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Foreword

Around similar time every month, hundreds and thousands of Americans are visiting their mailboxes finding the comfort of their preferred magazine just to be faced with white envelopes having small cellophane windows. Most people are probably used to these mailers, water, telephone, gas and electric bills, all planning to take part of their hard-earned income. For the majority of individuals, making payments on utility bills could be a frustrating and hostile task. Get all the info you need here.



Living Off The Grid

When Living Within The Grid Is Not Making Sense Anymore

Chapter 1:

What Is Living Off The Grid?

Synopsis

What if there is something you can do or use to avoid these expensive bills from coming each and every month? Good thing, there is. Living “off-grid” is fast becoming a very popular option to those people wishing to lessen their carbon footprint, affirm their independence and stay away from the reliance to fossil fuels. Having this kind of lifestyle should be a very helpful idea if you want to cut off your monthly bill and at the same time to show your concern to the environment.



The Basics

“The Grid” is the common term used for power grid. This is the connected system which designates electricity to the accumulations. An average house is linked to natural gas, telephone, water and power lines. Choosing to go off the grid should mean that you will turn away from those public utilities in support of producing your very own energy.

A few homeowners decide to be off the grid partially through producing the supply to their own energy and trenching their phone lines, while depending on the comfort offered by the city sewage and water. Other people choose from completely living off the grid through digging wells or making use of some cistern system in order to fetch water. A functional septic tank will take care of the sewage, which means you will no longer need to incur any water bill.

This is completely what you can get from living off the grid. It is a method that will enable you from changing your way of living and avoid you from incurring the bills you often receive every month. Therefore, if you want to learn and understand how this living method will be able to change your life for the better, checking out the following chapters should provide you the best ideas.

Chapter 2:

Advantages of Living off the Grid

Synopsis

Living your life to the fullest can be achieved once you make the most of using the innovative technological equipment introduced these days. However, this can be a bit difficult because if you choose to make the most of these pieces of equipment, it means a huge swell into your monthly bills. Just like what is mentioned earlier, most homeowners have to face the consequences of using their electricity in the form of the bills sent to them every month.



Benefits

This is exactly where the role of “Living off the Grid” enters the scene. Choosing to go off the grid has a number of advantages. Deciding to go with this kind of lifestyle is not just advantageous to the people who use it, but also to the whole environment. Indeed, the natural environment can be a lot safer through opting to convert from fossil energy into an alternative power supply.

By using this method, you are helping in making the ecosystem an even more dependable and secure planet to live in. Some of the most common energy solutions that are often harnessed include green power energy coming from the wind, sun and water. These ones are called wind, solar and hydro-power.

With the application of green power, there are nil hazardous by-products, which mean that you can continuously make use of it without polluting or damaging the ecosystem. Once used, fossil fuel gives off dangerous by-products which are disseminated in many forms within the ecosystem.

After they have been used, these fossil fuels form hazardous nitrates, such as nitrogen oxide that goes back to the environment in the production of acid rain and many others. In fact, these by-products are known as the common causes for global increased temperatures.

When identified and practiced more efficiently, living off the grid should provide a huge impact to the atmosphere. Using this kind of method may even prevent global warming, which certainly benefits

all people on earth. One of the most interesting advantages you can get from living off the grid is the minimized energy expenses. When you really start to live off the grid, you may think that you are wasting more as compared to simply staying on conventional energy sources. However, the truth is that in the long run, you are switching over to something more secure, more advantageous and less costly.

At first it can be a bit costly, as you will need to purchase solar panels or pieces of hydro-power equipment you will use to start the process. However, once you are done with the process of purchasing and installing the equipment, you will then feel the benefits of not acquiring daily gas, electric and water bills.

This should take effect after a couple of days of straight utilization of the green power. In addition to this, the pieces of equipment that you will install can really be used for a long time, so can guarantee to make the most of its use.

Living off the grid will also give you the advantage of influencing and contributing to other people interested about using the same method. These days, there are a number of people getting interested about living off the grid, yet cannot continue because of having lack of knowledge.

In this case, once you've been a personal user of the method, you can then fill in this gap. Having the sufficient and reliable knowledge about the method, you can then eliminate the faulty information acquired by people from others who simple don't what they are talking about. If you know the right information regarding living off

the grid, you can then help those people close to you to take the right path by living off the grid.

