

October, 2008

SUNDIAL

Alabama Solar Association, ASA

P.O. Box 143
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Established to Promote the Use of Our Sun's Renewable Energy to Preserve Our Environment

Don't Let
Energy
Costs Get
You Down.



See page 3

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New Solarite offers help!

With talk about alternative energy being too expensive, there is a low cost way for every homeowner & business to save money. A Solar Hot Water System is a low tech option that has been. The average homeowner

can save 25% or more on monthly utility bills and keep 1.5 tons of CO₂ emissions out of our atmosphere annually without lifestyle changes.

Imagine if Solar Hot Water was on every house in the entire country.

That would amount to 25% less consumption nationwide. An average system cost of \$4,000 to \$7,000. With a 30% tax credit from the Federal Government, payback can be in as little as 4 years. Some states & local utilities offer incentives as well. Alabama & Mississippi do not for now.

We serve Northwest Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, & Louisiana from Summerdale, AL near Mobile. Check us out at www.acmesolarworks.com, 877-226-3004, or email acmesolarworks@gulftel.com.

JR Goes Green

TV's most infamous oil baron has a green streak!

Larry Hagman played the legendary JR Ewing on the hit TV evening soap opera Dallas. He and his wife Maj have an all-organic, 46-acre avocado farm in Ojai, California. Their home runs on solar power, which said knocked their electric bill from \$40,000 a year to \$13. His 102.7 kW (DC) grid-tied system generates an electrifying 150,000 kilowatt-hours per year, enough energy to power a

dozen or more average households.

"This is the oil patch of the 21st century!" proclaims Hagman, who some have dubbed "The Son of Solar."

A 2007 press release reports, "Following the installation of his first solar array in 2003, Hagman experienced immediate return. The annual electric bill for his mountaintop home and farm plummeted from \$37,000 to \$13 overnight.

"**RICH!**" Hagman exclaimed when asked how it felt to be the largest residential solar electricity producer in the



AP Photo

country. "Anybody that uses electricity in the next ten years will be paying a tremendous amount of money for it," he explains, "...and I won't be paying anything."

So what else does ol' J.R. have up his sleeve? Hagman already has plans underway to install wind turbines. Check out: <http://www.larryhagman.com/>

The 25 x '25 Alliance Promotes Renewable Energy Vision: Brent Bailey



Biofuels



Livestock



Solar



The 25x'25 Alliance is led by a group of agricultural, forestry, and renewable energy leaders explored helping the nation meet our growing energy needs. They conceived a bold renewable energy vision called "25x'25." It says

that by the year 2025, America's farms, forests and ranches will provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed by the United States while continuing to produce safe, abundant food, feed, and fiber.

Since 2004, the 25x'25 initiative has gained the support of farms, labor, environmental, and energy organizations, governors, and state legislatures. Congress voted to adopt and President Bush signed legislation establishing the 25x'25 Vision as a national goal. We are proud to have the support of Governor Bob Riley, the

Alabama Legislature, Commission of Agriculture Ron Sparks, and many other businesses and organizations in Alabama.

. Currently, efforts are taking place in Alabama to form a state-level alliance of leaders to help increase opportunities renewable energy could provide.

Studies shows, the 25x'25 goal is achievable and provides a long-term solution to our current energy challenge. Reaching the 25x'25 goal would have a \$700 billion impact on the national economy and 5.1 million jobs in 2025. Much impact would occur in

25% energy from renewable sources by year 2025

The 25x'25 goal will reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy, giving autonomy from unfriendly nations and will lessen our impact on the environment.

The 21st century gives America an chance

for a new course in our energy future—one that uses our abundant natural renewable energy resources to steer us to new opportunities and jobs, more robust national security, and a cleaner, healthier environment.

To learn more about the 25x'25 Initiative, visit www.25x25.org. The 25x'25 is a rallying cry for renewable energy and a goal for America—to get 25 percent of our energy from renewable resources such as wind, solar, biomass, and biofuels by the year 2025.

OIL? Why not Solar?

Why should a society "Established to Promote the Use of Our Sun's Renewable Energy to Preserve Our Environment" promote oil drilling and refinery construction?

Renewable energy has a wonderful future, but we're not there yet. Even if we achieve the 25

The President's Corner

x '25 goal, and there is no reason we shouldn't, we will still need 75 percent of our energy from conventional sources.

We simply aren't there yet, and we won't be in 2025. We need to bridge the gap to the future.

