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Oct 5, 2008 8:14 pm US/Mountain

Solar Home Tour Offers Ways To Save Energy, Money



BOULDER, Colo. (CBS4) — People toured homes over the weekend in Boulder to get ideas about saving energy and money at the Solar Homes Tour.

Reporting **Erica Lewis**
[E-mail](#)

One homeowner, Andrew McKenna, can tell how much energy he uses every minute of the day. His family's "Smart Home" is equipped with everything from solar panels to hardware that allows them to see exactly how much energy they are using.

"On thing that I've come to realize is that we use the dryer a tremendous amount and how much energy the dryer uses," McKenna said. "We don't do little loads anymore with the dryer."

The hardware also displays how much energy is generated from the solar panels, how much they are using, and how much they are buying or putting back on the grid.

Load Manager technology allows them to monitor single appliances like the refridgerator, dryer and furnace.

"I think we use the steam shower a lot less than we otherwise might have," McKenna said.

All the information is shown over the Web in graphic form. Eventually homeowners and utilities will be able to use the technology to conserve more energy.

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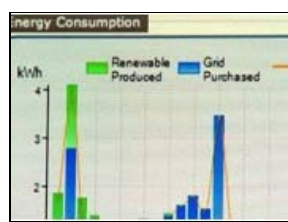
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"I think we use the steam shower a lot less than we otherwise might have."



The hardware displays how much energy is generated from the solar panels, how much they are using, and how much they are buying or putting back on the grid.

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