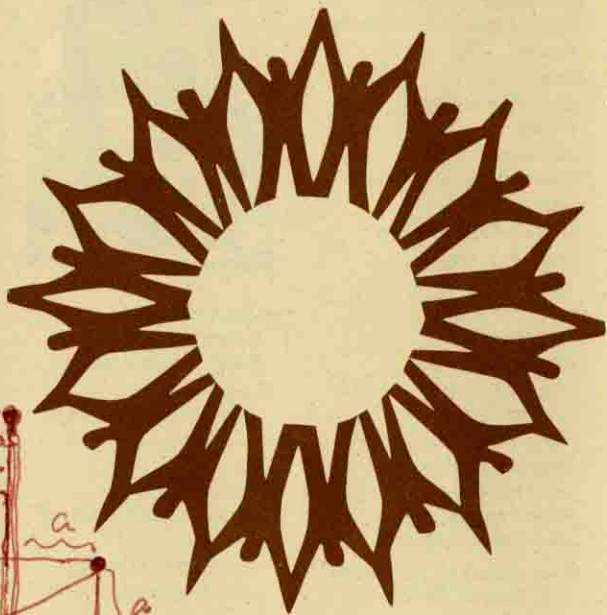
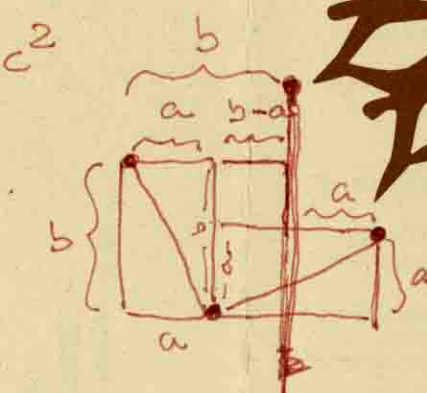
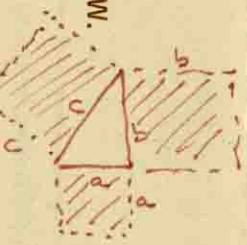


Sun Day  
 Suite 1100  
 1028 Connecticut Avenue N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20036

# SUN DAY



# May 3

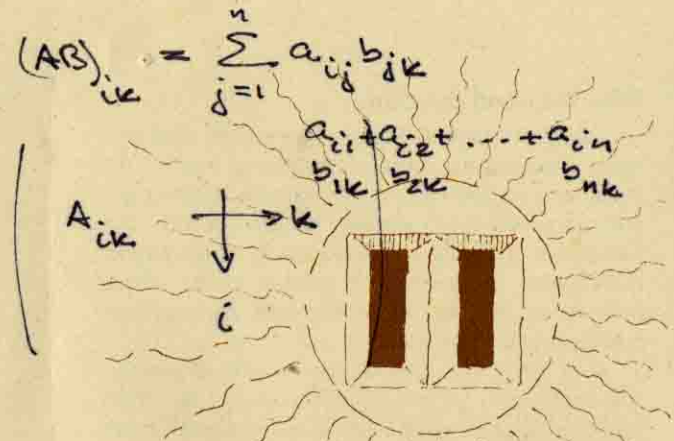


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## The Sun

The sun has been shining now for several billion years, and scientists expect it to keep doing so for several billion more. The sun rises every morning and sets every evening, delivering energy to your doorstep (or rooftop) without powerlines, pipes or a hose. It is the most predictable and egalitarian energy source. Since the sun doesn't foul the air, land or water, it is safe and non-polluting. And there isn't a thing that a terrorist, hijacker, multinational company or international cartel can do to prevent sunpower from reaching you.

Even when the sun isn't shining, its immense energy is at work making the winds blow, clouds form, rain fall, and trees and crops grow. Since the sun transfers power into everything it touches, the proper technology can harness that energy and put it to work for you. Sunlight becomes hot water through a solar panel. It



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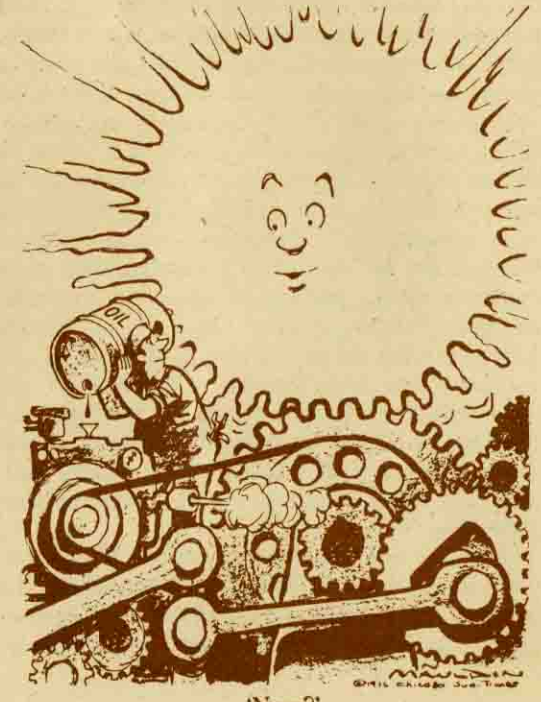


Tom Chalkley  
 Environmental Action

becomes electricity through a solar cell. Wind becomes a water pump through a windmill. Rainfall becomes electricity through a small hydroelectric dam. Wood becomes warmth through a wood stove. Our planet will never have an energy crisis as long as there is a sun — if we begin to harness the sun's power.

