

## In This Issue:

- ▣ **Councilman Stavros Anthony makes declaration . . .**  
CCCU President Wayne Tew named Las Vegas 'Citizen of the Month.'
- ▣ **LVVWD hosts an employee benefits fair**
- ▣ **"Perfect car, perfect color, perfect price!"**  
Denise Hooshmand, R.N. buys 'perfect' car at CCCU
- ▣ **Zappos.com holds employee Benefits Fair**  
And CCCU was there . . .
- ▣ **Planning a Budget with Your Kids**  
Teaching them skills now can only help them later
- ▣ **What Is Collateral and Why Is It Important?**  
Collateral can be an important part of the loan process
- ▣ **"When should I start Social Security?"**  
CCCU sponsors member seminar with David Dixon Financial Group
- ▣ **Bathroom Makeover**  
You can revamp your bathroom for less than you'd imagine
- ▣ **The Pros and Cons of Wireless Internet**  
How do you know if wireless Internet is right for you?
- ▣ **Costs and Benefits of Solar Panels**  
Taking a closer look at the pros and cons of solar energy

## The Latest

### **Councilman Stavros Anthony makes declaration . . .**

#### **CCCU President Wayne Tew named Las Vegas 'Citizen of the Month.'**

"Good morning, everyone! Today, it is my privilege and honor to recognize a Ward 4 community and church leader as Citizen of the Month in the City of Las Vegas. That individual is Wayne Tew!" With those words, Las Vegas City Councilman Stavros Anthony introduced CCCU President and CEO Wayne Tew to the regular City Council meeting on Wednesday, October 3, 2012.

Since moving to the Las Vegas valley in 1986 when he became CEO of CCCU, Tew has been a steadily involved volunteer for many organizations that serve individuals and families.

"I believe society's ills are best healed in a stable family," said Tew. He and his wife, Patrice have four grown children and now a nice collection of eight grandchildren. "It is imperative that family life receive a high priority and is balanced with other demands of life."

Tew presently serves on the board of the Howard Center, which is the principal sponsor of the World Congress on Families. The World Congress on Families is an international network of organizations, scholars, leaders and people of good will who seek to foster family life.

Tew also serves on the Executive Board of the Las Vegas Area Council of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and is the recipient of the Silver Beaver award, BSA's lifetime achievement award.

He has also volunteered for professionally related efforts, including currently as Vice-Chairman of the Nevada Credit Union League board, as a member of the advisory board of American Share Insurance (ASI) and previously as president of the Summit Information Systems client group.

Evidencing his interest in helping and educating others, Tew, with his family, travelled to a small village in Mexico in December of 2000. There, his children learned as volunteers that the world is a complex place with many cultures and needs, quite different from our own. Their village projects included building a water filtration system and kitchen stoves to teach villagers how to cook inside their homes and maintain a clean water supply.

Under his direction, CCCU has for many years been involved in supporting Childrens' Miracle Network through volunteer efforts and cash donations.

Tew also serves in his church where he has filled several capacities as a teacher, a youth leader, a counselor and as an administrative volunteer and stake president.

Presently President and CEO of \$450 million Clark County Credit Union, Tew is credited with rescuing CCCU from imminent closure in 1986, boosting capital and helping the credit union to grow to substantial size and steering the credit union through the past five years of economic challenges.

Today, CCCU is one of the three largest credit unions in the state and one of the few remaining locally owned and operated financial institutions.



**Citizen of the Month Wayne Tew received a personalized sign right on Main Street, downtown.**

---

**Clark County Credit Union • 702-228-2228 • <http://www.ccculv.org>**

## The Latest

### **LVVWD hosts an employee benefits fair**

Spiders and owls and centipedes . . . and truck drivers, engineers, clerks and construction crew-members all shared the same space during the LVVWD Employee Benefits Fair during October. The creatures were there as part of the attractions to be seen at the Springs Preserve. The humans were there to learn more about the benefits that are coordinated for them by Human Resources.

Along with the spell-binding creatures, there were displays and vendors who came as invited guests to inform Water District employees about subjects ranging from better health through physical training, better nutrition, even ways to insure their families from various casualty risks.

CCCU's Marketing Director Craig Fraley was there, presenting free financial benefits for employees at LVVWD. CCCU is not open to the public, but is open to all Clark County government entities and other associated employer groups. As a not-for-profit financial institution, CCCU offers full banking services at better rates and with more free services than banks usually offer.

