

Goshen couple to run home off own power supply

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BY: Tim McFarland



A Hawk Springs couple is helping the environment one step at a time by making their lifestyle “green.”

They have an earth berm house (a house built into the side of a hill), drive hybrid vehicles and are now saving money on their electric bill by installing a wind turbine and solar panels on their property.

When the Wilsons discovered their retirement savings were slowly diminishing, they decided to find ways to live a little cheaper.

One thing they decided to cut back on was on their electricity bill.

“The cost of our rural electric has gone up from \$35 a month when we built this house, to \$150 a month,” Wilson said. “In the next two to five years, I expect it to double again because of Congressional mandates.”

Wilson spent time driving around the state and inquiring about the wind turbines and solar panels he saw, most of which were bought from SunPower Energy of Casper.

“We live in a really, really windy area,” Wilson said. “We’ve had 110 mph winds up here before.”

With the high wind in mind, Wilson spent \$30,000 on the new interconnect solar/wind system in January. The system consists of 16 2.8 kilowatt (kW) solar panels, a 40 foot, 2.4 kW wind turbine, and the necessary control panels and data collection components with the plans of an interconnect system with Wyrulec Power Company.