

# Get ahead of the coming ice age with smart use

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**H**ave you seen the movie "An Inconvenient Truth"? An interesting issue in

the movie was that the earth's atmosphere has not reached over 300 ppm of CO2 without an ice age following. On the chart presented in the movie we have passed that number by far. The

movie also pointed out that the earth is drying out and the rains do not come in their season.

There is no doubt that the earth is changing. This is definitely a movie worth watching.

Electric cars could be an answer to reducing the amount of CO2, as far as transportation. Toyota and Honda have led the field with electric hybrid cars. With more electric cars and better batteries becoming available, these cars could dominate the market. One way of keeping these cars 'green' would be to install a solar system on your house. In the coming years, solar will become the responsible choice.

During the day power is produced and fed back on the grid when demand is high. At night, when the demand is low on the grid, a car can be recharged. The cost of transportation can be as little as pennies a day. An average house uses 900 Kw per month.

A 4Kw solar system would produce most of this demand. Buying Energy Star rated appliances and compact fluorescents would lower the demand on the grid. Spending a little more on these products would save a lot in the long run.

For example, if the grid was not available and you were solely reliant on the power your solar system produced, you would be conscious of every watt used.

When it is cloudy, you would need to be aware of which chores create a high demand on your power source. However, when you are on the grid, you go about doing your chores oblivious to the demand on the grid.

Changing the way we live sometimes comes out of necessity instead of choice. Responsibility is the conscious

choice. With fuel cost well on their way to \$4.00 dollars a gallon, a rise of over 250 percent over the last ten years, the days of cheap fuel are gone. The cost of a kilowatt soon will be .15 to .20 cents. The demand on our power grid is reaching the upper limits. Brown outs and black outs are to be expected sooner rather than later. Is coal and nuclear really a viable answer to the problems we face? Or just the easy answer? Solar is not the answer to all problems, but it could be a large percentage of it.

Living a simpler life and being conscious of our consumption is a necessary responsibility for all. Whether it is a new car, house, food, fuel or electricity, we have a choice today.

We need not sacrifice but choose a better way of life. The upcoming generation will have some hard decisions to make.

Only the present generation can start to move towards a greener future, before it is not a choice. Have a voice in local, state and federal government and let them know what you would expect. Only together can we make a big enough difference to have a better world; not only for ourselves and our prosperity, but for future generations to come.

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