

# Doug Rye *says ...*



## *Energy Commandment #5: Thou Shalt Use the BETTER WAY*

A few mornings ago my wife said to me, “This would be a perfect morning to go to the farmers market. It is CLOUDY, about 70 degrees and NO WIND.” Even if we don’t buy anything, it would be a nice morning together. (Men, no comment about spending).

Well, I agreed and proceeded to get dressed for the market. There were about 20 vendors at the market and I like to talk to all of them. I want to know if they actually grew or made the products that they were selling. The first person I met was a lady who had small bouquets of wildflowers. I told her that I would buy my wife flowers if she didn’t act up or spend any money. We proceeded around the square and purchased fresh blackberries, tomatoes, peaches, greens, grapes and two bluebird houses. We ended up at the flower lady’s table. She smiled and said, “You are back.” I said, “My name is Doug Rye. Have you ever heard of Doug Rye?” “Yes, you are the man that writes in the *Rural Arkansas* magazine. What do you think of solar?” she asked. I looked straight up toward the sky and turned 360 degrees, not saying a word. Several seconds passed as I continued to look at the sky. Finally, she said “It wouldn’t work very well today, would it?” I responded that it would not. She asked, “How about wind?” Yep, you guessed it, I looked toward the sky and the trees, turned 360 degrees and she started laughing as she said, “It wouldn’t work very well today, would it?” I encouraged her to read the September issue of *Rural Arkansas* to learn the BETTER WAY.

Why do so many ask about solar and wind? It is because they care about the world, our nation and their own houses. That is just like me and most of you folks. Part of that concern is about the carbon “footprint” created as a result of energy generation. I don’t know of any person who objects to reducing the footprint. On most days, however, generating electricity at your house with solar doesn’t even reduce a “toeprint.” In my opinion, sealing the ductwork and adding attic insulation would reduce more “toeprints” than solar. Now, caulk and install a geothermal heat pump and you might reduce the print by five toes and a half foot. You simply get better results for less money, even when the sun is not shining and the wind isn’t blowing.

Today is my birthday and I opened a gift from my daughter about 15 minutes ago. It is a beautiful scenic book about Arkansas waterfalls by a Carroll Electric Cooperative member –Tim Ernst. Folks, I care as much about this country and the environment as anyone else. It is none of my business what you do, I just want you to know the BETTER WAY.



CHUCK HARALSON

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