



Board of Directors

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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.


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 Printed on 100% PCC recycled paper

President's Letter

I am honored to be the Sunrise President for the next year. I have been involved with Sunrise for more than five years now, and it has been a pleasure to work with so many knowledgeable and enthusiastic advocates for sustainable living. I look forward to continuing the strong Sunrise traditions of advocacy, education, and outreach.

I came to Sunrise because of my passion for sustainable living and a strong desire to teach others in our community about sustainable living. My family has dedicated ourselves to be a living example of urban sustainable living in Reno. We all share our experiences with sustainable living whenever possible!

This newsletter will give you an idea of some of the things that Sunrise will be doing over the next year. I am excited about our opportunity to promote a new

financing model for energy efficiency and renewable energy for property owners. We also have a great schedule of events for this year with both Sunrise-sponsored events such as the Solar Tour as well as many events in which Sunrise is a participant. It is an exciting time to be living sustainably in Northern Nevada!

We are looking to our membership and friends to expand our reach by providing assistance with our efforts this year. You will be receiving regular emails about opportunities to help out as well as upcoming events. You can also find all of the same information on our web site. So, if like me and many other Sunrise members you have a passion for sustainable living and want to help others to do the same, join us in our mission in 2008!

Philip Moore
President

Solar Financing Model

Many people have explored the possibility of making their homes and businesses more energy efficient or generating their own electricity with solar or wind. The same people have also realized that the upfront cost, and relatively long payback period, make these ideas unattainable or at least financially risky. Sunrise recognizes that this cost barrier may be the single biggest factor restraining the development of more energy efficient buildings and the distributed energy generation so important to our future.

Sunrise is proposing that Nevada adopt a program modeled on one currently being trialed in Berkley, California (see <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/mayor/GHG/solar.htm>). The Sunrise proposed program encourages energy efficiency and renewable energy installations by:

- 1) Providing residential and commercial property owners with a new financing model that reduces upfront costs by providing low-interest government-backed loans.
- 2) Providing these low-interest loans to residential and commercial property owners based primarily on their ability to pay back the loan and not solely on their current income levels.
- 3) Providing this financing in a way to work with both existing state and federal incentive programs.
- 4) Allowing energy efficiency credits, renewable energy credits, and carbon offsets to be retained by the property owner.

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Solar Financing Model (continued from page 1)

Our initial discussion of this proposal with State Assemblyman David Bobzien has allowed us to better understand the steps that would be required to make this plan a reality. The most important step at this point is to bring as many entities as possible on board to make this a priority for next year's legislative session. Assemblyman Bobzien explained that while cities or counties would run the program, the legislature must first authorize them to do this type of program. Sunrise is now reaching out to

elected officials around Nevada to encourage them to propose such a program within their government and with the State Legislature. Other entities who might encourage such a program would be electrical unions and businesses involved in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

If you are interested in helping to promote this program by talking with interested parties, please contact Philip Moore at President@SunriseNevada.org or 775-224-1877.

Sustainable Food

Last year's Sunrise newsletters dealt with the definition of a sustainable society. The articles explained four conditions (listed at the left) that can be used to determine if a system can be considered sustainable. This year's newsletters will deal with aspects of a sustainable community, starting with food.

Food is one of our most basic needs after water. It is universal and therefore creating a sustainable system to deliver food is of critical importance for our society. Unfortunately, as is becoming more aware due to recent jumps in food prices the current system for delivering food is not sustainable.

There is an oft-quoted statistic that says that every bite of food we enjoy travels more than 1200 miles. This is not hard to imagine when we often ship lettuce from California to New York. This shipping process continues to produce pollution and carbon emissions that increase the concentration of substances extracted from the earth's crust, violating the first system condition.

The current food system relies heavily on substances produced by society. In particular, most produce is sprayed repeatedly with synthetic fertilizers. In addition, animals who will become our food are injected with

growth hormones to bring them to market weight sooner and antibiotics to stave off illness caused by their rapid growth and the crowded living conditions in the facilities where they are prepared for market. This method of relying on substances produced by society, rather than the abundance of nature, to produce our food violates the second system condition.

The third condition is also violated by our current food system. Most of the food we eat is genetically modified to produce certain desirable attributes such as slow ripening during the transportation process or resistance to certain herbicides. In addition, most crops are grown in large monocultures which impoverish nature's diversity.

Finally, most of our crops and animals are produced on farms where workers are subjected to low pay and dangerous working conditions. Also, the use of food crops to produce fuels has increased food prices in a way to impact those least able to deal with those increases.

Clearly we need to develop a more sustainable system to meet our most basic need for food. The movement towards local and organic foods provides the best chance for doing so. For more information on your organic and local food choices, go to lfnn.blogspot.com.

The Natural Step's Four System Conditions

1. In order for a society to be sustainable, nature's functions and diversity are not systematically subject to increasing concentrations of substances extracted from the earth's crust.
2. In order for a society to be sustainable, nature's functions and diversity are not systematically subject to increasing concentrations of substances produced by society.
3. In order for a society to be sustainable, nature's functions and diversity are not systematically impoverished by physical displacement, over-harvesting, or other forms of ecosystem manipulation.
4. In a sustainable society, people are not subject to conditions that systematically undermine their capacity to meet their needs.

