

Hello All!

This is the October edition of the Arizona Solar Energy Association's e-newsletter, "Under the Sun." Enjoy!

Table of Contents

1. Annual Membership Meeting
2. The Solar Tours of Homes Continue
3. ACC Energy Debate
4. Election Update
5. News and Articles

--

1. Annual Membership Meeting

Sat. Nov. 11. Time and place TBA. Free food. Meet people. Talk solar. Bring friends. Stay tuned.

2. The Solar Tours of Homes Continue

**Phoenix Metro Area Solar and Sustainability Extravaganza Week

* 14 Oct - STAR Center Open House and Science Fair

* 19 Oct. Free Lecture

Living With the Sun Arizona Style at the City of Scottsdale Urban Design Studio NE corner 75th St and Indian School Free , 7-9p

* 21 Oct - Living With the Sun Arizona Style - 2006 Valley of the Sun Solar and Sustainable Bldgs Tour

**Sedona, Verde Valley Living With the Sun Az. Style Tours - - 21st

**Taylor/Snowflake Living With the Sun Az. Style Tour - - 28th

**Tucson Tour of Innovative Buildings - 28th, 29th Oct.

For more information, contact Dan Aiello at 602-952-8192

**Flagstaff bonus tour

Rob and Carrie Henderson are building a straw bale home and would like to invite you to participate in a bale workshop.

It will be on Saturday, Oct 14 from 9am to late afternoon.

The address is 13154 North Northstar Lane. Go past the Mall on 89 to Brandis Way. Turn left and go past the white fence on the right. Turn right on Northstar. Take the second driveway on the left all of the way in to the property. Click on the Google Map link below for a map:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?formtype=address&addtohistory=&address=13154%20Northstar&city=Flagstaff&state=AZ&zipcode=86004%2d5462&country=US&geodiff=1>

Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Bring gloves, long-sleeve shirt and hat along with your enthusiasm for sustainable building.

We hope to follow this up with a plastering workshop in a few weeks that will teach earth and lime plasters.

--

3. AZ's Energy Future Debate. A Unique, Single-Issue Debate for Corporation Commissioner Candidates. All candidates will be present.

Fri. October 20th, 6:30p @ ASU Downtown University Center Bldg. 411 N. Central Ave. Phoenix.

This is going to be perhaps the most important debate of the whole election cycle in terms of energy and the environment. We need as many people to show up as possible.

AZ'S ENERGY FUTURE DEBATE

A Unique, Single-Issue Debate for
Corporation Commission Candidates

Are you concerned about:

1. The future of renewable energy in AZ
2. Rising Utility Rates
3. The Fragility of AZ's Energy Supply

The Corporation Commission has the power to directly affect these issues.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
ARIZONA



Fri. Oct. 20 6:30p.
411 N. Central Ave. Phx.
ASU Downtown University Center Bldg.
Contact: Tom Alston 480-254-9312

ASU College of
Public Programs
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

--

4. Election Update. Responses to the questionnaires we sent to candidates will be out sometime this month. Please check the azsolarcenter website for updates.

See the LCV environmental scorecard for your representatives in Washington here: <http://www.lcv.org/scorecard/>.

--

5. Article by ASEA member Geoff Sutton on the average US citizen's energy consumption.

The Time is Now

As the Earth continues its growth in population, we are also taxing its resources to an ever higher plane.

Global consumption is at record levels and continues to increase, as seen with commodities like copper, silver, and nickel. This record consumption pattern does not end there; we are witnessing the need for energy produced with coals, oils and natural gas.

This tread mill of extraction we are riding where even moving at an ever quicker pace, does not guarantee the needs of an expanding populous.

In the USA the average person consumes around 340 million BTUs of energy over the course of a year in all its forms. To put this into perspective on just how much assistance the average American citizen gets from these presently plentiful, discounted, and in all cases subsidized fuels, here is a refresher to what a BTU is. A BTU is the amount of heat energy needed to increase one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit.

The average person during the course of a 24 hour day will burn approximately 9,800 BTU.

With a yearly investment of around five thousand dollars the average American is able to purchase these 340 million BTUs of energy; this keeps us warm in the winter and cool in the summer; allows the building of goods for our consumption, and to drive or fly to destinations.

If these BTUs for some reason in the future start to become scarce or prohibitively expensive to purchase, not only from natural depletion but via competition from other countries we will have to look at alternatives. The only real alternative is through living a more sustainable lifestyle on a smaller BTU footprint.

The BTU footprint Americans live within now is the equivalent of having a year round fulltime staff of 95 people; they can be looked at as being BTU people. Not a human element but an inexpensive energy source bidding the work of 95 souls. These 95 BTU people obviously cannot run our cars, or power air conditioners, what they do represent are the units of energy that is our foot print upon this planet.

We are living in a day where other countries like China and India are striving to possess the same standard of lifestyle that Americans possess. There will also be a day when these 340 million BTUs will start to become scarcer and more expensive to extract.

Americans also have found themselves buying more of these BTUs from nations that do not look favorably upon American society. Some nations have started to see the true value of a BTU and talk of holding it for their own citizens, or deplete it over a longer period of time. This literally free (.000015 cents per BTU) resource has allowed American society to build itself into what it is today, but that holds open the question of what will happen tomorrow.

The World is entering into an era of BTU shocks. The realization is that these BTU people powering America will start migrating to other countries, become prohibitively expensive, be held back by nations for their own citizens, or be lost forever through natural depletion.

The time is now to wean America from this BTU addiction and head down a more sustainable path while the opportunity exists.

Copyright 2006 by Geoff Sutton

Geoff Sutton, educated in Canada, graduated from Sheridan College in Ontario with a Law and Security Diploma. He has gone on to work in the banking industry, film industry, construction including lighthouse restorations, and presently within the sustainability field with a focus on solar electric. Since 1995 he has been active in the Private Placement market and successful stock trading.

He now is settled in Scottsdale with his wife and child, doing talks on oil and its extraction. Geoff is an active member of the Arizona Solar Energy Association.

--

To become a member of ASEA, fill out our membership form here:

http://www.azsolarcenter.com/solarorg/asea/memb_form.pdf.

That's all for now. Stay tuned for next month's election issue.

Ben

Chairman - ASEA