all healthy organisms, the structure is and will remain a work in progress.

At the moment we're looking for an in-town venue and a new date. We hope to move to Lampe Park in downtown Gardnerville but won't know until December if we can secure a weekend there, preferably in September. We have more time to plan this year and intend to put more focus on getting publicity out sooner and more effectively and increasing our exhibitor and attendee numbers.

We are grateful to Sunrise for its loan of seed money to get the event rolling this first year; the confidence and support of the board of directors was really appreciated. We are at work forming our non-profit corporation; forms are almost filled out and we're creating bylaws in anticipation of our first meeting going it on our own.

Reducing Electrical Demand

We can't underestimate our own behavior in causing high energy bills. We take our electrical and electronic things for granted and seldom consider how much they may cost to operate. We also make assumptions about some devices which are simply incorrect. In the latter category, fall whole-house and ceiling fans. Since our heating season is longer than our cooling season, the heat that is lost through the mostly unsealed, uncovered fan vents, is far greater than the energy saved by not using an air conditioner in the summer. Ceiling fans are 100% efficient heaters and add a heat load to the house while they are supposed to be cooling you off.

Cable television boxes demand surprisingly large amounts of energy to operate, as do computers and peripheral devices such as fax machines and printers. Placing these devices on a strip which can be switched off when the devices are not in use will reduce your electrical demand considerably. Fish tanks and pumps of any kind – such as operate water features in our backyards - make noticeable contributions to our electrical bills.

Water beds are expensive to keep warm. Throw a comforter over them to retain the

heat. A lot of people put their old refrigerator in the garage as extra cold storage without considering a) because it's old, it's far less efficient than the newer model you replaced it with, b) during the summer it has to overcome some scorching temperatures. It's far better to get rid of it. Sierra Pacific will pick up old operating refrigerators and throw in \$30 for the privilege of doing so.

People are intrigued with the idea of on-demand hot water systems. While they can work fine in certain situations, most of the time, they cost more to operate than standard hot water tanks which encounter standby heat losses. Gas on demand systems are cheaper to operate than electrical ones. Do your homework before investing in one.

Consider installing a solar-operated clothes dryer. Line drying clothes in the spring and summer can save up 700 pounds of carbon dioxide per household annually not to mention \$85 a year.

Your favorite internet search engine can provide you with many sources for ideas on saving your money and your environment at the same time.

Mary Winston, Home Performance Professional, Energy Masters, (775) 250-9796.

The Department of Energy estimates that in the average home, 40 percent of all electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off.

New York Times, June 14, 2007

Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific offer rebates for recycling of old refrigerators (\$30) and for the purchase of ENERGY STAR appliances (\$25-50)

www.NevadaPower.com/conservation/home/

Membership Renewal

The opposite side of this page includes the information you need to renew your Sunrise membership. The Sunrise board recently agreed to make dues payable once a year in October. In that spirit, we would like you to please take a few minutes to renew your membership now. Your membership will help to continue the Sunrise

programs, including this newsletter, the Northern Nevada Solar Tour, the Resource Guide (free to members) as well as our support of many other events, such as Earth Day and the recent Roundup. You may also choose to renew both your ASES and Sunrise memberships at the ASES web site (www.ASES.org). ***Thanks for your support!***

The 11th annual National Solar Tour held on October 7, 2006 and throughout the autumn months was a tremendous success.

- 88,300 attendees
- 3,700 buildings
- 2,100 communities
- 44 states plus Washington D.C.

American Solar Energy Society

Call for Submissions: We want to hear from you. Deadline for the next issue is *October 21, 2007*. Please keep length of articles to 300-500 words and send to Philip_Moore@charter.net. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

Solar 2007 Conference

Solar 2007 Results

A total of 1,792 people registered for part or all of the conference. The exhibit hall contained 160 exhibit booths, and hosted over 3,200 visitors on Sunday alone (this figure is in addition to the registration number above).

www.ASES.org

I was honored this year to be able to attend the American Solar Energy Society's Solar 2007 conference as the Sunrise chapter representative. There were almost 5000 people at the conference in Cleveland, which along with the greater northeastern Ohio area sees renewable energy and energy efficiency as a key to revitalizing their rust-belt economy.

The first portion of the conference was the chapter caucus. Representatives from ASES chapters all over the country heard the latest from ASES Executive Director Brad Collins about the activities of ASES national. The group also heard about the successes enjoyed by other ASES chapters, such as the Midwest Renewable Energy Association that had over 19,750 attendees at its latest Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Fair.

The Conference Opening and Plenary sessions dealt directly with the theme of the conference – "Sustainable Energy Puts America to Work." The political leadership of Ohio demonstrated how renewable energy and energy efficiency with "jobs that can not be shipped overseas" is an important part of their economic future.

Carl Pope of the Sierra Club called for the same level of innovation in energy as we have seen in telecommunications over the last 20 years. And finally, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers discussed their large-scale training program preparing their members for the newer technologies of solar and other renewable energy.

The conference also included some very interesting workshops and hundreds of vendors and organizations in the large exhibit hall. The level of attendance and interest clearly demonstrated to me that solar and other renewable energies have moved from the original "true believers" to many entrepreneurs who are already or hope to make a living off renewable energy installations.

My thanks to the board for allowing me to represent Sunrise at this important event. Next year's event is closer to home in San Diego. Members who are interested in representing Sunrise and receiving the \$300 travel stipend should contact the board.

Philip Moore, Sunrise Secretary

Membership Subscription Form

Instructions: Make check payable to SUNRISE.
Cut this form out and return with check to:
Sunrise • P.O. Box 19074 • Reno, NV 89511-0837

Membership Options:

- Student/Senior (55+)..... \$10
- Individual..... \$20
- Family \$25
- Non-Profit Organization..... \$50
- Business (fewer then 5 employees) . \$75
- Corporate Organization \$250
- Donation (Donations are appreciated and tax deductible).

Sunrise Membership Meeting

Date: November 8, 2007
Time: Potluck Dinner - 6:00 PM
Meeting - 7:00 PM
Location: Reno Sparks Kiwanis
Bike Program Re-Cyclery
2605 Comstock Drive, Reno

See you there!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Is this a renewal? Yes No (circle one)