Aside from these advantages mentioned above, there are many other advantages you will be able to discover once you use the method by yourself.



Chapter 3:

Is It Practical To Live Off The Grid?

Synopsis

Is it practical to live off the grid? This is a good question to be answered. Quite the obvious, it is indeed practical to choose living off the grid. Apart from the benefits offered by living off the grid, which are mentioned earlier, another striking advantage you can actually get from using this method is practicality.



Have A Look

It is indeed a wise decision if you will switch to living off the grid because of the many different advantages you can actually acquire from it. Living off the grid is very practical first because of its cost efficiency. On the other hand, just like what have been mentioned earlier, you will need to face the expenses when purchasing the pieces of equipment needed to make the system work. For instance, you wish to take advantage of the sunlight, you will then require the presence of solar panels. Yes, it could be a bit expensive to purchase this kind of equipment. Yet, after you've set it up, there is a guarantee that you will make the most of its use for quite a long period of time.

Yet, it is a practical decision to live off the grid because you will be able to free yourself from your dependency on utility grid. By living off the grid, you will no longer acquire continuous dependency on the typical utility grid. Getting used to living without the dependency on utility grid will be a lot better than what you can imagine. It will prevent you from incurring the bills you get every month, which means greener and healthier environment for everyone.

Hence, if you are having some second thoughts about choosing to live off the grid, worry no more because deciding to use this method means you make a wise decision.

Chapter 4:

What Do You Need To Live Off The Grid?

Synopsis

Deciding to live off the grid is indeed a wise decision. Yet, upon deciding to go for this method, you should be prepared of yourself as well as the things you will need in order to start the process. If you are planning to live off the grid, you will then need to consider your health freedom and food.

It is important that you wisely select your locale. With the huge increase in farm raids, EPA regulations and health raids that throttling the production of independent food, the initial concern must be the place you will choose in order to continue your desire of pursuing happiness and health.

After identifying the location you want to pursue your desire, you should then learn about the most efficient methods for off the grid food production, which should include aquaponics and permaculture. Apart from these, you will also need the following to continue living off the grid:

What Is Needed

- **The Proper Mindset.** A commitment to the sustainable lifestyle and the spirit of dependence is needed in order to make living off the grid a successful one. You will not completely escape society. Living off the grid simply means various things to various people. Others demand for contemporary convenience and huge power-generating stations, while others are more satisfied having a simpler living having rustic food storage and types of heating. So, if you really are into living off the grid, let yourself have the proper mindset first.
- **Water.** A site supported with a dependable water supply is important to off grid living, and customers may stipulate checking for some potable water supply within the property. This only means that when you are planning to live off the grid, making sure that your chosen site has a dependable water supply is important.
- **Power Generation System.** The sustainable source of energy may depend on the geographical location of the site. High trees may block the wind, which makes using the wind turbine inappropriate. The southern exposure is needed in order to power the solar system. In order to make use of hydro-power, your chosen site should be provided with the all-season creek or river. Be reminded that during a cloudy or calm day, solar and wind system will be incapable of producing energy. Running the water heater, stove and refrigerator on propane, and utilizing wood on heat production will help you conserve electricity. It

may also be a good idea if you will invest in having your own backup generator.

- Dependable Waste Disposal System. Even within areas with no building codes, you will probably need to meet sewage regulations. Disposing of wastes indiscriminately is never healthy for anybody and most health departments locally. In addition to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), you need secure waste disposal. Permissible off grid options may take in septic tanks having open air lagoon pits and covered leach fields. In several regions, composting toilets may also be acceptable. If you will go with personal septic tanks, be informed that they require regular inspections and maintenance in order to keep them correctly functioning.

Having these things readily prepared upon living off the grid will surely provide you with sustainable off grid living, so make sure not to miss them out.

Chapter 5:

How to Live Off the Grid?

Synopsis

Upon making up your mind about living off the grid, it should be clear to you the things you will need to do to achieve it right. Just like what has been mentioned above, you will need to prepare things in order to pursue your desire to live off the grid.



How To

Finding your own land where you would love to start your off grid living is the first in line. To further explain the details about choosing the site, which has been mentioned earlier, this must be south facing.