Call for Submissions: We want to hear from you. Deadline for the next issue is *July 25, 2008*. Please keep length of articles to 300-500 words and send to Philip_Moore@charter.net. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

Renewable Energy – Just a Part of Everyday at TMCC and UNR

Sunrise was pleased to have Ted Plaggemeyer, the Dean of Math, Science, Engineering, and Technology at the Truckee Meadows Community College at our board meeting on December 6th. We were even more pleased to hear that renewable energy is becoming part of every day life at both TMCC and UNR.

Dean Plaggemeyer explained that through grants from the Department of Labor (in partnership with DRI) and the National Renewable Energy Council (in partnership with UNR), TMCC is developing new offerings on renewable energy. These offerings supplement TMCC's strong workforce development program and are focused on supporting our local industry as it works to build our knowledge and capacity in renewable.

The grants so far have lead to a workshop for solar installations that enabled a number of contractors to get their NV Photovoltaic Installation licenses, now required under the SolarGenerations program. Workshop attendees have also gone on to get their NABCEP certification, a national solar installation certification. TMCC is now working to develop a energy audit workshop which could allow individual home owners or home inspectors to understand the steps required for an energy audit.

TMCC is also beginning to expand their course offerings for renewable energy. The Introduction to Solar Energy (SOL 100B)

has been offered for several years now, and a new class entitled Geology of Geothermal Energy (Geology 206) has just started. Also in a partnership with UNR, TMCC is offering the Introduction to Renewable Energy class (Engineering 110/Political Science 110), which is listed under both the Engineering and Political Science course schedules as it introduces both renewable energy and the political background of bringing renewable energy online in the U.S.

One of the most intriguing ideas that Dean Plaggemeyer mentioned is the incorporation of renewable energy concepts into traditional classes. This incorporation is being facilitated by externships where TMCC faculty members are working in private firms to learn more about renewable energy. For example, a TMCC geology professor recently worked at Ormat to learn more about geothermal energy while an automotive technology professor will soon be working for a short time at Bently Biofeuls. These teachers are then able to bring these real world applications of renewable energy into their existing classes.

The future looks bright for these programs. Both TMCC and UNR are working to move these "pay as you go" classes into their normal credit curriculum. UNR is even developing a minor in renewable energy! We look forward to the final grant report when TMCC will be able to outline more fully their plans for the future. Dean Plaggemeyer also hinted that we should be seeing even more about renewable energy and sustainability on campus soon!

The NABCEP PV installer certification is a voluntary certification that provides a set of national standards by which PV installers with skills and experience can distinguish themselves from their competition. Certification provides a measure of protection to the public by giving them a credential for judging the competency of practitioners. It is not intended to prevent qualified individuals from installing PV systems nor to replace state licensure requirements.

www.nabcep.org

Board Election Results

President:
Philip Moore

Vice President:
Brian Bass

Treasurer:
Deborah Redman

Secretary:
Ellen Jacobson

Smart Living Expo 2007 *by Ellen Jacobson*

Change the venue, change the target audience and change the type of participation. Those were all key to the new look and feel of the Smart Living Expo and activities of 2007. Eight Sunrise members staffed our booth for three days, joining with the Electric Car Club, Envirolutions and others in the first-ever “show within the show” at the Lockett and Sullivan Fall Home Show. This Lockett and Sullivan Home Show, as the new home for the event, was by far the best attended expo to-date. And Sunrise Sustainable Resources was a key contributor to that success! We were one of four non-profits invited to co-locate at the Lockett and Sullivan Home Show Smart Living Expo information booth, providing attendees with information about the new “show within a show” that was happening at the Home Show. What did that mean? It meant over forty exhibitors at the show were tagged with special signage that designated them as a green vendor, providing free workshops for attendees about energy

efficiency, solar power, and other topics that would make attendees more aware of what the options were for “going green”. The media took up the message with television and news spots about the show and the new green component. What’s coming in the future? Look to future issues of the Sunrise newsletter to keep you posted on the planning for next year. We hope to make it an even bigger and better “show within the show”, using our member expertise to help identify and invite some of the key companies from our area and from northern California to become key exhibitors in the Smart Living Expo 2008. Keep an eye on this column as we celebrate our first ever convention center event, and as we look forward to bigger and better opportunities in the year ahead.

Ellen Jacobson, a Sunrise Board Member, has coordinated the Smart Living Expo for the last four years. If you are interested in more information or in volunteering for the next Expo, please contact Ellen at 775-846-7146 or email her at EllenJacobson@sbcglobal.net.

Fall Home & Garden Show

The 28th annual Fall Home & Lifestyle Show will be October 24-26, 2008 at the Reno Convention Center. For more information see www.bigshows.com

National Solar Tour
Saturday,
October 4

Events Calendar

June, 2008

Tour of local animal shelter and off-grid home

July, 2008

Tour of Steamboat geothermal plant

September 12 - 13 (Friday & Saturday) –

Sustainable Living and Renewable Energy Roundup – Minden, NV

October, 2008

Participation in Local Home Show

October 4

National Solar Tour

November 6, 7:00 PM

Annual Membership Meeting

December 4, 7:00 PM

Sunrise Board Elections

January 2009

Strategic Planning Meeting