Fraley was able to meet and greet many employees who are already CCCU members, as well as offer membership to new employees who have not yet signed up. The credit union offers vehicle loans which are easy and quick to get, at low rates with no gimmicks.

The creatures that were presented up close and personal, were a part of two different shows that the Springs Preserve puts on every year. The creepy crawly things were a part of *Dr. Entomo's Palace of Exotic Wonders*. Resembling an old-fashioned circus sideshow, this exhibit explores the truth, myths and mysteries surrounding some of nature's most curious creatures -- many of them alive and on view.

Live insects on display at the West Charleston main office included a Zebra Tarantula, Emperor Scorpion, and a Giant Sonoran Centipede. Creepy? Yes. Fascinating? Yes. Dangerous? Well no, as long as they stayed behind the glass!

The large and beautiful raptors at the fair were part of the *Wings over the Springs* show and included a Harris Hawk and a young African Barn Owl with remarkable piercing eyes and razor sharp talons. When scheduled, the 'Wings' show lets you see raptors up close and in flight as these majestic raptors live as a part of the environment.

Learn more at <http://www.springspreserve.org/index.html>

Remember, your co-workers and family members are also eligible to apply for membership at Clark County Credit Union. There is no waiting period for loans or for opening deposit accounts. Call the credit union at 702 228-2228, or find your closest branch by visiting us online at: [www.CCCULV.org](http://www.CCCULV.org) .



**Rachel from the Springs Preserve shows a LVVWD employee a live Harris Hawk.**

---

**Clark County Credit Union • 702-228-2228 • <http://www.ccculv.org>**

---



## The Latest

### **“Perfect car, perfect color, perfect price!”**

#### **Denise Hooshmand, R.N. buys ‘perfect’ car at CCCU**

CCCU: “Tell us about your car experience with Members Auto.”

Denise: “So this is my second credit union car. I put 184,000 miles on my last car, which I also bought from Members Auto. I’ve raised my kids as a single mom and always had to make the most of my money. I still do, since I have a daughter in law school and a son in pre-med. I still help them out with anything excess I have at the end of the month. Plus, I want to be able to afford to go to California to see them.”

CCCU: “Did you have to shop around much?”

Denise: “I knew I wanted an American made car, wanted a vehicle with some steel around me for safety, and I wanted good fuel mileage. I was at the Windmill Branch and the teller suggested I just talk to Dan Edelman the car man, who was right there.

“Dan called me a few days later and said he had a Chevrolet Impala and described it. It sounded good, and when I went to the credit union that night to see it, it looked good and I loved it. So I left him a message to hold it for me.”

CCCU: “How was the financing process?”

Denise: “The credit union really took care of me. Dan made finding the right car so easy. And the credit union made the loan easy, too. These days, things are so tough, you really need to be able to rely on good people. And normally I’m a patient advocate. Right now, I’m a credit union advocate.”

CCCU: “We love to hear it – tell us how well we did.”

Denise: “There was a benefits fair at my work (St. Rose Siena Hospital) last week and a bank tried to get me to switch. I told them, ‘no.’ They even offered me cash to open an account and I passed it up. “Dan did a perfect job. It was the perfect car, perfect color and the perfect price. He told me, ‘A lot of people come here because they want a great deal – but you really deserve one.’ ”

CCCU: “Thanks for your membership, Denise. We enjoy serving all our wonderful members.”

*Get what you want without the backroom dealership hassle. Members Auto at CCCU can sell you any make, model, option or color of new vehicle, or put you in a quality inspected used vehicle. Trade-ins accepted. For information, call 702 939 3115 and ask for Dan Edelman (Windmill Branch) or Matt Haugh (Tenaya Branch), or to see cars and trucks online, visit <http://www.membersauto.com/>.*



**Dan Edelman, Members Auto Rep 702 939-3227**

---

**Clark County Credit Union • 702-228-2228 • <http://www.ccculv.org>**

---

## The Latest

### **Zappos.com holds employee Benefits Fair**

#### **And CCCU was there . . .**

To peek inside the home office of Zappos.com is to see energy in action. And that was exactly what you could feel during October as nearly a thousand Zappos employees took the opportunity to meet CCCU's energetic Marketing Director Craig Fraley at the retailer's employee benefit fair.

