SOLAR PANEL REPORT

We did a project for the ABC Association to help make a decision on solar panels for the apartments. We worked at Jeff’s home on these dates: 1\6\10-1\8\10, 1\6=1 hour, 1/8=4 hours.

The problem we are trying to address is that people are paying for electric when they could use the sun for their power. By installing solar panels on the ABC Association condominiums they would not only be saving money but also making the apartments environmentally friendly. Dominion Power’s current average rate is $.05 per kilowatt hour (kw/h). If we implement the suggested solar panel system (see below) they could potentially save $123 per day on average using the 315 Sunpower solar panel. This would make a result of $44,895 per year.

We did the following:

* Researched solar panel construction and their purpose;
* Determined solar energy per square meter using an insolation map;
* Calculated the usable area of the roof, the size of a solar panel, and how many solar panels we need;
* Researched the cost of a solar panel system;
* Researched current trends in solar technology;
* Calculated the average kilowatt/hours per day for the roof.
* Wrote a letter to Mr. John Doe of the ABC Assocation.

We suggested the 315 Sunpower solar panel to them. What we meen by 315 is that the solar panel produces 315 watts output. This solar panel has a very high efficiency (19.6%) compared to other brands (typically 12%), meaning how much solar energy it can convert into electricity. The Department of Energy is using the same brand of solar panels, but a different model with different electrical power (205 watts).

We calculated the cost by dividing the area of the building by the area of each solar panel. We figured out that we can place 39 solar panels on the roof. All the solar panels would make 12,285 watts maximum. A RecSolar (http://www.recsolar.com/) salesperson told us that the cost of a solar system is $6 per watt, so we multiplied the cost by the maximum watts. That ends up as $73,710 for the cost of installing a solar system.

One of our future goals is to help put a solar panel up for a buiding or a home, maybe the ABC Association building. Another goal is to reduce Dominion Power’s need for coal to make power because when you burn coal it creates bad fumes and that helps pollutes the earth. We would like to tell Dominion Power in a letter to check out the solar panels because for people who do not have solar panels on there house could use Dominion Power’s solar energy and not be polluting the earth. Since Dominion Power doesn’t pay any money for there solar power except for installing the solar panel system Dominion Power might lower their power bill (or solar bill). Some of the ABC Association’s future goals are putting rain barrels and a compost for the condominiums. We suggested the association to appoint a organizer for the effort.