The site you will choose should have its own source of water, preferably the one that is fast-running to be suited for hydropower.

When there is the presence of trees, you have your fuel sorted. Some acres of combined arable and woodland are perfect, yet it may be too costly for most people. You can make some negotiations with other people interested about living off the grid and make a formal division of the site after.

Negotiation of planning permission is another essential step to keep up with your chosen living method. You may purchase some woodland or a field, and then move a static caravan, a yurt or a camper van on the location right away. Wanting to build your own, you may want to consider an insulated or straw-bale wood cabin starting from the minimum price range.

Whichever path you take, expect that there will always be hassles on planning. So, make you are capable of handling things professionally and readily.

Finding sufficient water supply is also mentioned earlier. Make sure you have the right water supply that will support your need of water once you've moved in. In addition to water supply, being equipped

with a reliable power supply should be included in your top priorities. Some solar panels, a wood-burning stove and a well charged battery are the primary things you will need to sustain warmth, food preparation and light. Your chosen site should dictate the finest choice. You may also consider hydro and wind when the conditions do suit. Using your car as your back-up can also be a good idea.

After you have prepared and sustained all the things you needed to do, living quietly off grid should let you take full advantage of the method.



Chapter 6:

Building Your Own Off the Grid System

Synopsis

Before you can sit back and enjoy yourself from living off the grid, of course, you will first need to build your own off the grid system. With the best off grid system, you can guarantee to have full enjoyment of the method you have chosen.

Living off the grid means that you will no longer use any public utility and rather produce your own power. Yet, what is really involved in such method? Indeed, it is not as simple as placing a couple of solar panels on your roof and claiming it good.

In terms of building off grid system, there are a number of techniques which you can combine in order to produce the entire amount of energy you will need to live off the grid comfortably.



Your Own System

You can use solar electricity to connect to off grid power. Probably, solar power is the one that pops up in the mind of most people when heard about off grid energy. This is the option powered by the sun, which requires the presence of photovoltaic solar panels, batteries and an inverter, can offer huge amount of electric power for quite a long time without the presence of stirring parts and a bit maintenance.

This is especially true if you the site you are at acquire lots of sun exposure. It only means that you have to check whether there is anything blocking the rays of the sun from shining on your roof. Make sure to purchase only high quality solar panels, which you will install on your roof. Ensure that the spot where you set them up is greatly hit by the sunlight to guarantee efficient collection of energy.

Another great source to build your own off grid system is wind electricity. After you receive good news upon getting in touch with your local weather operator to monitor on the typical wind speed within your area, producing electricity from residential sized wind turbines could be another great option to acquire off grid energy.

Being aware of the average and the range of wind speed within your area will enable you to create estimation of the electricity a certain system can produce. Always bear in mind that wind speed on a particular site may significantly vary from local averages relying on regional topography.

In terms of selecting the turbines, size matters a lot. A wind turbine powered by 400-watt, which is sufficiently big to cover a number of appliances, utilizes around a 4-foot-diameter rotor. A turbine powered by 900-watt utilizes a 7-foot turbine.

A 10kW or 10,000 –watt turbine, which is enough to support all or most of home appliances, utilizes a 23-foot turbine. This is installed on the tower usually more than 100-feet tall. Evidently, living within a minute plot or town, the huge one is not going to function very well, so you have to consider carefully which type of turbine you should be using in your site. Before deciding to go with hydro-power you have to make sure that your site is receiving sufficient amount of breeze that will support the whole system.

Being the most expensive off grid power to generate among the three, microhydro electricity is probably the least known. This form of electricity utilizes the source of running water source, such as a stream, in order to produce electricity. The electricity is generated from the energy of flowing water coming from high level going down to the lower level, which turns the turbine located at the system's end.

Hence, depending on what your chosen site can offer, you may freely choose the type of electricity you want to power your off-grid system. Having these details in mind may somehow help you deal with the generation.

Chapter 7:

Living Off the Grid with Wind Generator

Synopsis

If you are lucky and choose a site that is rich in breeze required to support a wind generator, then going with wind electricity should give you the trick. Wind power functions in the same way as solar power does. An average residential sized wind turbine may appear like an airplane propeller that sits on top of a 50-foot up to 120-foot tower.

