



(Pat Decker photo)

MINI-COURSE — Richard Wasek of Stillwater, left, and John Naisby of Monroe, listen to an explanation of how a solar hot water heating system works from Richard Bonte, owner of Solar Living Inc., Netcong.

Tech, Herald Expo:

12,000 get a glimpse of energy future

By ANDREA CLURFELD
Staff Writer

SPARTA — No, it wasn't the World's Fair and it wasn't Disneyland.

But the first Energy and Trades Expo sponsored by the Sussex County Vocational-Technical School and the New Jersey Herald over the weekend had an air of both the future and the fantastic.

To the very small, looking up at windmills and sleek cars and giant machines, the Expo must have seemed like something very grand.



(Pat Decker photo)

SOLAR DISPLAY — Charlie Hope, inventor and president of Solwin Co., gave demonstrations of a solar windmill he designed.

And to the average homeowner, the largest component of the more than 12,000 Expo visitors, the fair was something very grand indeed.

"I found it most informative," stated Al Franz of Byram on one of his two visits to the Expo. "There's been a general broadening of my knowledge, just by walking around, listening. How I can better use energy really has surprised me."

FRANZ learned how to "trouble-shoot" his oil burning system and how to understand efficiency ratings. He can pinpoint problems with a hot water system faster than one can say "Jack Rabbit."

To Ted Chamberlin of Fredon, one of the youngsters doing some serious future planning at the Expo, solar energy is "the name of the game."

"The sun's really great!" he said. "Those solar panels are really something else."

JANET MOSCOWITZ of Lafayette is planning to build a new house in Sussex. Her information-gathering was pointed and purposeful.

Toting brochures and pamphlets, Ms. Moscowitz explained, "I'm investigating different types of heating and insulation, gathering information on woodstoves and that type of thing."

She admitted she was surprised at the number of county firms that deal in energy-related supplies — and at the number of different items available to suit her needs.

WORDS LIKE "energy-efficient," "thermo-insulation," "dual-fuel pumps" and solar anything sprang to the lips of the Expo visitors as quickly as the brightly-colored pamphlets sprang into their hands. There was much to learn, much to see — and even more to think about.

"It's a whole new way of thinking," said Marge Rauscher of Vernon. "We were brought up thinking light bulbs were a great invention and wow, cars are meant to burn up the highways. Now we've got to teach our kids something else."

Mrs. Rauscher was impressed with the variety at the Expo. "There seems to be a solution for most of our energy problems," she said. "I'm going to have to dig into these booklets once I get home. I probably have problems I don't even know about."

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Expo

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"I knew I was coming to an expo on energy," Denise Hoesle of Branchville said. "But I didn't expect all this. I'm surprised."

MS. HOESLE was interested in the costs of heating a home with solar heat. "It's so efficient,"

she said, using those ordinary words that suddenly took on new meanings at the Expo.

"I've been stopping at every table, picking up something," she added. "It's amazing how much you can learn — and all in one place."

Feeling thoroughly modern, Mrs. Joseph Szabo of Lake Stockholm peered at a windmill that produces electricity.

"Those windmills use your electricity," she observed, "but then make electricity through the wind. It's like recycling, right?"

Mrs. Szabo smiled. "Well, I'm here to learn," she said. "We don't use any conservation measures now so whatever we learn will be helpful. I'm enjoying this."

TOM MARCHESSELLO, the teacher at Vo-Tech who organized all the unpaid volunteers and exhibitors who put on the three-day Expo, walked around the fair like a proud father.

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