"I can't believe how many hands I must have shaken today," said Fraley with a wide grin. "Maybe something near a thousand. I met some marvelous people who love what they do. Known for being a bit quirky, the Zappos.com work environment is indeed different from nearly any other place you have ever seen. Employees are free to decorate - or not decorate - their work space. They are also free to wear whatever is comfortable. And the space is open and free, warm and inviting. "Instead of going to 'work,' you would think they are going to play," commented Fraley.

There was plenty of refreshment available for everyone. The company keeps a coffee bar and a bistro open during all working hours. Everything is free to staff: coffee, beverages, fruit, salads, light meals.

Alyson Schweimler also represented CCCU at the event. As a Financial Services Representative, she was able to meet in person some of the people whom she has helped to open accounts and to get loans at CCCU.

Zappos employees work in a beehive of an environment where hundreds of phone lines are answered every minute of every day. Customers from around the world place orders for retail goods and clothing. Happy Zappos employees take the orders and solve customer requests.

At this type of event, Fraley typically hands out informational magazines about CCCU to people he meets, along with courtesy pens and stress-o-meters. "I went through a dozen cartons of materials for this one," he said. It was one of the busiest he attended so far this year.

Zappos.com is currently in the midst of remodeling the former Las Vegas city hall for an anticipated move from the Green Valley Corporate Center to downtown Las Vegas in the next year or so. Zappos.com was approved by the CCCU Board of Directors for select membership group status in 2011.

As with all CCCU Select Employer Groups, all co-workers and direct family members are eligible to apply for credit union membership. Call Fraley at 702-939-3114 for group membership orientations, or visit the credit union online at [www.CCCULV.org](http://www.CCCULV.org).





**Kim, Brie and Heather visit with Craig Fraley from CCCU at the Zappos.com employee benefit fair.**

---

**Clark County Credit Union • 702-228-2228 • <http://www.ccculv.org>**

---

# Getting Ahead

## Planning a Budget with Your Kids

### Teaching them skills now can only help them later

Don't forget to include your children when planning a family budget. When you work with them to make a comprehensive family plan that they can understand, you not only account more fully for all your expenses, but you also teach them valuable lessons that will set them on a path toward a sound financial future. What could be more priceless than that?

#### Explain the Necessity of a Budget

While examining the state of your retirement fund may be enough to convince you of the need for budgeting, your children will likely be motivated by very different goals. Encourage them to think of things they have wanted to buy in the past but might not have been able to afford themselves or convince you to purchase. Young children may dream of a large toy, while teens may have visions of making their first car payment. When they come up with the goals themselves, understanding the value of budgeting will come naturally.

#### Create the Budget

When it comes to creating a budget, Barbara Weltman, author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Raising Money-Smart Kids*, cautions, "Don't set up a budget for your child; let her work through this task herself. The budget process is an invaluable experience. If you *tell* her what she's got to spend on this or that, she'll never learn how to make smart money decisions on her own."

Weltman splits the process into three parts:

#### 1) Create the Budget Period and Categories

- Younger children may be able to focus on only a short timeline, so a budget period of a week is a great start. For older children receiving paychecks, the weekly or bimonthly pay period is a logical choice.
- When setting up categories, first teach your children the difference between fixed and variable expenses. Fixed expenses might include after-school activities or phone bill charges. Variable expenses can include personal shopping, transportation and gifts for friends' birthdays. It is important to create a separate category for



savings, because planning to save whatever's left over often means that none will be.

## **2) Make a Spending Plan**

Have your child designate a certain amount of money that will be spent on each expense category in the chosen time period. Make sure that these do not add up to more than the child's allowance or paycheck.

## **3) Follow Up with Necessary Adjustments**

The final step involves remaking the budget in the event that income or expenses change. This teaches your child to keep a close eye on finances, which are always changing, and ensures that the budget remains sound.

Keep in mind that while you may use Excel or Quicken for your budget, pencil and paper may work better for younger children. Not only will they feel more in charge of the situation, but they also can keep the page taped up somewhere visible to refer to in the future.

## **Follow Through with Continued Financial Learning**

This year, the popular budgeting website Mint.com worked with the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability to form the "Money as You Grow" learning tool for children and their families. Beth Kobliner, one of the developers of the teaching aid, says it "aims to educate children about money and distills the 'greatest hits,' if you will, into 20 age-appropriate lessons and corresponding activities designed to influence kids' financial behavior." After you've worked with your children to set up their budgets, helping them go through some of the learning modules will teach them to tackle the financial tasks that materialize over time. The tool is available at <http://moneyasyougrow.org/>.

