



Nevada County is Rich with “Do it yourselfers”

My last article about servicing your water heater was a huge hit, showing our local paper is reaching a lot of people willing to take things into their own hands. Unfortunately, I was a bit overwhelmed by people calling the work number with a variety of questions on their specific scenario. I can imagine each one thought “hey, he won’t mind one call from me”, but little did they know there were dozens of other folks just like them.

As much as I wish I could serve as a free, readily available, knowledgeable and friendly advisor for all the do-it-yourselfers out there, the practical realities of running a business don’t allow it. So if you’re one of the folks that called that I haven’t been able to speak with, please understand! On the flip side, please DO call if we can be of service (as a business). We provide consultations, energy audits, evaluate the cost/benefits, install and service a very wide range of efficiency and renewable energy systems. I’m a licensed mechanical engineer and energy specialist and the company is also licensed to provide general, electrical and plumbing contracting services.

That said, I’d like to let all you do-it-yourselfers out there know that I have compassion for your quest. That’s why I’ve put so much time and energy into my public service web site –

www.TheEnergyGuy.com

It’s also why I’ve been writing these articles every week (every two weeks since the 1st of this year). If you have a general, energy-related question please feel free to ask it at the “Sustainable Living” blog on The Unions web site (see Opinion section, Blogs). This is a wonderful, albeit highly underutilized, community resource. When I’m not absorbed with business matters I can answer your question, thereby sharing the advice with other readers.

In the meantime, here’s a really great resource for do-it-yourselfers –

<http://www.builditsolar.com/>

The site bills itself as “The Renewable Energy Site for Do-It-Yourselfers”. Gary Reysa, the man that created this site, will even answer your questions via email (in his case he’s retired so he must have a little more time for such things). My only caveat to pass along is that the projects on this site range from “really great” to “of dubious merit”. He covers himself on this note with a disclaimer - “By downloading or using the ideas, information, calculations, or plans on this website you hold Gary Reysa, his family, friends, and dog harmless from any damages or injuries that might result from errors, omissions or just plain bad design. It is your responsibility to make sure that any project you undertake is safe and effective for your situation. Do your homework!” There’s a similar disclaimer on my web

site (TheEnergyGuy.com). Regular readers of The Union are probably familiar with “Mr Handyperson” who offers helpful advice and answers specific questions from readers. I think we would all concur that, when a do-it-yourselfer takes on a project, the responsibility for the end result rests upon them - not the person offering them advice. This should go without saying but, in today’s highly litigious culture, folks like us actually have to spell this out.

All this isn’t intended to discourage my do-it-yourself brethren out there, it’s just a reality check. If you decide you want to hire a professional to take responsibility for the end result, give us a call or check out the energy-related products and services page on my web site here - www.theenergyguy.com/NCprodServ.html.



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