

Follow Us:

Home | About Us | Contact Us | Events | Magazine | Special Reports | Register | Login

By Objective

By Sphere

By Solution

Safe | Clean | Efficient | Profitable | Compliant | Closed-Loop

Advertisement

Article | Comments (0)

Edna May Holmes, Conservation Pioneer

By **Bill Holmes, P.E.** March 19, 2012 02:47:58 pm

Email | Print | Like 1 | Tweet 3 | 12

When I first started teaching classes on energy conservation, I used my Grandmother Holmes as the model conservationist. Now that I have written a series of articles explaining the advantages and the reasons you need detailed information to save energy and, hopefully, you might have even understood some of it and started to buy in a little, I am going to tell you about my Grandmother's approach, and completely confuse you.

In May 2010, when I left my then home in Steamboat Springs, Colorado for a camping trip on the North rim of the Grand Canyon, I had just finished writing several sections of my book, 'Would You Fly in This Building', talking about the value of energy monitoring and energy information, of being able to see how much energy your overall facility and major energy-consuming systems use every minute of every day—how essential it is. But as I was driving and camping and hiking, something was bothering me. I finally figured out what it was, and felt that I urgently needed to write it down. After blowing out all of my truck fuses (I'm an energy expert?) trying to power my laptop from an inverter plugged into the cigarette lighter, I left my primitive campground and started for home.

I know how disgusting that must seem, as it still does to me. I can't believe I did it. To be camping all alone on the North rim of the Grand Canyon after driving 28 miles on dirt roads to see one of the most amazing and breathtaking sights on earth, to leave early because I needed to write something down. Sick! But I was in such a hurry to get it all down I couldn't wait to get back to Steamboat. Even with notes I was afraid I would forget what I wanted to write.

About 10 miles north of Durango, evening was approaching and I didn't want to spend another night in a campground in my truck without writing everything down. I use the term "write" loosely – I must have had a pencil and paper with me but for some reason when you are accustomed to writing on a computer, thoughts just somehow don't flow well the old fashioned way. I was trying to decide what to do when I realized that I wanted to find a remote bed-and-breakfast (with electricity) where I could just write for a day or two. I envisioned a secluded log home in the woods. And no kidding, as soon as I decided what I wanted to do (I couldn't make this up) I saw a sign in the distance. As I passed it I could see that it was at the entrance to a B&B, so I turned my truck around, went back and followed the winding gravel drive to the house.

It turned out to be the Logwood B&B, right on the Animas River; even more beautiful than I envisioned. I was the only guest that night, as it was between seasons, so I had the place to myself. The following was written while I was sitting on the deck, listening to the river roaring from the spring snowmelt and watching the full moon come up over the mountains to the east. Are you hating me yet?

What was bothering me were a couple of statements that Peter Judd had made several years ago when he was associated with New York City Public Housing. We both had written articles in the same issue of the Journal of Energy Engineering and had corresponded a few times. His first statement was:

"Submetering added to apartment houses in New York City resulted in a 15% to 30% drop in consumption. It is simple

Where Does All of the Electricity Go?

In 1950, the average house size was less than 1,000 square feet. Today it's almost two and on-half times as big. According to the Long Island Power Authority, when William Levitt was completing the first large-scale, post-World War II suburban development on Long Island, the average household used about 2,600 kWh of electricity annually. Today, the average home uses more than

Sustainability Infographics



We here at Sustainable Plant love infographics. Aside from being easy to read and ingeniously designed, they are also incredible resources to have on hand, ready to share with others. With this in mind we've put together a collection some of our favorites from around the web. Check them out, pass them along and let us know if you have any other infographics you'd like us to share with the community. [View the gallery](#)

Author Bio



Bill Holmes, P.E.
Bill Holmes, P.E. founded Holmes Energy LLC www.holmesenergy.com and developed the AutoPilot Monitoring-Based Commissioning (MBCx) System in 1979. He has a B.S. and M.S. in mechanical engineering and has done additional coursework and research for his PhD. He is a former Purdue professor and taught for several years in the Continuing Education in Energy Management Program at the University of Wisconsin.

Bill has produced savings from 20% to, in a few projects, more than 50% from low-cost, no-cost changes in management, operation, maintenance and control alone in all types of facilities including Industrial Plants owned by Fortune 500 Companies.

He is the recipient of a DOE Award for Energy Innovation and was the Indiana Energy

enough; if you have to pay for something you will use it more carefully."

9,500 kWh per year, nearly four times as much. Why? Continue reading...

He told me he had tried installing new, more efficient furnaces, programmable thermostats and making other improvements to the apartments without success. Nothing had worked until each tenant had to pay their own bill. He didn't have to teach them how to save; they figured it out on their own. He gave them an incentive. They didn't have one before.

See Whole Article 1 2 »

Relevant Tags

buildings, career, conservation, electricity, measurement, monitoring, software, workforce,

Add a comment

You cannot post comments until you have logged in, and have an appropriate permission level. Login here or register for a new account.

Related Stories

- America: Land of Opportunity, Land of the Consumer
Face Energy Challenges Like a Frontiersman
The Energy Audit: A Sacred Cow of Energy Management

Manager of the Year in 1990. He has published numerous papers and been making presentations on his projects and methods for more than 25 years. Bill is a sculptor, a writer and a regular contributor to Sustainable Plant.

RSS Author Articles

The Most

Most Recent Most Read Most Commented

- Nation's Largest Brewery Goes Landfill-Free 10/18/2013 12:10pm
Infographic: The Dangers of Industrial Dust 10/18/2013 11:44am
Compressed Air Systems: Friends or Foes of Sustainability? 10/18/2013 10:29am

Green or Green Wash?

Manufacturer Designates Eco-Certification for Electrical Devices

The company's Acme electrical devices meet criteria established by the company for its Eco-Certified designation. Demonstrating its commitment for a better, cleaner environment, a company has developed an eco-certification designation for a variety of its industrial products, including the company's entire line of Acme electrical devices. The company's Acme electrical devices meet criteria established by the company for its Eco-Certified designation: The devices have a positive impact on...

Read More >>

Add Your Comment >>

Swisscleanwater Group

Just selecting and buying a water filter isn't enough, you also need to know the ways to maintain it so that you can enjoy great service from the Clean water...

Author 2/9/2013 @ 10:44pm

Read More >>

Supporters Corner

1 of 7



Rockwell Automation
A Sustainable Approach to

2 of 7



Emerson Rosemount
Rosemount 708 Wireless

Help Make Your Operations
Cleaner, Safer, More Energy
Efficient and Competitive

Acoustic Transmitter