



THE SOLAR TIMES

JUNE 8, 2060

THE FUTURE OF PHOENIX

It's a new dawn in Phoenix, Arizona. The age of fossil fuels and corporate giants is finally over. Solar energy has turned from its roots in the space industry to become a resource and beacon for local communities around the globe and especially in Phoenix. It is used to create jobs, boost their economy, and foster their culture. No community is alike and neither is any solar energy system. Each one looks and functions differently for each community; what works for some, doesn't work for others. Each lifestyle has been refined and works for that specific community. There is no one size fits all. One community member from Flagstaff says, "I moved here ten years ago, and it was a huge change for the better. The way of life here in the forest differs greatly from my snowy hometown of Boston. I couldn't have asked for a better community and an easier transition. My lifestyle here in Flagstaff fits me so much better than my old city. Phoenix has had a huge impact on the way our community works now and with the resources from neighboring communities I have those urban privileges without the hustle and bustle of the urban city. I have the resources to use renewable energy, access to community products and a more rural lifestyle that I love."

While each community is different, what they do have in common is the technology they use and their environmental impact. Now that corporate giants are gone, communities blend their tech seamlessly with the environment and focus on the materials and resources they are using. The focus of each community that makes up the greater Phoenix area is no longer on profit, but the joy of living. People have been fueled by greed and striving for growth since the time of the Fertile Crescent. Agriculture became the way of life that was supposed to be universally beneficial. It became a battle between refined lifestyles and a one size fits all lifestyle. This war was as bloody and personal as the conflict between Cain and Abel. Instead of two brothers, there were two different cultures and lifestyles, a hunter-gatherer lifestyle and a strict agriculturalist lifestyle. In this conflict, agriculture, just like Cain, reigned supreme. While agriculture itself was not the murderer, the thought that it was the right way to live was murderous. Cultures refined over centuries had been traded for one culture that eventually encompassed the globe. This idea of overproduction "just in case" has ceased, and now we live in an era similar to that of over 10,000 years ago.



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Them. Here in Phoenix, Arizona, we have a bustling economy of community businesses and solar technology. While it doesn't match the imagined solar future from Arizona Highways from almost a century ago, it isn't so different. Solar energy is a huge part of our lives, but we implement it on a small scale at the community level. Each community works together to implement and utilize solar energy and renewable energy. At times it seems like we are all one big community in Arizona. We are so integrated that each community is integrated with each other yet their own. We trade food, goods, technology, and knowledge with any community no matter how big or small. The Phoenix community is massive and there are smaller communities within it. We don't discriminate against those who choose a new community or float between different ones. Whether the community is based on location, race, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexuality, they are treated with respect and honor as well as each of their community members. For us in Phoenix, we interact with those in Flagstaff, Arizona often.

We provide them with solar panels and energy and they provide us with goods we need. While we chose a more urban lifestyle, they chose a more close knit lifestyle. Their ways of government and life focus more around nature. They forage, camp, and choose to spend time in the wilderness. Their energy consumption differs from ours. Their rural energy usage is based around heating and cooling, cooking, and household uses, whereas here in Phoenix our urban energy consumption is used in household uses as well as transportation and technology. One community member from Flagstaff says, "I chose to stay here in Flagstaff because of this way of life. I have always loved nature and the community in Flagstaff called to me. I have been to Phoenix before and the urban lifestyle just doesn't suit me. While I don't prefer their lifestyle, I don't try to change my neighbors. I tell them about how I live, invite them to visit me, and respect them."

