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A windy idea helps a local man save money

(Air Date: 2/5/2007)

A Buchanan County man is saving money using windy days to take advantage of Mother Nature.

Ron Sullivan is building an energy cost efficient home in Buchanan County. His house will have thick walls and doors to keep him cozy at a low price.

But having his own energy windmill makes that much easier.

"This is one of the best ways I figure that I can get for your own electricity uses, compared to solar powered shingles and things like that," Sullivan said.

Concerns about global warming inspired him to find ways to help the environment. That's when he found Krystal Planet, the company that built the windmill.

"The normal home their going to generate from 60-110 percent of their energy needs," James McGinnis, Krystal Planet, said.

The wind tower is about 75 feet tall and you can see it from about a mile. Sullivan said many of his neighbors have already started asking questions about it, some even considering building one themselves.

"This is one of the first ones around this area and just get an idea of what it looks like and it doesn't take up that much space," Sullivan said.

He said the success with wind farms in the Northwest have empowered people to use Mother Nature as a source of energy.

Owning one of these wind mills can cost between \$11,000-\$15,000 but Sullivan considers it a long term investment.

Hopefully I can kind of break away from Aquila all together," Sullivan said.

The windmill is not turned on yet but when it is he'll have enough energy for his farm and even sell some back to Aquila.

Sullivan invites anyone who's interested in building a windmill to stop by his place on Highway 371 and take a look.

The company, Krystal Planet, said it's already building independent wind mills in Northwest Missouri and as far as Iowa.



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