It always helps to have someone work with you to manage your financial future and ensure that you have the right tools to save efficiently. If you have any questions about your own financial plan, please give us a call.

# Getting Ahead

## What Is Collateral and Why Is It Important?

### Collateral can be an important part of the loan process

Credit, through cards and loans, is a big part of the average American's financial life. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, outstanding consumer debt in the first quarter of 2012 reached more than \$2.5 trillion, a \$37 billion increase over the fourth quarter of 2011—and these numbers don't include loans for real estate.

#### Understanding Collateral

When you're ready to apply for a loan, the lender likes to know that you have a little skin in the game. By having something at stake—besides the retention of the item you borrow money to buy—you not only give the financial institution assurance of your willingness to pay back a loan but you also help minimize the lender's risk by providing something of value to back the loan.

Collateral is an item of value that you own and pledge to back a loan that you take. If you should default on the loan, the lender can then take ownership of the collateral in order to offset its losses.

#### What Qualifies as Collateral?

When you put something up for collateral, it must have a value in an amount that is comparable to the amount of your loan. In other words, if you are taking out a loan for \$110,000, collateral worth \$1,000 will not be very convincing to a financial institution. In addition to value, there must be sufficient equity in the item that you pledge. If you owe money to another lender on the item you pledge as collateral, then it might not be accepted because it's not technically yours to promise in the event of nonpayment.

When buying a home, the collateral is generally the underlying property and its equity. When you make a down payment of at least 20 percent, you create equity immediately that works to offset the lender's risk. And each month you make a payment, you pay a little bit of the principal back and create even more equity. If you are unable to make a down payment, you may instead be asked to pay for private mortgage insurance, which offsets the lender's risk in a different manner.

#### How Collateral Helps You



Collateral covers a multitude of sins. If you have a low credit score, you might normally be declined a loan, but with collateral your lender might be more likely to take that risk because the lender can take ownership of the asset pledged and thus reduce the risk it takes on by loaning to you.

If you have questions about loans and collateral, stop by or give us a call. We can help you determine what assets you may use as collateral and how they can help your loan terms.

---

**Clark County Credit Union • 702-228-2228 • <http://www.ccculv.org>**

---

## News & Events

### **“When should I start Social Security?”**

#### **CCCU sponsors member seminar with David Dixon Financial Group**

Understanding Social Security can be fairly simple if you worked the required number of quarters and were never married. However, when you add two-income couples and/or divorce into the mix, your decisions can become very complicated. Making the wrong choices can result in less income for the rest of your life.

To help CCCU members understand the possibilities and the pitfalls, David Dixon hosted CCCU members to a seminar, sponsored by the credit union, during October at the JW Marriott resort.

The seminar covered:

- How being married, divorced or widowed impacts benefits.
- How to give your Social Security check a government-guaranteed boost.
- How benefits for one spouse are affected based on when and how the other spouse files.

Associated with CCCU for the last 12 years as an independent Certified Financial Planner, Dixon invited Ms. Gail Buckner, CFP to instruct attendees about Social Security. Ms. Buckner is a Social Security expert, writer and television personality who did not disappoint when it came to having all the answers.

The presentation shed light on the many decisions involved in claiming Social Security, as well as the consequences. It also provided strategies to maximize the benefits a retiree may receive.

Some little known facts emerged during the seminar. For example, many people do not know it is possible to reverse their decision to take early Social Security. Some people enter social security, then wish they had continued working longer, or desire to reenter the work force. If for some reason a person decides to wait until full retirement age after all, one can simply notify the SSA and pay back the benefits received within the first 12 months or less, without penalties or interest. Then it is possible to enroll again later. Delaying the receipt of Social Security benefits increases the monthly payment.

Dixon himself spoke during the seminar about how Dixon Financial Group works to offer retirement advice and investment guidance to CCCU members who seek professional help. Dixon is a Certified Financial Planner and has been approved by the CCCU Board of Directors.

If you missed the seminar and would like guidance for your own situation, contact Dixon directly at (702) 982-2479 or visit them online at <http://www.dixonfinancialgrp.com/>.

**IMPORTANT:** CCCU does not guarantee funds placed with Dixon Financial Group. Consult your own tax and legal advisors for evaluations. All investments involve risks, including possible loss of principal. Investors should carefully consider a fund's investment goals, risks, charges and expenses before investing. Please carefully read all prospectuses before you invest or send money.