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Like every solar energy system, we are all connected, but we are not the same. We don't all function the same, we don't use the same materials, and we don't have the same products. Just as how silicon solar panels differ from cadmium-tellurium solar panels, and how bifacial solar panels differ from thin film solar panels. Each is connected and similar, but are not the same. Every community is connected throughout the globe just like how these solar energy systems have similar parts. In the case of the community, places along the beach provide the silicon needed in silicon solar cells that we use here in Phoenix. Since it is so abundant, we refine copper here and send some of it and the tellurium created as a byproduct to the communities in Colorado. One local company, First Solar, creates Cadmium Tellurium solar panels as well, so while some of the tellurium is sent to Colorado, the rest of it is utilized here in Phoenix where it is then distributed amongst other local communities who can benefit from it. Companies like First Solar still exist as well as world communication and world travel, but it is much more community based. In First Solar, all their employees and engineers are educated in photovoltaics and are from different communities in Arizona and across the United States and can highlight their necessities. The highly diverse company team can provide insight to the social value of each energy system for specific communities. They are then able to create solar and renewable energy systems that work for specific communities and their needs. For Phoenix, First Solar creates highly urban fitting and artistic solar panels to fit that lifestyle. Compare that to Flagstaff. They make low maintenance, smaller, and more natural looking solar panels for Flagstaff. The engineers from each community work together to create highly specialized energy systems. This is exactly how other companies are run. They are run and facilitated by people who have the knowledge of the community and the qualifications. World travel is not just about staying on the beach around people like you, but being immersed in welcoming cultures and seeing new things and learning new things.

We all rely on each other and respect each other and are all interconnected. Like with a solar panel, a chain reaction is created that turns sunlight into energy, the way we interact with each other is much similar. Here in Phoenix, it begins when communities in San Diego send silicon to us to use in our solar panels, just like how when the sunlight hits the solar panel it creates an electrical field. Then we send some of our energy to our friends in Flagstaff, much like how the electricity that is generated, flows to a conductive wire. And like in a solar panel when the wire takes the

people in Flagstaff use the energy to power their houses and machines. The clothes created by machines and people are then distributed among the community and the neighboring communities of Utah and other communities in Arizona, much like how the electricity is then sent to a breaker box and distributed in a solar energy system. Each community works together without assistance from old forms of government. People with knowledge and the qualifications are chosen for initiating and facilitating these large scale interactions. One facilitator says, "My grandmother used to work for the SRP in Arizona in the 2000's to 2020's. I followed in her footsteps because she was the only member that could truly advocate for our community and their needs. I know work with a large group of diverse people who advocate for their communities and we work together to facilitate how we can help each other. We share our knowledge of the earth, cultures, and communities, to create an understanding of how we can seamlessly interact with each other." Each facilitator understand the needs of their communities and not the needs of just themselves.

HOW IT CAME TO BE

While we function much like these energy systems on a large scale and community scale, it took a long time to get here. Converting from fossil fuels to renewable energy was directly tied into the death of corporate giants. Corporate giants ruled the world, they only focused on profit and never on the well being of their employees or the environment. They made empty promises to lower their carbon emissions and make it to net 0 emissions. What eventually started to turn the tide was in May of 2021. While you may not know the company now, Exxon Mobil was an oil giant, but in 2021, two environmentalists were elected to their board. This was the first time that their management had lost a vote against directors that the company picked. The two environmentalists were backed by a hedge fund company. It forced Wall Street to confront the issue with nonrenewable energy and that they were playing a huge role in the irreversible damage to the planet. Not only that, but during that era of change, gas company Shell was forced to lower emissions by 45% and Amazon was forced to confront climate change when thousands of employees walked out in protest of their unethical practices. One community member who worked at Amazon during the 20s says, "I love my life now. I have been

how happy everybody looks. 40 years ago, I would have never felt this comfortable. The road to get here was rough, everybody around me was struggling to adapt to the ever changing world. I was just a dumb 20 year old when the world started to change. It was scary. I worked at Amazon and I hated it. When the world really started to change, I lost my job along with millions of other people. I had somewhat expected it, I participated in the employee walkouts to challenge Amazon's climate policy. I expected to get fired for that, but instead I was fired because the world started to change. I struggled for a long time, I never imagined that this would be the world I live in now. I finally enjoy life, I enjoy what I do, I enjoy my community, and I enjoy being around everybody. Without that harsh struggle, I, along with millions of others, would have lived in a world that hated me just as much as I hated it." The state of affairs 40 years ago differed greatly from the life we live in now. We lived in a world where communities based on gender identity, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and race were in constant conflict. Everybody was trying to change everyone. Nobody was in the right because it was a world based on intolerance. Now during this era of peace we respect every community and rely on them, but we do not try to change them. It was a long road to get there, and much like during the post World War I era of the 1920s, the world was in a time of change that nobody saw coming. We can look back on it and thank those who sacrificed their lives, well being, stability, and childhood to fight for the bright solar energy future we now live in.