

GOD AND GLOBAL WARMING

Tapping into what God made possible

I'm a great fan of global warming, because it's waking us up to what God made possible. When he gave us the job of looking after this planet, it came with all kinds of powers and energies he created that we could tap into for our survival.

I believe we are waking up to those possibilities, too, because look what we're doing already because of global warming: we're dumping some of our massively wasteful practices of the past, making energy technology more affordable, using the immense power of the sun, waves and wind more, and we're talking with genuine concern about the kind of world we're leaving to our grandchildren.

We're cottoning on to some exciting possibilities, too, like us homeowners being able to produce our own electricity. I like that idea, especially after reading about the staggering cost of nuclear power. The Darlington nuclear power station, for instance, cost \$14 billion, and in 15 years time (2023) the estimated cost for replacing and refurbishing the other nuclear reactors in Ontario is \$40 billion. Some people double that estimate to \$80 billion, remembering the massive \$38 billion debt racked up by Ontario Hydro, mainly caused by its expansion into nuclear power.

Atomic Energy Canada and the Provincial government would like us to believe that nuclear power is still our best option, but they're meeting opposition and they have their own track record to blame. I'm glad, therefore, the Ontario government is offering homeowners up to \$5,000 to make their homes more energy efficient and reduce the province's need for nuclear energy. It's a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, when you're living in an ageing home that makes no use of the sun, wind or thermal power whatsoever, \$5,000 doesn't get you much.

I wonder, then, if our elected leaders would consider upping that \$5,000 grant a bit if I could save them a few billion dollars in exchange. Here's my proposal: there are 2.5 million homeowners in Ontario who, with present technology, could produce their own electricity. They could even put power into the grid, as many homeowners already are. If, then, all 2.5 million homes were hooked up to that technology we wouldn't need to replace or resuscitate our aging nuclear reactors in 15 years time, which would free up a lot of money.

How much money? Well, based on the lies, deception, delays, political dallying, CEOs creaming off their millions and other hidden expenses in the past that doubled the cost of the Darlington plant and tripled the cost of rebuilding two reactors at the Pickering plant, plus the cost of fuel disposal, safety liability and the need for at least 8 brand new reactors as well as rebuilding present ones, plus inflation over 15 to 20 years, I think I'm well in the ballpark with a figure of \$125 billion. Divide that figure by 2.5 million homes and it frees up \$50,000 for each homeowner to retrofit his home into producing its own energy.

I realize the government can't just hand out \$50,000 to every homeowner, but it could get the process started so that in 15 years time, when our creaking nuclear reactors are reaching the end of their lifespan, homeowners have their own independent power supply already working. The technology is there to do it. Honda, for instance, designed a micro heat and power furnace, already being used in thousands of Japanese homes, that generates its own electricity as well as heat, and costs \$14,000. Put that together with a

\$6,000 solar powered water heating system and homeowners would be well on the way to reducing the need for nuclear reactors for a cost to the government of around \$20,000 per home.

Is this whistling in the wind? It isn't in Germany, where the plan is to close all 19 of its nuclear reactors by 2020, using wind, solar, hydro, biomass and geothermal power sources instead. It isn't in California either, where Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill that puts solar power on the roofs of one million homes and businesses in the next 10 years, and he's offering \$3.2 billion in incentives, including the chance to sell one's surplus electricity back to a power company. What is possible, therefore, is already happening!

Could our own government do the same for us, then, realizing we have the technology available to not only produce enough electricity in our homes to meet our household needs but potentially enough to power our own electric cars, as well? Think of the benefits for our grandchildren, living in a world where they won't need a gas station, they'll never have to worry about the price of oil or hydro, and they can power a home for peanuts.

But we live in that world now. We live on an incredible planet with sources of power that do not pollute, carry no risk and go on forever. Throw in a courageous leader who understands the opportunity of the moment and scoffs at excuses, and we could save billions of dollars for our grandchildren.

So bring on global warming, because it's opening our eyes to what God made possible when he put us on this planet and told us to look after it. He put powers in place and gave us the brains to discover and use those powers, if we're interested - which clearly many more of us are.