**David Dizon (CFP) of Dixon Financial Group addresses the seminar audience.**

---

**Clark County Credit Union • 702-228-2228 • <http://www.ccculv.org>**

---

## Lifestyle

### Bathroom Makeover

**You can revamp your bathroom for less than you'd imagine**

It's not the largest room in your home, and as such, your home's bathroom is likely the one room in your house that you can transform in a weekend with some quick and inexpensive projects. Upgrading more than that may take a bit longer.

#### **Ceiling wallpaper?**

Believe it or not, there is such a thing. Called ceiling tile paintable wallpaper, it can be purchased at some of the big box do-it-yourself stores. Check out the HGTV site for more information:



[www.hgtv.com/bathrooms/chic-cheap-bathroom-makeover/index.html](http://www.hgtv.com/bathrooms/chic-cheap-bathroom-makeover/index.html).

This product makes your ceiling look like it's been redone with embossed white plaster. Actually, it's textured wallpaper and isn't necessarily relegated to the ceiling. Try it on the walls for a different and textured look. Wherever you put it, paint the wallpaper any color you choose for that personalized look.

#### **Off the wall**

If you're not into ceiling wallpaper or wallpaper in general, think paint. Depending on the size of your bathroom and how much of it you want to paint, for the cost of a gallon or two can create a whole new atmosphere. Take into consideration the color of your sink, toilet and bathtub or shower when

choosing paint colors. Depending on your style, you can pick something that goes with them, or something totally off the wall and different.

### **Look down**

Pulling out the floor and redoing it would take a lot of time and money. There are, however, things you can do to the bathroom floor to accent new wallpaper or paint. You can even just redo the flooring for a bold and inexpensive change.

If your bathroom has vinyl flooring, a coat of paint can make a big difference and is easy and inexpensive to do. First, prime the floor with specialty primer. You can then use the color of your choice to paint the floor, and even get creative and use stencils to make a pattern.

### **Porcelain Paint**

Sinks are typically pretty inexpensive to replace, but a new tub is a major overhaul. If the tub is just worn, or in a color you don't like, you can paint it with an epoxy paint. If you're concerned about how it will look to do it yourself, for a lot less than a new tub you can have your tub refinished in any color you like. A refinish and new hardware will dramatically improve the look.

### **Quick and easy changes**

For a less expensive transformation, replace all your towels, washcloths and rugs with new ones of a different color. While you are at it, replace the shower curtain and window curtains or shades with something new. Even changing the towel racks can help.

It doesn't take a great deal of money or time to change the look of your bathroom. One weekend of elbow grease and you'll have a new look in an old space.

## Lifestyle

### The Pros and Cons of Wireless Internet

#### How do you know if wireless Internet is right for you?

Wireless Internet has quickly become a staple in most households, as mobility is a priority these days and computing can be done just about anywhere. There are some pros and cons to wireless Internet, and here are a few issues to consider.

##### **Mobility and convenience**

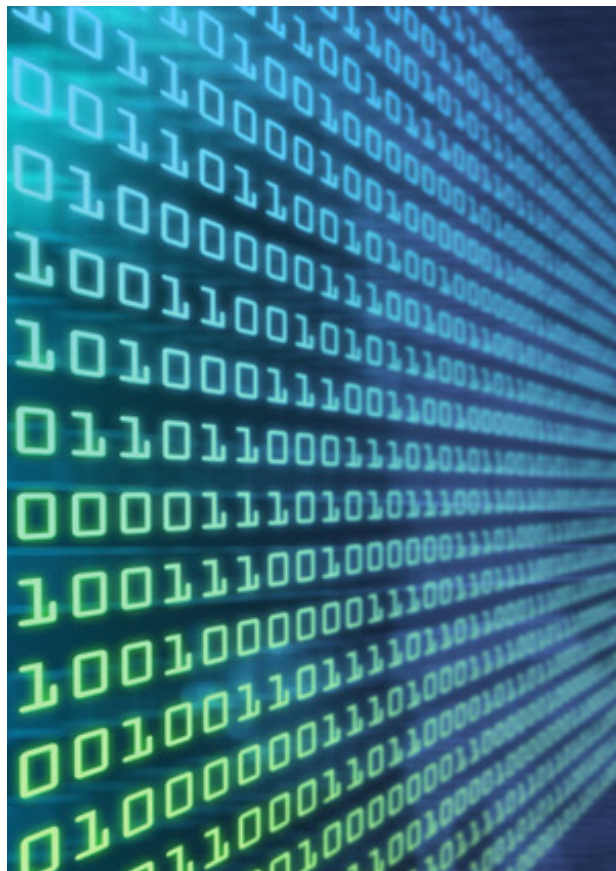
For most people, the appeal of wireless Internet is the convenience of mobility. A wireless network provides you with the opportunity to move around your home or office, and connect to the Internet with a smartphone, tablet or laptop. There's a sense of freedom in being able to work at a desk, kitchen table or couch. Granted, there are still people who like to keep their computer work restricted to one area of the dwelling space, rather than allow computers to dominate every room of the house. This may be particularly true for parents who want to monitor the computer usage of their children.