One excellent source of renewable energy is

available right now—it is conservation, and it is so simple.

It's almost entirely common sense, really. See how in this issue.

Drill here! Drill now! Build more refineries! And then try to use them as little as possible.

Here's an untapped source of energy--Conservation

The quickest source of new energy is simply to conserve what you already have.

"Want to live off the grid?" asks one solar designer. "Cut your energy use in half and come back to see me."

Lots of folks never come back, but some do. With a few lifestyle changes, you can easily save half. But with almost no loss of quality of life, you can easily save 15 to 25%.

Now you will have to have a bit of patience and plan ahead some, but

that's not hard for smart folks to do. Here's how.

Dress for success. If it's winter, wear warmer clothes and set the thermostat cooler. Wear casual clothes in summer and set them higher. Better yet, get programmable thermostats to make adjustments when nobody is home.

Say it with electrons. Get and pay bills electronically. You are paying for every piece of paper a company sends you, you just don't know it. Sign up to get your *Sundial* electronically.

Beat high gas prices. Car pool, combine trips, avoid travel with e-mail and Internet shopping. If you really need to go, then

go. Just look for alternatives.

Go beyond EnergyStar® when you buy. "Energy Efficient is like "Low fat milk." Low fat milk comes in 2%, 1%, or ½%. Look at energy labels and select the one that is most efficient but still meets all your needs.

Change all your incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescents. Use high-efficiency tubes in regular fluorescent fixtures. CFLs not only use one-fourth the electricity, they put off one-fourth the heat.

Conserving energy is about doing a lot of little things. You'll be amazed how they add up.

Morton



Energy Saving Secret: Use whatever you need, but only what you need.



Solar Happenings:

Check them out in your area.

Monday, November 10, 2008
Gulf Coast AL USGBC Meeting, 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m., Five Rivers, Alabama Wildlife Resource Center, Spanish Fort

Thursday, November 13, 2008
ASA BoD Meeting at Southern Solar Systems in Huntsville. Members and visitors welcome

Thursday, December 04, 2008 HATS
Holiday Reception, Huntsville Botanical Gardens, 5:30 to 8:00 PM

Wednesday, December 10, 2008
5th Annual Alabama Agriculture Energy Conference, Auburn

Thursday, December 18, 2008
ASA BoD Meeting at Southern Solar Systems in Huntsville. Members and visitors welcome

Tuesday, January 13, 2009
ASA BoD Meeting at Southern Solar Systems in Huntsville. Members and visitors welcome

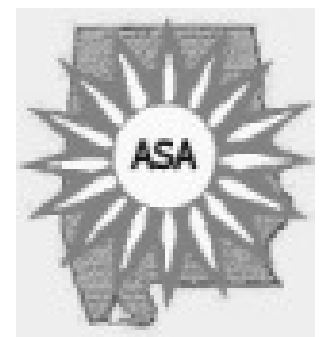
Saturday, October 03, 2009
Alabama Solar Tour, Corner, Hoover, Huntsville, Royal, and Gulf Coast

More on the Dec. 12th Alabama Agriculture Energy Conference:

Learn more of the wonderful progress Alabama universities are doing to solve the current energy crisis. This day-long conference focuses on our state's bio-energy advances and the latest legislative issues. For more information contact Kathy Hornsby at kathy.hornsby@adeca.alabama.gov or phone 334-242-5284

See you there--Morton

"...a passion to improve and expand all renewable energy technologies."

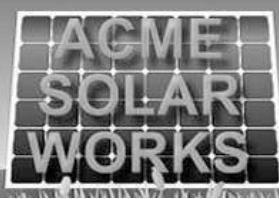


Solarites

October, 2008

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Would you rather have your *Sundial* via electrons or printed on dead trees?

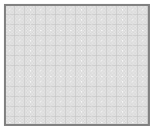
ASA was established to promote the use of our Sun's renewable energy to preserve our environment. One important way to is to recycle things such as paper newsletters rather than throwing them away. Actually, recycling is our third best choice. Second best is to reuse. Unfortunately, there're not many ways to reuse paper printed on both sides. The very best choice, then, is to reduce, or to not use paper at all.

Soon we will be putting The Sundial on our website (www.al-solar.org). You can read everything online. It will be prettier (paper versions are now not in color), it will be faster than waiting for the US Mail, and it will be much more environmentally friendly.

Will that be



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TO: