

# Retrofit

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and water active solar heating retrofits that cut heating bills by one half to two thirds. These systems tend to have a long life (20 plus years) with some maintenance costs along the way. A domestic hot water solar system retrofit can cost \$6-10k, and an active space heating solar system will run around \$100 per square foot of collector area.

Since these systems are not cheap and the payback time is uncertain (because it is tied to future fuel prices), the implementation of generous state and federal energy credits is an extremely important

economic incentive. The main reason for this is that the alternative fossil fuels (propane, coal, electric, etc.) are already heavily subsidized by governments who donate corporate tax breaks, limited liabilities, oil depletion allowances, etc. On top of that, who can calculate the environmental, human and political cost of both overt and clandestine wars fought for the control of the world's declining fossil fuel resources?

At the very least you can bring your dog in on cold winter nights to contribute around 75 watts of body heat energy. In areas where pollution from wood burning stoves is limited, fossil fuel energy can be saved by using this renewable source. Unlike fossil fuels, burning wood is rel-

atively carbon neutral because the CO2 released was sequestered in the wood only decades before.

A website available for tracking the latest developments for state and federal tax credits can be found at <http://www.energytax->

[incentives.org](http://www.incentives.org)—and other natural building and solar applications information is at <http://www.crestone-solarschool.com> where upcoming renewable energy education workshops are announced periodically.



Homemade air collectors are retrofitted onto an existing home as a neighborhood project.



Drainback thermal hot water systems for space heating (above) and domestic hot water (left) can be retrofitted onto older homes and may qualify for government tax credits.

**Window Expressions**

**Leslie Roark**



**(719) 256-5121**

**Window Coverings**

It's the Sign of Success™



**Joyce Weis, Terry Smith, Jillian Klari (EcoBroker®)**

Wherever you look,  
you see the signs...



Our office name may have changed but Century 21 Valley Realty of Crestone will remain a small, hometown real estate office. We just have more marketing resources at our disposal. We really are a small office with worldwide resources.

One of our main goals is to be a part of and promote the Crestone community. Our brokers don't just care about their customers, they care about the community. Crestone is a hidden gem and we will do our best to promote environmentally friendly housing as well as finding ways to market those unique properties. We are happy to have an associate who has earned the EcoBroker Certified<sup>®</sup> Designation and we hope to have the entire office certified very soon. We want to encourage energy efficient and sustainable designs in real estate. Our natural resources are precious and we should be able to utilize them with prudence and care.

When you are looking to buy, we can help with our incredible knowledge of the Crestone area and Saguache County. We know the homes and the people in the community and we are here to help you in any way.

**When you want quality service and answers for all your real estate questions, call us!**

**Century 21 Valley Realty of Crestone**  
**719.256.4444**



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