As wind blows, its blades begin moving and spinning the shaft, which leads from the rotor's hub to the generator. The generator may take the energy generated from such rotation and then converts it into a form of electricity.



Generator?

Just like solar cells, the electricity produced by these wind turbines is changed into functional AC power using the inverter. A lot of users choose to combine their wind energy with conventional power in order to generate an improvised system, which will lessen their bills.

During these instances, the electricity produced will then be stored by the public utility companies. When the energy you generate is higher than your consumption, there are some states that will actually enable you from selling the electricity back into a utility company.

On the other hand, in order to live off the grid, you have to cut the ties completely with the energy company. Through this possibility, the energy you generate will then be stored in the system of batteries in the form of DC power and will be converted into AC power once require it.

Typically, the battery system should be designated in the shed or garage close to a power source.

Wind power is considered as the cheapest and cleanest energy innovation used all over the globe. The typical price for every kilowatt hour on coal-burning electricity is 10.4 cents during the year 2006.

Wind energy may be produced from the limited of 3 cents every hour in maximum conditions. In addition to its favorable cost is the fact that there are no any greenhouse emissions that are produced. That is

why there is no longer a surprise why the utilization of wind power is fast growing.

To be able to generate wind power, you will need the utilization of wind turbines. These wind turbines are an efficient and clean method of rotating raw kinetic wind energy into an electric power.

These tools may be directly connected into some machinery to acquire mechanical energy. They may also be alternatively connected to electric generators and may produce electricity.

The turbines are three-bladed structures, which are mounted on high towers or poles.

They are often pointed into the wind with the utilization of sensors and computers.

A wind turbine itself is created from the rotor that is mounted to the wind turbine generator that is then installed to the farm, while the tail is installed on the rotor's opposing side. If you will consider making an investment to this kind of power generator, make sure to consider a hybrid electrical system with the use of solar energy panels at the same time.

Relying on the site you are living along with the amount of sunlight generated during the warm summer months and the wind speed's seasonality, you might find that you will obtain more benefits from utilizing all the natural resources in order to energy to your home instead of using only one..

The power and essence of faith in order for you to accomplish and to achieve is being emphasized. Christ said, “According to thy faith be it unto you.” He emphasized two words – belief and faith above all other.

God created you for success, and not for failure. He definitely wants you to achieve the things you want and he wants you to prosper. Thus, encourage yourself with great positive affirmations. Increase your faith and it will keep all your doubts away. Use strong faith for you to prosper and achieve abundance in the different aspects of your life.



Chapter 8:

Using Solar Panels to Live Off the Grid

Synopsis

Another form of energy that you would want to complement your method of living off the grid is solar power. Residential homes that are using solar power often have the PV (PhotoVoltaic) solar panels that are placed on their roofs or in close proximity to the house.

These solar panels basically consist of cells that are made from silicon semiconductors. Once the light of the sun hits those panels, the semiconductors found on it will then gather the energy and thump electrons loose in order for them to flow freely.

A certain electric field within the panel will then take those electrons forcing them to flow into a single direction. This then in turns create the electrical DC (Direct Current). After which, the direct current will be passed through the inverter which simply modifies it into an AC (Alternating Current), which is then used by your home.

Solar

To be able to know how solar power works will surely require you to determine how solar cells work. You have probably seen calculators having solar cells. These are devices that don't require the use of batteries, and in other cases, some don't even have the off button. Provided that there is sufficient amount of light, they will probably function as long as you use them. This is similarly true with the solar panels used to power a home.

The expectation for the "solar revolution" has continuously been roaming around for a few years now. This is the idea that a day will come when people will utilize free electricity with the help of sunlight. It has been a very seductive promise, as during a bright, fine day, the rays of the sun is giving off approximately around 1,000watts of energy in every square meter of the surface of the planet. Being able to gather all that energy, you can certainly power up your home completely for free.

You may add here the extensive variation of solar exposure through location. You are indeed lucky if the living off the grid site you choose is a spot where sunlight greatly strikes. If you want to make the most of living off the grid, looking at the possibilities offered by solar power generator is a great choice. It should be a cost effective option if you want to sustain the energy required by your off-grid location.

