Solar Features, Part III: It's Not All About Economics for Solar Enthusiasts

was when his Golden home was on hold electrical usage so much that the 2007 Tour of Solar Homes. He he has electricity to spare for the is such an enthusiast for sustain-

able living that he even cooks most of his meals outside directly with the sun (using mirrors). I remember eating a couple cookies which he had baked in a "Sun Oven."

Since then, Steve has invited me to his home numerous times to take in his latest effort to get well past "net zero" on overall home energy usage. You'll recognize his home by the Prius in

his driveway (the license plate says "PLUG IN") with an electric cord attached. Steve doesn't let Xcel ed Prius, and he gets 90 to 100 miles per gallon. It is charged using surplus electricity from the photovoltaic panels on his home's roof.

Steve's extensive use of lowwattage LED lighting and Energy

The first time I met Steve Stevens Star appliances has cut his house-Prius, while still selling 8,623 sur-

REAL ESTATE

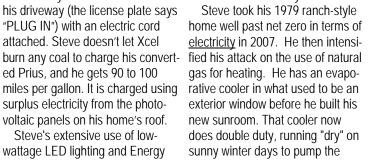
TODAY

By JIM SMITH.

Realtor®

plus kilowatt-hours to Xcel in 2009 alone...

A retired Bell Labs engineer. Steve now devotes his time to further pushing his carbon footprint into negative ground, not only because it makes long-term because it's the right he'll tell you.



sun's warmth throughout the house.

Steve's sunroom was built from recycled/cull materials purchased at Habitat Outlets and other building material recyclers. Reusing materials rather than buying new is a core principle of sustainable living.

He hand dug four feet deep around his foundation walls and installed 4-inch foam insulation. He blew insulation into his ceilings to R-100 and into his exterior walls to between R-15 and R-60. He installed six large "sun tunnels" (reeconomic sense, but flective tubular skylights) to eliminate the need for daytime electric thing to do. "We owe it lighting. By enclosing and insulating to future generations," his porch, Steve created an "air lock" entry. As a result, Xcel now pays Steve more than Steve pays Xcel for energy year after year.

> Steve feels that energy savings is the right place to invest both his time and money, as well as providing personal and national energy security, and assuring what Steve calls "generational justice." .

This Week's Featured New Listing:

2-Story Green Mountain Estates Gem

This picture, taken after Monday's snow storm, doesn't do justice to this home's landscaping. The address is 871 S. Arbutus Street, in the heart of Green Mountain Estates, a mature neighborhood on the east-facing slope of Green Mountain, west of



Alameda Parkway. Things you'll like about this home include its beautifully landscaped (and private) backyard with a 17'x22' covered wood deck, the gleaming hardwood flooring, four upstairs bedrooms, a 12'x29' family room with gas fireplace, and an 11'x27' game/fitness room with rubber flooring in the finished basement. The oversized 2-car garage includes a workshop. A video tour will be on its web page shortly.

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