



[The Easiest Entry into Renewable Energy](#)

February 14, 2007 at 9:11 am · Filed under [Publications](#), [Solar Water Heating](#)

The February issue of [Mother Earth News](#) has published an article “[Go Solar for Free Hot Water](#)” written by Bob Ramlow. Adapted from a book that he co-wrote, [Solar Water Heating](#), Ramlow covers costs vs benefits as well as the installation considerations based on the temperate regions found in the United States.

Solar water heaters vary in their details, but they all do the same basic things: gather heat in a solar collector; transfer the heat, directly or indirectly, to the water supply; and store the heated water until it's used. They use relatively simple, time-tested technology, which is one reason they are a best bet in renewable energy.

Well known for his work in the Midwest with renewable energy, Ramlow is a founding member the [Midwest Renewable Energy Assoc.](#) (MREA), a solar thermal consultant for [Focus on Energy](#), and co-owner of Artha Renewable Energy. His Wisconsin straw bale home incorporates both a solar water-heating system and a photovoltaic solar-electric system.



Tags: [solar+water+heating](#), [bob+ramlow](#), [mother+earth+news](#)

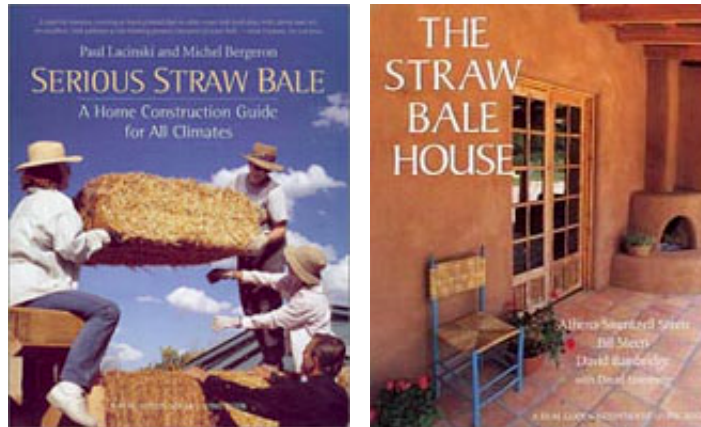
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[How green do you want to be?](#)

February 10, 2007 at 4:40 pm · Filed under [Publications](#)

People often ask if I design Green buildings. The answer is yes but how green do you want to be is my reply. If you want to go dark green maybe a canvas tent would do or a straw bale house. Now don't resist just yet, a straw bale house is really not a bad idea. At 18 inches you get an R value of 45, if done right, it can really be quite beautiful and it's biodegradable if you want to tear it down. Straw bale construction reduces the amount of wood used to build and the amount of energy to heat. A well built straw house is as fireproof and strong as any conventional home, I doubt the old wolf is going to huff and puff these houses down.

Two personal favorites are published by [Chelsea Green Publications](#). They do a rather nice job at covering all the problems and solutions related to straw bale construction.



[Serious Straw Bale](#)

A Home Construction Guide for All Climates

Written by Paul Lacinski and Michel Bergeron

[The Straw Bale House](#)

Written by Athena Swentzell Steen, Bill Steen, David Bainbridge and David Eisenberg

[Comments](#)

[Mazria](#)

February 10, 2007 at 10:57 am · Filed under [Events](#)

There are several books that are always near my desk. Ed Mazria's book [The Passive Solar Energy Book](#) is one of those books. The book is over 25 years old, pages well worn, markers and folded pages everywhere. [Ed Mazria](#), architect, author and educator has been a great inspiration to my building design over the years. There are few who recognize how important building design is to our future like this man does.



On February 20th, Ed along with Dr. James E. Hansen, Chris Luebke and Susan Szenasy will be sharing

their knowledge at [The 2010 Imeritive: Global Emergency Teach-In](#) web-cast.

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[In the meantime...](#)

February 10, 2007 at 10:01 am · Filed under [Website](#)

While we work diligently to launch our completed website, we'd like to take a moment to introduce ourselves. Home based in Green Bay, Wisconsin we're a grass roots shop with big ideas.

Our founder, D.Lindgren, boasts over 25 years experience working with active and passive solar. Lindgren's home designs have evolved with the technology, once focused on passive solar simply because active solar was too expensive for the common home builder, newly available materials and resources have allowed Lindgren to incorporate affordable active solar systems with smart home design. With this new found affordability, we can now focus on brining you sustainable solar homes for modern living with Sun House Solar.

So as we work on the finishing touches to our website, we'll be painting the blog green with topics pertaining to solar energy and sustainable living. We welcome your feedback, and would like to extend a thank you for your interest in building a green future.

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