Chapter 9:

Explore Micro Hydro for Alternative Energy

Synopsis

After knowing about the advantages and uses offered by wind and solar energy, you will probably wonder what water can do to you when it comes to generating power.

One of the greatest things you can get from water is the fact that you can find it just about everywhere. It runs under your feet as it falls from above in the form of rain and become groundwater. You may strike into both of those sources so as to continue living off the grid.



Water

Based on a report given by EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), approximately around 15% of homes within the United States acquire their water by their own. Therefore, there is no hard reason why you can't become one of them. In fact, there are over seventeen million homes within the United States which acquire their potable water from private wells. Its principle is quite easy involving the hole drilled or dug deep into the ground while the pump is drawing out the water. There are a number of regulations which are used to these private wells.

Hence, it is important that you use only a certified well driller. It is very easy for hazardous contaminants to escape into the well once it is not properly installed. The price of private well may range from the price of \$3,000 up to \$15,000, varying on the depth of your journey. Making a deeper well means a higher chance for you to acquire clean water. You may use a water filter to achieve better-tasting water. Another advantage of using a private well is the fact that you will be able to avoid restrictions in your local watering systems when on drought period.

These details given above could be your alternative to using your public water utility, which indeed helps you avoid incurring the water bills you receive every month. When it comes to using water to produce energy, the whole idea is quite different because generating hydro power requires the presence of continuously flowing water.

Micro hydro electricity is probably the least known among the forms of off grid energy systems. It utilizes the source of flowing water, just like a stream in order to produce energy. It is generated from the energy that is present in the water that flows from the high level down to lower level. This process is the one that rotates a turbine located at the system's bottom end.

The generation of micro hydro electricity could be the most cost efficient among the three forms of energy being discussed. If the source of flowing water is reliable and good on which it flows 24 hours every day and seven days each week, it will probably provide sufficient amount of off grid energy for a very long period of time.

This should be true since it generates much more constant energy; smaller number of batteries will be required to uphold the energy since there is no time when the system is not harvesting energy. Indeed, just like the other two forms of energy, a micro hydro power generator requires fairly specific onsite conditions. Without the presence of a stream near your site, it will be impossible for you to use micro hydro.

However, if luckily you found an off-grid site where you can perfectly build your alternative micro hydro powers source, grabbing that opportunity should be a good idea. With continuous flow of water, you will have the continuous flow of energy generation.

Conclusion

Save Energy Cost When You Live Off the Grid

After discovering all the possibilities offered by living off the grid, you will certainly find yourself feeling interested about acquiring the advantages it offers. Hence, this will make you decide to start your journey right away.

However, before you finally start, you should know that aside from saving the Mother Nature from the treats of excessive use of fossil fuels, one of the most striking advantages and most common reason why more and more people decide to live off the grid is the fact that they can actually save high energy cost from it.

The regular delivery of utility bills is fiercely hunting each and every home owner, particularly the ones who consumes a lot of their energy. Since the use of technological appliances and devices is no longer avoidable, it could be quite hard for homeowners to try conserving energy and save spending their hard-earned money for their utility bills. Not to mention about the continuous rise of electric bills these days, which further worsen the burden of many people.

Nowadays, living without the presence of the accessible devices, tools and machines could be very difficult to just about every individual, especially the ones who are already used to using them. This is why there is no longer a surprise why most of them face the dread of

paying high monthly utility bills. In this case, solving your problem out with the best solution offered to you by nature could be your best resort. With the presence of sunlight, wind and water, your concerns about utility bills must instantly be resolved.

What you will only need to think is the initial purchasing of the pieces of equipment needed to start the process. As you may expect, it is indeed quite expensive to purchase these devices, such as the solar panels. However, the expenses you will spend on purchasing these items will certainly be equalized or perhaps even outdone by the savings you will get once those power generators have been set up. At first, you will find it expensive, but after a couple of months of utilizing the generators then you will observe the benefits you are actually having the second thoughts of. With the use of these power generators, you will get the chance to avoid from incurring the huge utility bills you usually get every month. This should mean a huge saving to your whole budget. Through this, you will be able to spend the money your save on other more essential and necessary items.

This is actually what the magic of living off the grid will offer you, so make sure to try it out and have no doubt of its exceptional benefits. Have a better and cost efficient life by simply living off the grid!