

Not in my backyard: Nimby syndrome abounds

My favorite Nimby is always true to his or her nature. My favorite Nimby is always predictable. My favorite Nimby said once "don't bother me with the facts it confuses the issue." Nimbys are

very prolific in the right season. Nimbys like their own kind best. Nimbys have been known to act alone, but like groups. Nimbys are quick to anger. Nimbys don't like change. Nimbys are drawn to HOAs and CC&Rs. HOAs and

CC&Rs with strong restrictions are the favorite breeding grounds of Nimbys. Environmental threats bring Nimbys out of their caves by the thousands. Environmental threats like coal fired power plants and smelters.

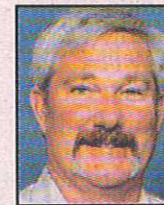
I have seen Nimbys run for office. Most Nimbys are mammals.

What is a Nimby anyway, "Not In My Back Yard." Everyone is a Nimby in one season or another. I join with my favorite Nimbys when it comes to coal fired power plants and smelters. But when it comes to renewable energy I and my favorite Nimbys don't always get along. A lot of Nimbys are against a coal fired power plant but are also against renewable power in their back yard. Some Nimbys are against dams whether existing or otherwise.

Take nuclear power. I grew up in Moab and made a living in a uranium mine and mill. If it is going to take 15 years to get a nuclear power plant up and running. What are we going to do between now and then. Even coal plants will take some years to build.

We could install solar and wind at a fast enough pace to keep up with the energy growth. We could put off needing another coal plant. We could offset the demand level of power during the day with renewable energy. We could have enough power to grow our country for a time to come with no new coal fired power plants.

What if each of us could have an "Up Yours" power plant. "Utility Power You Own Unconditionally Relentlessly Saving." What Nimby would not want to help produce enough energy to offset a coal fired power plant. What responsible Nimby



Stewart Somerville
Alternative Power Systems

can argue against renewable energy. Only the one that is true to his or her nature. But it is in my back yard!

With integrated panels solar is barely noticeable. An integrated panel seamlessly replaces tiles. These solar panels will soon be in every Nimbys favorite color. There are many new products coming out that will cater to the most discerning Nimby.

Soon instead of a 2380 watt array taking up 200 square feet of area on the roof, 10,000 watt array will fit in the same space. This is what we need to make the Net-Zero-Energy home realizable. Come on Nimbys lets have solar on our home. Let's let our neighbors install solar and wind. It is a beautiful thing. Be proud when you see solar or wind. It is helping to keep the next coal fired power plant from being built. Blue roofs are better than a yellow sky.

Encourage solar and wind power. Don't let your nature rule your passion. Think. Let energy independence ring.

Stewart Somerville, of Alternative Power Systems, Inc., can be found at 1038 West Industrial Road in Cedar City, or