Let's discuss **BUILDING GREEN**. There is a smorgasbord of ideas of how to improve our lives in many areas of concern. A brief outline covers such topics as: ***SITE SELECTION, SAVING RESOURCES - MATERIALS, SAVING ENERGY, SAVING DRINKING WATER, SAVING MONEY & IMPROVING LIVING ENVIRONMENTS***.

Call me about implementing strategies to help your home and business live green which will ultimately help your bottom line. I am a LEED AP (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional which means that I am recognized by the USGBC (US Green Building Council) as a green building consultant.

SITE SELECTION – Awareness of development on land, ecosystems, natural resources & energy use.

Previously Developed –

Brownfield -Site has to be decontaminated from hazardous wastes.

Urban Development – Saves land and habitats; Minimize automobile use; Reuse existing buildings

Greenfield (not previously developed)

Reduce pollution from erosion, sedimentation and airborne dust during construction.

Select non-sensitive sites i.e. wetlands, floodplain, prime farmland, endangered species habitat, parks.

Minimize disruption of land and restore damaged areas to provide habitat and promote biodiversity.

Encourage a high ratio of open space to development.

Consider using or reducing storm water run off. Methods include collecting for non-potable water use, pervious pavement, grid pavers vegetated roofs, on-site infiltration, treating to tertiary standards.

Reduce heat island effect with shade, reflective surfaces, pervious surfaces, covered parking.

Reduce light pollution from interior and exterior lighting.

SAVING DRINKING WATER

Use less water for landscaping. Choose native species, use rainwater, use wastewater, use treated water.

Use innovative technologies to reduce waste water. Use compost toilets, waterless urinals, use rainwater, use gray water, and treat water on site.

SAVING ENERGY

Design the building envelope, HVAC, lighting, and other systems to maximize energy performance.

Manage refrigeration and coolants to reduce ozone depletion & minimize global warming effect.

Encourage on-site renewable energy sources – water, solar, wind geothermal, biomass and bio-gas.

Verify that Operating systems perform to designed & desired capabilities.

Purchase Green energy certificates

SAVING RESOURCES & MATERIALS includes

Provide storage and collection of recyclables –paper, corrugated cardboard, glass, plastic, metal etc.

Reuse of existing building and building materials.

Construction waste management - materials redirected from landfills to be reused.

Use materials - recycled content, extracted & processed locally, renewable resources, certified wood.

IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Natural or mechanical ventilation systems are designed to optimize energy efficiency and contribute to the health, well being and comfort of the occupants.

Minimize exposure of building occupants, indoor surfaces and ventilation air distribution systems to environmental tobacco smoke. Prohibit smoking or provide distance and/or positive air pressure.

Monitor air delivery systems (CO_2 detectors, air speed) at breathing zones.

Provide indoor air quality to help sustain the comfort and well being of construction workers and building occupants. Segregate construction area, sequence construction steps, schedule work to non active time. Flush air from building before occupancy. Use low emitting materials (Adhesives, Sealants, Paint, Coatings, Carpets, Composite wood), Use no urea formaldehyde.

Minimize exposure of building occupants to hazardous particulates and chemical pollutants. Use entry dust collectors; control vapors in Garages, laundry and copying/printing rooms.

Provide individual controls for heating, cooling, ventilation and lighting.

Provide daylight to work areas, Consider building orientation, light shelves, sky lights, and light tubes.

Provide outdoor views for the occupants with well placed windows, low partitions, and indoor windows.

Many more ideas, current and developing, can be considered and included to help you, your life your home and your business.

7 REASONS WHY YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED YOUR OWN HOME MADE ENERGY:

1. You will save hundreds of dollars a month... and thousands of dollars a year... for the rest of your life...
2. You'll help our environment and maybe more and more people will follow us in supporting the future of Earth...
3. You will have a lot of fun in building your own power systems. You can do it with your close friends and family during a week-end and everyone will enjoy it...
4. You will be able to go completely off-grid if you want, knowing that rising energy prices will not affect you...
5. You will be able to make the electricity company pay you, because the surplus of what you produce will make the meter go the other way, in case you want to stay on-grid...
6. You will be able to protect your pocket book during these recession times and spend money on more important things...
7. You will feel very good because you know you've done something great and you will have the wisdom to be part of the solution, not the problem...