
Subject: Going green
Posted by [excelav](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 2008 00:04:40 GMT
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Going green. Here are some cool ideas.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21595501/>

Subject: Re: Going green
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 2008 13:24:35 GMT
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<http://img177.imageshack.us/img177/4465/65650251cl1.jpg>

Subject: Re: Going green
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 2008 15:15:51 GMT
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Nice! My favorite is the sail boat. Viking green on the big blue.
'Course in Viking days we didn't have no stinking outboards - we could row.

James McCloskey wrote:
> Going green. Here are some cool ideas.
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> <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21595501/>

Subject: Re: Going green
Posted by [Nei](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 2008 15:41:10 GMT
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I'd love to get some solar-cell action going for my house - heck, I live in the desert, so it's a no-brainer compared to some places like Seattle, where it's cloudy 370 days a year, but it'd be decades before my initial costs were recouped with energy savings. I have passive solar panels to heat the swimming pool, which do next to nothing unless it's fairly hot out, since the water flowing through them tends to cool them off at the same time the sun's trying to heat them up, but on a nice warm day, it'll definitely raise the temperature from "AAAGHH! Too cold to go in!" to: "ahhhh... nice" lol

Has anyone noticed on TV that BMW is starting to advertise the "Hydrogen 7"? Their fuel-cell-powered 7-series vehicle?

Also, on this same subject, a company here just got a research grant from the state to develop a system that'll extract energy from superheated road surfaces via a system of tubes/pipes that'll circulate water underneath the pavement, heat it up, and then return it to a core that converts the heat to energy. Good idea, but i just wonder if it'll take more energy to run the pumps than can be generated from the heat differential.

Neil

"James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote:

>

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Subject: Re: Going green

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 2008 17:55:28 GMT

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The highest savings are from insulation and efficiency. Once you get that done then solar domestic hot water, solar hot water space heating, solar PV and even wind can be good long term investments if your house is well situated to take advantage of the free energy around you. Investment in your own energy harvesting systems is also a form of insurance against rising energy prices in the future.

In Colorado the break-even for solar PV is somewhere around 7 years if electricity prices are fairly stable, and even faster if electricity prices shoot up. Panels are usually warrantied for 25 years and will likely last longer.

Colorado offers renewable energy rebates from utilities (drops the cost about in half), along with net metering and a lot of sunshine.

One of our problems here is the high electric load of air conditioning in the summer. Hot sunny days raise demand for electricity. Encouraging solar panels on buildings is an appropriate solution to that problem, and it could forestall the need for building extra generating plants. There's also something to be said for the extra security of distributed power generation. So I think incentives for solar are a good idea (there have long been incentives for other forms of power).

In Texas, your legislature is considering solar incentives state-wide, and Austin already has them.

http://www.dsireusa.org/library/includes/incentive2.cfm?Incentive_Code=TX11F&state=TX&CurrentPageID=1

Cheers,
-Jamie
www.JamieKrutz.com

Neil wrote:

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Subject: Re: Going green
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 2008 18:34:33 GMT
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Jamie is right about this. The expo's HVAC runs through super insulated pipes around the complex of 240 acres, and the total maximum loss is 3% from a central plant boiler system to the buildings. efficiency is the way to go, and the numbers can be really good.

AA

"Neil" <OIUOI@OIU.com> wrote in message news:47cd5f86\$1@linux...

>

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