

LOCAL BUILDER GOES GREEN

John and Kathy Thoma, owners of Thoma Construction, have painted their business another color. Green! The local builder and cabinet maker has always tried to be friendly towards the environment. “We have designed our homes to exceed energy conservation standards, claims John Thoma. “We practice what we preach at our home and cabinet shop.” An efficient wood burning boiler is used to burn scrap wood from job sites and their cabinet shop to heat both the shop and the house. They cut wood and plant trees to make up for the balance of heating fuel needs. The high gas prices didn’t hurt as bad as they could have thanks to the hybrid car they also own.

“We still felt like more could be done, so we contacted Carroll Electric,” Thoma states. “Carroll Electric is a company that is on the leading edge of technology. They have been working on one of the largest wind farms in the country. They design and install electrical energy conservation systems, are involved in landfill gas projects as well as help turn agricultural waste into reusable products and energy. Our greatest interest was in the solar electric systems they install.” Allen Dittmar, Carroll’s local electrical design engineer, designed a 7.13 kilowatt system that fits perfectly on the shop’s roof and will produce more power than the business will use in a year. “The sun’s energy is free and renewable,” states Dittmar. “Today’s systems are robust yet simple and designed to last forty years or more. What other commodity or appliance can you purchase for your home or business that will continue to pay you back for forty years? Should you decide to move, the housing market has proven that homes with renewable energy sources hold their value better and appear to sell quicker.”

“We have always tried to add additional value to the homes we build for our customers,” Thoma states. “This technology is a real viable option for our clients. Right now Focus on Energy will fund about 25% of the installation cost and the new Federal energy bill now allows for up to 30% of the installation costs to be used to offset tax liabilities for both residential and business use. In the end, the cabinets we build are from a renewable source and the power used in the process is also renewable, that just feels right!”



Press release
by Al Dittmar

