

Head librarian educates on the benefits of a solar-panel system

Terry Mackey speaks to a campus audience about one of his newest steps in sustainable living: the installation of a solar panel system on to his home.

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Arts & Culture Editor

For somewhat-radical "green" supporter Terry Mackey, the solar panels he installed on his house eight months ago are an investment that is already providing him with cheaper, more sustainable living.

Mackey, who is the head reference librarian at the college, shared the experience and his newfound knowledge of solar power Tuesday, May 6, from noon to 1 p.m. in the McLoughlin Auditorium.

As one of the many speakers for the Sustainability Project at Clackamas, he spoke on what he titled, "Lessons from a 6.3 Kilowatt Solar Installation: How to

Reduce Your Home's Dependence on the Grid."

"When I see something that needs to be changed, I change it myself in my life," Mackey defined as his philosophy.

And he did just that when he and his wife made the decision to install a solar-panel system on to their home, allowing it to run entirely on solar electric power.

Oregon, he claims, is "one of the best places on earth" to use such a technology.

It seems that is especially true of the Portland Metro area, due to the flexibility of Portland General Electric (PGE) to work with solar-panel users.

In certain times of the year, Mackey said that the system he owns generates more power than others.

**CO2 saved in eight months:
almost three tons**

**Kilowatts produced in eight months:
3,564 kWh**

**Taking another step toward
the environment: price**



"PGE lets us bank that energy," he said.

Mackey is then able to use the extra power to keep his house running in the cold winter months, when the amount of energy created is less than he uses.

Picking the system and beginning installation

Mackey and his wife knew that they wanted to put solar panels on top of their home, but the first thing that they had to do was conduct research to find the best possible system for them.

After getting proposals from several different companies, the one from Sunlight Solar — which has one of its bases in Bend — was picked above the rest.

The 6.3 kilowatt system is comprised of 30 sunpower modules, each being 210 watt.

In order to begin the installation process, Mackey needed to make a few updates to his house.

He began by bringing in a new panel box, and afterward sacrificed the skylight.

Another preparation was building racks for the panels to sit in so that they would not directly touch the metal roof.

Finally, the Sunlight Solar crew was able to transport the panels from Bend and install them on top of the Mackeys' roof.

A video can be seen of the last panel being established by searching YouTube for "Stacey installs the last Solar Panel."

The resulting

Although the system cost thousands to install, Mackey is back every day with energy generated from it.

In fact, the first month after the installation, a total of \$8.77, and continued to be through the winter.

The energy saved by the system be compared to the Mastercard commercial.

CO2 saved in almost three tons.

Kilowatts produced in eight months: 3,564 kWh.

Taking another step toward the environment.



John Shufelt/Clackamas Print

Speaker Terry Mackey informs a campus audience Tuesday, May 6, about his experience of placing a solar-panel system on the roof of his house.

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