

## DO-IT-YOURSELF POWER... WHERE DO WE START?

The invasion of Big Energy into Johnson Valley and all over the Mojave Desert has sparked a lot of conversation.

The idea of renewable energy, given free to us from Mother Nature, pure sun and wind and volcanic steam, makes everyone feel so warm and fuzzy they do not stop to think,

**"How is all this lovely green power getting to my toaster?"**

The LA Department of Water and Power wants to build a line of very expensive, very inefficient transmission towers, the so-called "Green Path North" destroying miles of desert, to feed Los Angeles with power from renewable sources.

Then, to be connected to it by more transmission lines, solar and wind energy producers from all over the country and the world, too, are bombarding the Bureau of Land Management to permit them onto our public lands.

So all this green power gets to your toaster by:

- ¥ expending energy to manufacture the parts for these towers, turbines and plants,
- ¥ expending energy to transport the parts to their final positions,
- ¥ expending energy bulldozing and dynamiting the land,
- ¥ expending energy building the towers, turbines and plants, and
- ¥ expending energy to maintain them forever.

Last but not least, this green power gets to your toaster by permanently destroying the environment it is generated on or passes through.

You have thousands of acres of dead earth with huge arrays of solar panels, cleaned with precious desert water. You have enormous wind turbines lined up across any space where the wind blows, that produce amazingly little energy. And you have geothermal plants that use superheated steam from volcanic sources to turn turbines, and if well pressure drops, precious surface water will be pumped into them. Plus they send steam, water vapor, into the air, *the* major greenhouse gas.

Too bad if you don't like all this or want it.

This is Big Business, Big Energy, and they see Big Bucks to be made in the desert, a gold mine.

This is because makers of feel-good policy in Washington and Sacramento have no idea of the unintended consequences of building and maintaining these systems. Big Energy says, "We are required by law to do this." (Of course, they don't forget the Big Bucks our tax money is going to subsidize them with.)

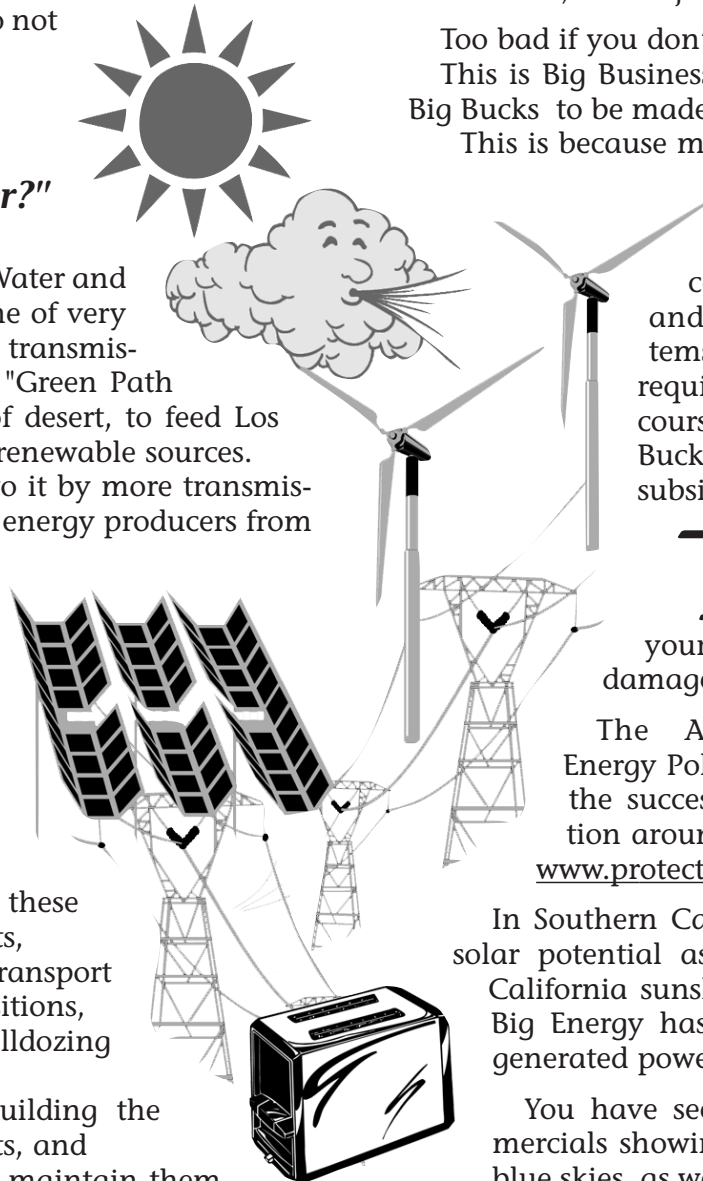
The best, the only, way to produce truly "green" power is to produce it yourself. Do-it-yourself, with no damage to the environment.

