



The Case for Energy Preparedness

The opening paragraph on my web site reads –

“Sustainable Energy, by definition, means meeting our needs today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. What you may find surprising is what it can do for you!”

Let’s focus on the last half of that first sentence for a moment – “compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs”. I think we can all agree that none of us want to jeopardize our children’s future. One very positive thing I’ve noticed about us humans is that most of us care very deeply about the people we love. There’s very little we wouldn’t do to protect them, even if that protection comes at a very high cost.

But when I speak with people about sustainable energy, I’m always surprised how some truly don’t understand just *how* unsustainable their lifestyles are. Most people don’t realize just how unsustainable “business as usual” is because, frankly, they don’t have the time to study energy issues like those of us in the business do. It’s also because the ramifications of our unsustainable behavior aren’t as “in our face” or as “tangible” as many other problems we face in our daily lives. And lastly, for most people, it’s challenging enough just to get by from one day to the next!

That said, there’s a really super-compelling reason to add sustainable energy to your “daily challenge” list and that reason is “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” We have the opportunity now to benefit from “an ounce of prevention” before we’re saddled with the “pound of cure”. It’s the preventative things – things we can do today such as conservation and sound economic investments in sustainable energy – I try to emphasize in my articles. But what seems to be missing is the sense of urgency that comes from knowing what’s coming down the pike with regard to energy shortages and environmental impacts such as climate change.

Personally, I’d much rather focus my time and energy on solutions rather than harping on endlessly about the underlying problems. So, for those of you that consider yourself among the ranks of the “caring people”, I would like to encourage you to independently verify for yourself why there’s such an extreme sense of urgency here. Here’s how to do it without it taking an enormous amount of your time – visit any one or more of these web sites and breeze through an article or two every couple of days -

www.EnergyBulletin.net

www.aspousa.org

www.theoildrum.com (they post a list of articles every day under "DrumBeat" – just scroll down the page)

Once you've convinced yourself of the urgency, start making changes. Call your local HVAC company, energy auditor, solar company or one of the many other excellent energy professionals we're blessed to have here in Nevada County and ask for help (be persistent and don't get discouraged – we're all super busy!). Check out the Alliance for a Post Petroleum Local Economy's web site (www.Apple-NC.org) for frequent events and much, much more. Participate in an online discussion about what "sustainable living" entails, and post your comment or question to The Union's web blog by that name (<http://apps.theunion.com/utills/blogs/index.php>).

There's no time like the present to prepare for the future!

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