Solar technologies are not "exotic" — many of them predate the oil, gas and nuclear technologies that surround us today. Windmills, solar panels, wood stoves and small hydro dams have been with us for centuries. Now they are just waiting to be put to widespread use.

On May 3, 1978, there will be a national celebration of the world's only inexhaustible, predictable, egalitarian, non-polluting, safe, terrorist-resistant and free energy source. It will be called Sun Day.



'Now?'

## Why We Need the Sun

Today the United States relies on oil, coal and nuclear power for most of its energy needs. All three energy sources involve massive production, transportation and storage facilities which are vulnerable to massive failures (such as blackouts, meltdowns or terrorism) which could affect millions of people. Moreover, each conventional fuel has major drawbacks:

- In 1974, U.S. production of oil declined for the first time. It has been declining ever since. Meanwhile, as we reach the bottom of the oil barrel, the price of oil is climbing steeply. Imports now comprise half of all the oil used in the United States.

- Although the U.S. has plenty of coal, deep mining is very dangerous, strip mining ruins the environment, and burning coal pollutes the air and creates a health hazard. In fact, the National Academy of Sciences recently concluded that carbon dioxide from burning coal could create severe climatic changes around the world.

- Nuclear power is so complex and dangerous that each 1000-megawatt plant now costs more than \$1 billion to build. In fact, the utilities themselves are having second thoughts about nuclear power, and orders for new reactors have dropped off to only one or two per year. Meanwhile, more than 100 million gallons of nuclear waste are being stored in temporary federal facilities while scientists frantically search for ways to safely dispose of the radioactive material.

## What the Sun Can Do

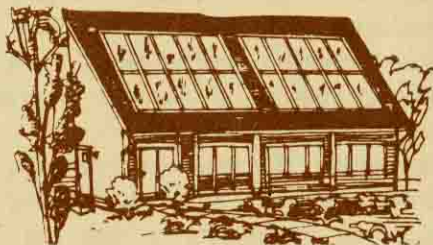
- In Atascadero, California, a designer has built a "sky-therm" house. Using bags of water on the roof and movable slabs of insulation, he can heat the house in the winter and cool it in the summer using only the sun.

- The United Auto Workers Union has installed solar panels to heat the large indoor swimming pool at its conference center near Black Lake, Michigan — one of the most northerly locations in the U.S.

- The enterprising residents of a New York City tenement erected a windmill on their roof to provide electricity for hall lights. On windy days the

windmill produces enough electricity to send power into Con Edison's system and make the building's electric meter run backwards!

- In 1976, the Energy Research and Development Administration calculated that using solar power for heat and hot water is cheaper than using electricity in every part of the nation except the Pacific Northwest (where water power is abundant). By 1980, solar will be cheaper than oil or gas in most regions, too.



## What You Can Do on Sun Day

In communities all across the country, citizens are making plans to celebrate Sun Day. The Sun Day office has heard about solar fairs, conferences, teach-ins, sunrise services and solar rallies.

On May 3, 1978, when the sun first hits the U.S., Sun Day activists will be there. A group is planning a celebration on top of Cadillac Mountain in Maine. Later in the morning, New Yorkers can enjoy a sunrise concert at the United Nations. Some folks in Martinsburg, W. VA. are planning a tour of solar homes, and if you go to Princeton, N.J. you'll be able to see some spectacular movies of the sun itself. In Chicago, plans are underway to build a huge community greenhouse. Farmers in the Midwest will be able to see a traveling slide show depicting agricultural uses of sun, wind, methane, and other fuels available right on the farm. Unions in several cities are considering huge rallies to call for more solar jobs. Several congresspeople and state legislators want to pass solar legislation on Sun Day. And Californians will be hosting appropriate technology fairs, sun art shows, poetry readings, and street theatre as the sun heads out over the Pacific.

Sun Day can be whatever kind of celebration you want it to be. One person has suggested the world's largest solar clothes dryer — a coast-to-coast clothes line to be set up on May 3. Others

are planning funeral services to mark the end of the petroleum era. And Old Uncle Gaylord's Ice Cream Parlor in San Francisco is giving away free "Sun Day sundaes" on May 3rd.

What ideas can you come up with?

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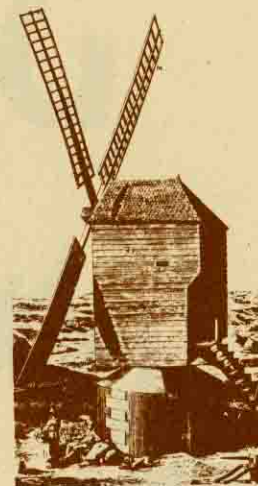
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