

# Energy expert . . .

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Laitner gave the example of the David, California community, where electricity dependence has dropped 18% and natural gas by 30% because of a community movement toward renewable resource.

Why hasn't this caught on elsewhere? Laitner blamed the basic lack of economic understanding on the part of the people and the competition of the established energy sources, such as Exxon.

Laitner said that private construction of solar systems depreciates the importance of the big companies.

You notice that gas is going up because the price of oil went up and they want to get that even. Until they straighten that out, they don't want to see solar happen. Utilities certainly don't," he said.

To redesign one's home to a solar heated system, the main problem lies in getting the initial money together. A solar wall, which could save the consumer

over \$250 dollars a year by itself would cost over \$800. Attached Sunspacers run near \$3,100, but also save the money in the long run. Laitner used Lincoln as an example of how a community could re-define itself toward this goal.

Laitner was critical of all three presidential candidates' energy platforms saying John Anderson has said some good things, but has failed to give any definite answers to problems. Carter's performance has shown a 3% deficit in solar plans, and in order to fit his own policies."

"We're left believing that only we can do something about our future. We need to understand that doing nothing will lead to a depletion of natural resources."

"There are no miracles involved at all. We've got to want it, believe in it, and work for it. That's the only way."

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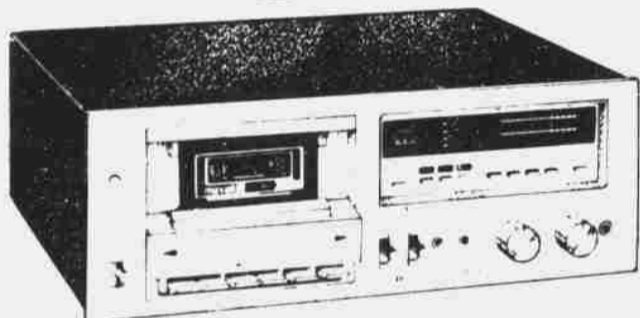
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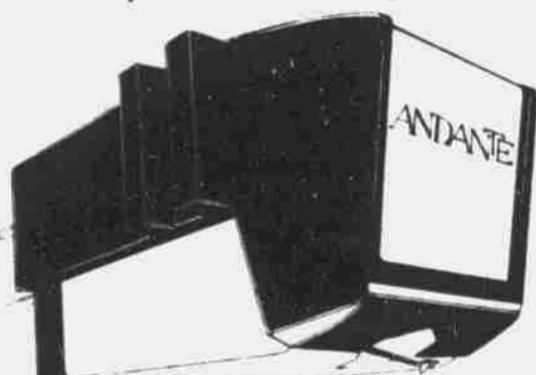
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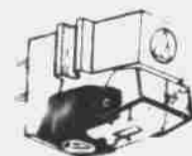
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