

Solar power can brighten your day and re-energize the environment

Stewart Somerville

Alternative Power

Recently at the Ultimate Home Expo in St. George, Alternative Power Systems, Inc. hosted a booth and received many inquiries. Thanks to all of

you that stopped by the booth and shared your encouragement; it is most appreciated.

This year's show attracted more interest than ever before. One topic that had the most curiosity was integrated solar panels. Integrated solar panels mount with

the roofing material giving a seamless look. Another great feature of the Ultimate Home Expo was that there were more solar products being displayed in the show than ever seen in Southern Utah in one place.

There were many questions

asked at the expo, but two stood out the most. One was: What is the timeframe for systems to pay for themselves?

Well, as with any improvement to a house, there is an added value to a home when a solar system is implemented. According to the

National Appraisers Association, for every \$1 spent on annual energy savings, the value of a home increases \$20.

If you install a 1500-watt solar system on your house it can save

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you \$45 to \$75 per month on your utility bill. In one year, that is up to \$900, which equates to \$18,000 added value to your home's appraisal.

We all know that what has happened at the gas pumps is eventually going to happen at the meter.

Add increased energy costs over the next few years and your payback could be in an even shorter time.

Add state and federal tax incentives as well as local power company rebates and it is a win-win proposition.

The second-most asked question is: Why are there not more people doing solar in Southern Utah, considering that we live in an area

that receives more solar radiation than anywhere in the world? Let's ask ourselves why we have not yet taken the initiative to put solar on our own homes. Is it we just have not thought about it? Are we just unwilling to make the investment? Or is it the look of a solar system that deters us?

With the new integrated products coming out, looks should not be an issue anymore.

There are many new innovations in solar power. SMA of America is releasing a new off-grid grid-tie inverter called the Island. This inverter will allow you to do single- and three-phase battery backup.

Xantrex has finally released the new XW series inverters.

For more information, call 586-9181, write to Alternative Power Systems at 1038 West Industrial Road, Cedar City, UT 84720, or on the Internet at www.apssolar.com.