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The Taos News

Renewable Energy

Bernie Linnartz

Recently I met with Bill Brown, a local energy consultant. Bill called me after reading my first article of this series and indicated that he had some thoughts and information to share.

Our meeting was an exciting educational experience for me. Bill shared his involvement within the energy field over the last few decades. His focus, commitment and passion for renewable energy are amazing and impressive. His sharing can give this series nitty-gritty examples of actions we can take locally, statewide and beyond.

I was not aware of Renewable Taos, Inc., a local nonprofit, and all that is happening that will have an impact on every person and business in Taos and Northern New Mexico. I indicated to Bill I want to be totally supportive within this series of the efforts of Renewable Taos.

I hope you will join me in this commitment. I plan to include at least one other article based on my learning from our meeting and in the near future there will be other media initiatives from Renewable Taos. Here are examples of information from our meeting.

1. Mother Nature, the body of our earth, has been moving very fast in regard to changes and transitions in the flow and usage of energy. Much has been due to how we (human beings) have been making use of energy sources. On the other hand, we, as the inhabitants of the earth, have been moving very slowly in regard to our understanding and thinking of how to be responsible to create sustainability and consistency of future energy resources. We need a paradigm shift — toward thinking about energy only in terms of renewable energy.
2. Most of the carbon dioxide coming from our fossil-fuel energy use by vehicles, industrial facilities and other human activities will remain in our atmosphere for centuries.
3. We need countless individual efforts and actions focused on renewable energy development, and we need to complement smaller efforts with larger facilities which share renewable energy, if we are to replace existing fossil-fuel power plants.
4. Due to the broad and repetitive media coverage by the fossil-fuel industry and its supporters, many of us have been misinformed regarding the realities of “clean” natural gas and coal. There is no such thing as clean gas and coal. We need to be diligent in our learning and understanding of energy.
5. Currently, our local use of solar energy fills about 10 percent of our energy demands. Our predominant sources of energy are coal, natural gas, propane and petroleum which comes from other states and countries. This means that multimillions of our dollars leave our local economy, which diminishes our local economic growth.

6. There are many local entities coming together to establish the transition to greater use of solar, wind and other renewables. There are local and state decisions happening supporting this direction. Our community, along with Northern New Mexico is becoming a model for other rural areas in the US. Progress is happening. Our involvement is needed!



Management Corner

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