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Why Build Solar?

The question is, "why utilize the solar energy for our homes that is given from an existing power source for free?" A simple answer could be because the source of power in the long run is for free. The truth to the statement is nothing is for free because taking advantage of the sun does require some effort, but there certainly isn't as much effort compared to the energy sources that we use today. More importantly there aren't any severe consequences left for the environment during the process. The more learning and the more realization of how fast the quality of life is depreciating environmentally conscious citizens look to others observing ignorance for failing to come to the same standards of view. Utilization of solar energy can be very inexpensive, making several techniques feasible for today's homeowner. The problem is the majority of the worlds population don't see the benefit to the environment on themselves.

Throughout history the sun has been a utilized asset to civilization. The Greek have spread their building far enough apart facing south to utilize the sun's heat, accepting the sun through large entries of the villas. They even used transparent windows to decrease the rate of solar escape. During the 1500's the Dutch used canvas and double-pane glass to further contain the heat. In the early 19th century they used green houses to capture heat as they opened up vents to warm the main house. Other forms of solar transfer were becoming more prominent, evaporation contained and used as a water pump. Minds were

heavily looking into further use of the suns power. Leaps were taking when Walker showed how a solar water heater could be connected to an auxiliary heat source. To further add a day and night water heater was created by source of the sun. Solar research was entering it's peak of curiosity and then Los Angeles struck oil. As time went on architecture in several examples exemplified the use of solar power among building became less of a resource.

The problem continues in present day because our current president has adopted policy's that continue and further expand fossil fuel use. Bush has proposed a 20 year plan that barely touched on improving the efficiency of the United States standard of living. The policy didn't even include the use of wind power which has increased at a rate that is only comparable to computers this day in age. The president has chosen to overlook the depletion of coal and oil, he has chose to overlook the damage that is taken place to our most vital ecosystems. The most obvious examples of the pollution can be found in the air quality. People are dying and several are becoming sick to smog produced by the mixture of smoke and sulfur dioxide. Acres upon acres are being destroyed at the mercy of acid rain. These ecosystems are homes to several different species and ways of life. The quality of life has become worse.

Buildings are the major contributors to the earths pollution. Cars supply plenty of the damage, but they are somewhat expendable where as building are here for life. Pollution from the heating and cooling of buildings exceeds that from cars. This is held extremely true in the United States where the average vehicle consumes twice the energy of 1st world countries. Electricity powers our

every day life and that power is primarily produced by power plants. Major industries, residential homes, and small business all have the need for power. We just don't see it, except maybe from the chimneys of an older city on a cold Winter day. Or in the smog of a large city. After agriculture, building is the second largest industry in the world. The manufacture of building materials consumes enormous energy, and exhaustible resources. The standard of living has no regard to efficiencty and no concern for the environment. People have to realize a change is in order and they are the ones who are going to do something about it.

The United States is the largest consumer of fossil fuels while other countries have made an effort to become more efficient and environmentally conscious. China has raised their standards on emission control. Furthermore they have caught back on their use of coal. The developed countries of Europe are a third stronger in terms of efficiency compared to the United States. Japan and Germany have taken a strong step forward in terms of efficiency by encouraging the use of solar energy. The two countries are major producers of solar cells and have incorporated a system with two meters on residential and commercial structures. One meter sells the solar energy to the local utility supplier if containing an excess of power while the other meter buys power if at a shortage. Germany has also offered low interest loans in the purchase of solar energy. The point being made is things are being done, but when compared to the primary fossil fuels like coal and oil solar power is barely even on the same page. BP is supposed the big front runner in solar technology. However, in terms