The Alliance for Responsible Energy Policy has a lot of facts about the success of rooftop solar production around the world on its website, [www.protectourlands.com](http://www.protectourlands.com)

In Southern California we have twice the solar potential as most areas...our famous California sunshine. Why can't we use it? Big Energy has the clout to fight locally generated power, and does.

You have seen the expensive TV commercials showing the solar farms and the blue skies, as well as the windmills and the blue skies. What you don't see is the blasting and bulldozing of our public lands, and the devastation of the desert forevermore.

And when one of these projects fails? What happens to the installations? Who gets the



ruined public lands after that?

AREP has submitted comments to Congress and the California Energy Commission, has made presentations to the BLM, to the County Board of Supervisors, to the Sierra Club, to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, all promoting the use of rooftop solar and micro wind energy generation (see page 26).

The word is spreading. Even though AREP cannot buy television time like Big Energy can, the word is spreading.

The New York Times printed an article on September 24, stating the cause of the opponents of utility scale energy projects, and quoted Jim Harvey among others. Fox News Channel is planning a story on this issue, and actually sent a crew to Daggett, to the facility shown here, and Ainsley Earhardt interviewed Jim Harvey there. As of press time, it is known that interview will appear on the Sean Hannity's America Show.

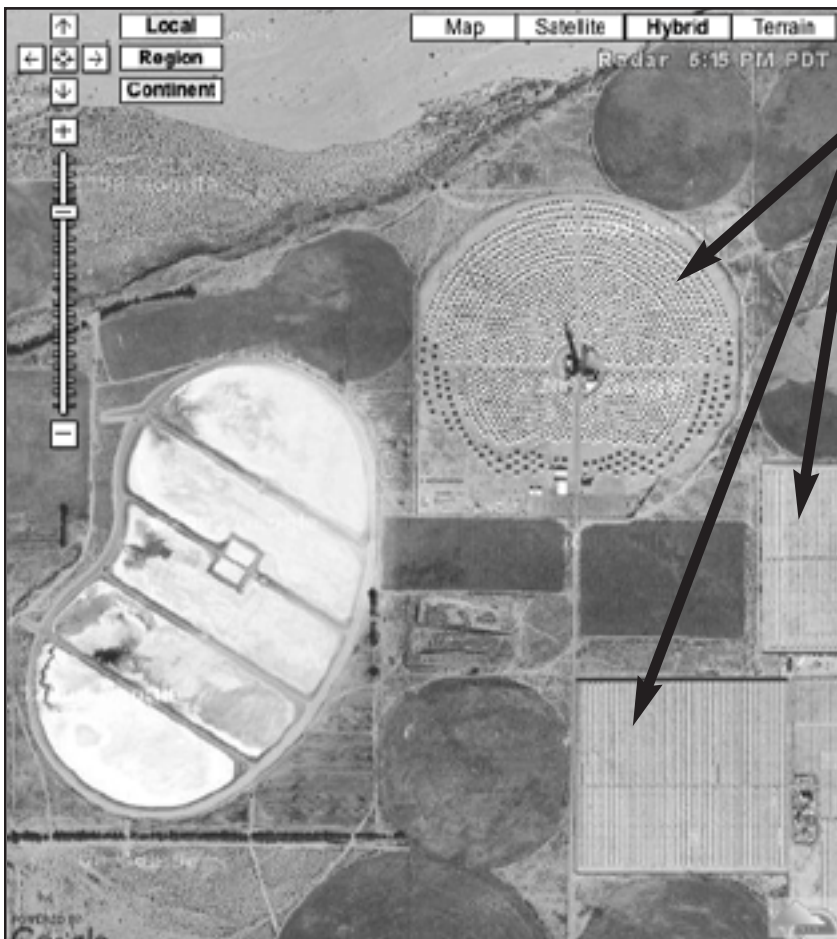
**W**e have heard no further word on Green Path North since the meeting in Yucca Valley in July.

The saying is, no news is good news, but we doubt that with the LADWP.

They neglected to mention at the meeting that their 330-ft-wide right of way application would require an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Plan which would designate a 2- to 5-mile energy corridor through the high desert. All future transmission lines, oil, water and gas line projects would go into this pre-approved corridor.

That means the wilderness on our mountains and the streets in our community would be sacrificed to supply "green" energy into Los Angeles.

**W**ith all the issues affecting our Johnson Valley lifestyle, it's hard to know where to protest next. But we can hope this energy boondoggle finally has the light of day shone on it all over the country. We can hope our tax dollars are not going to pay for this massive con game.



*The failed solar installation at Daggett, California, in the Mojave River Basin, no doubt because there is a water supply there (see the irrigation circles in the satellite view).*

*Note however that nothing is growing underneath the solar panels*

