

April 2020 Living Energy Farm Update

COVID-19 is much less of a challenge for us at Living Energy Farm than for many folks. Our community is still thriving, with hearty homegrown meals and a living room full of life and music most every night. But there is a big question looming for all of us -- what comes next?

Ironically, the short-term impacts of COVID-19 are an environmental benefit, with significant reductions in pollution in many parts of the world. But as economies restart, pollution will skyrocket. The harsh reality is that economic polarization was accelerating before COVID-19 struck. For the first time in 50 years, the global rate of starvation was climbing. Now with COVID-19, economic polarization is going to accelerate.

What comes after COVID-19? To save our democracy, we need to re-claim local economic power. To save our environment, we need to do the same thing. Localized energy systems are orders of magnitude more efficient than the centralized systems we have now, but they do not fit the current corporate profit model. "Base load" energy demand is all the motors in all the residential and commercial machines that turn on any time of the day or night. Base load cannot be met with renewable energy, because those motors run whether or not the sun is shining or the wind is blowing. (James Hansen, arguably the most well-informed climate scientist on the planet, has been clear and emphatic about that point for many years, much to the chagrin of those who put politics before physics.) But at LEF, we have figured out a way to provide services while making base load go away. It's not magic, and it's not without costs or choices. But it works.

The LEF model will grow over time, because it works. But the rate at which it grows could have a big impact on our future. We need your help making that happen. After several years of trying to put out better information about our energy and agricultural systems at Living Energy Farm, we now have a dedicated crew doing just that. Follow the links below. Let's see if we can make these ideas go "viral" in the positive sense. Please help if you can.



The kids are enjoying spring.

How to Never Pay an Electric Bill

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5Wk7inoIxI&t=201s>

This video is a walk-through of our energy systems at Living Energy Farm. It is a concise summary of how these systems work, and why they are not in common use already.

Solar Installations In The Navajo (Dine') And Hopi Reservations, March 2020

<http://livingenergyfarm.org/solar-installations-2020/>

This is a photo essay about our project to bring durable solar energy systems to the Dine' and Hopi Reservations, where thousands of people live without grid power involuntarily.

Support Living Energy Farm's Climate Justice Campaign, and Bring DC Microgrids to People Who Need Them

<http://livingenergyfarm.org/support-our-climate-justice-campaign/>

This is an updated web page describing our broader social justice ambitions.

Assembly and Use of an Iron Sun Off-Grid Solar Kit

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RCMWe_cm-I&t=449s

This video is intended for people who have already purchased a solar kit from Living Energy Lights. But it is also a good description of what those kits are and how they work.

How to Graft a Fruit Tree

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enOsrWTmpHU>

Growing food on trees is the most benign form of agriculture, and a ton of fun! This video shows how to graft trees already growing all over in order to get large, fruit producing trees quickly.

Our Solar Powered Grain Mill

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_7R0-lhRWM

Living Energy Farm is largely food self-sufficient. We grow most of our own grain and grind all of our own grain, all solar powered. This video shows how and and what we grind for food.

Living Energy Farm is a project to build a demonstration farm, community, and education center in Louisa County that uses no fossil fuels. For more information see our website www.livingenergyfarm.org, or contact us at livingenergyfarm@gmail.com or Living Energy Farm, 1022 Bibb Store Rd, Louisa VA, 23093. Donations to the Living Energy Farm Education Fund are tax deductible.