##### **Cost**

Wireless Internet comes with some cost considerations. For many Internet service providers, cost is relative to the speed of the connection. Therefore, it may be more expensive to go with wireless Internet, particularly if you want to download or stream large media files such as music or movies. Some communities have limited options when it comes to wireless Internet, and wireless traffic can become an issue. In some cases, wired Internet may be less expensive. As wireless becomes more common, prices may continue to fall.

##### **Security**

There is a level of security that is provided with wireless Internet services. However, some of the responsibility falls on consumers to make sure their network has proper password protection. If you set up a wireless network on your own, there is always the possibility that you will forget to add the proper protection. If the network is left open, anyone within range might be able to access your information. For some people, the fear of identity theft is enough to avoid wireless Internet. On the other hand, any computer system that is connected to the Internet is susceptible to attack, even if it is not part of a wireless network.



**Distance**

Most wireless Internet systems have a limited range, which means that accessing the Internet in certain parts of your home and office may not be possible without installing more wireless hubs. This can be inconvenient if you enjoy roaming around and connecting to the Internet in a variety of different places. Again, some of this can be overcome with more equipment, but at an additional cost that is prohibitive for some people.

**Lifestyle choice**

Ultimately, installing wireless Internet is about your particular lifestyle. For many consumers, wireless Internet has become a standard way to engage a computerized world, and the idea of sitting in one spot has become a foreign concept. Still, there are reasons that some people may think about sticking with a wired connection.

When considering the pros and cons of wireless Internet, it may be a question of balance between what would be nice and what you really need.



# Lifestyle

## Costs and Benefits of Solar Panels

### Taking a closer look at the pros and cons of solar energy

Solar energy has received more credence over the last few years, as the technology has become an option for families and municipalities. Most people now know what solar panels are, and they are slowly becoming a choice as a renewable, inexpensive energy source.

Although there are pros and cons to solar panels, the benefits may soon outweigh the disadvantages, making solar energy a better choice for families and the environment.

#### Pros

- **Future savings.** While the initial investment can be costly, after solar panels have been installed, monthly utility bills should be much lower than traditional heating and cooling methods. If it's been a relatively sunny month, the bill may be close to nothing.
- **Green energy.** Because solar panels do not emit pollution, they are much more earth-friendly. There may be some pollution involved with the manufacturing and distribution of the solar panels, but once they are installed, there is little to no pollution.
- **Tax credits.** The government will occasionally offer tax credits for green energy programs. Buyers should check with their accountant to see if their purchase of solar panels qualifies for a tax credit.
- **Abundant and renewable.** Solar energy is abundant in supply, and there is no way the energy from the sun can be used completely. Unlike other energy sources (e.g., coal), sunlight is generated each day and cannot be depleted.
- **Noise level.** Solar energy is a very quiet form of energy. Where other green energy products like wind turbines may be noisy and distracting to the community, solar energy produces no sound.



#### Cons

- **Cost.** While prices have come down in recent years, solar panels still cost far more than the average middle class family can comfortably afford. The initial cost of the panels and installation often runs in the thousands of dollars, and while a family's monthly utility expenses will be reduced, it might be a long time before they see a return on the initial investment.
- **Esthetics.** There's just no way around it. Solar panels are ugly. The number of solar panels required to heat and cool an average size home are unsightly and distracting, and solar panels installed on city streets have resulted in complaints from community residents. The look and



design of solar panels will need to be more esthetically pleasing if they are to become a part of everyday life.

- **Inefficiency.** Until technology catches up, solar panels cannot function if there is no sun. In places where sunny days are scarce, and during night hours, an additional source other than solar is required.

As technology improves, solar technology will improve as well, making solar panels a more viable option for the average family. If traditional utility costs continue to rise, the cost of installing solar panels can be justified. As more solar panels are produced and production costs decrease, the cost for consumers will automatically decrease.

