

Plugging Into The Sun!

AUDIO

VIDEO

MUSIC -

Intro. Shot (spinning cell)

1. Photovoltaic systems, made up of "solar cells",

2. convert sunlight into electricity.

3. Small systems, with just a few cells,

3a. power many of the small calculators,

4. wrist watches

5. and radios we use every day.

6. Large systems, with hundreds of cells,

7. provide electricity for pumping water,

8. powering communications equipment,

9. lighting our homes

10. and even running major appliances.

MUSIC - Canary 14-1 - 60 secs.

11. On the outskirts of Tucson, Gary

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and Marti Ross live in a solar-powered home.

12. In 1986, they were living in a crowded Tucson subdivision.

13. With three young children, they needed more room

14. -- and a place where they could bring the children closer to nature.

15. So, they moved to the outskirts of Tucson

16. where, at the time, there were no power lines.

17. The lack of utility power did not dissuade the Ross' -

18. they simply turned to solar power.

19. The result was a 3,600 square foot home

20. powered by 36 photovoltaic panels,

21. batteries and a backup generator for cloudy days.

22. The home has all the features of any in the city.

23. Gary Ross: "I wanted to be able to show people you can build a house

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the way you want to build a house, have it look nice, and be totally functional, and not give up anything as far as lifestyle is concerned, and not give up anything as far as cost factor is concerned."

24. Marti Ross: "I have a dishwasher, washing machine, dryer, everything that everybody else has. People wonder if our TV works, yeah, you just plug it into the wall."

MUSIC - Canary 5-5 - 16 secs

25. After years of relying on solar power,

25a. utility lines were finally extended to the Ross property.

26. The family hooked up to the power grid,

26a. but did not dismantle their solar system.

26b. (On-camera inserts -- to be shot.)

MUSIC - Canary 1-19 - 50 secs

27. The Ross' family home started out as a totally independent solar house.

28. Today, with utility power lines connected to the house,

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29. the family has the best of both worlds.

30. The solar system provides a good percentage of the household utility needs.

31. When solar power can't meet the demand --or during spells of cloudy weather --

32. the family simply relies on the utility grid.

33. The Ross' have proven that there are always great advantages to Plugging Into The Sun.

34. "Special Thanks to
Kyocera Solar"