

Green Resources *by Jason*

... as well as the impressive amount the community comes to take for drinking water. It's amazing that we've gotten so much construction done in a place with no power grid without ever needing a generator!

Last month, as I looked forward to the next phase of construction, it became clear that the electrical system needed to morph into its next phase as well. Electricity had been available at only a few points around the base; only the well pump and a couple of outlets. We're now expanding the system to provide electricity (if not in its finished form yet) at the clay mine, the garage, our house, and the first guest bungalow. Now as we need to vibrate concrete pours, weld roofs, and run lighting, we'll have the power handy. This also gives us some flexibility in case the old gas motors running some of the other equipment we use, such as the ancient cement mixer, give up the ghost. We'd have the electricity handy to convert them to electric motors moving forward.

Having electricity in more places is great as long as there's enough of it, but we've also recently been using most of the power those 1,000 watts of solar panels provide. With new tools using electricity, we also need to harvest more power. Fortunately, the shipping container roof had space to triple the number of solar panels, so we filled it and are now up to 3,000 watts! This approximately 15 kilowatt hours a day should be enough to allow us to do everything we need to until the shop is built and the full solar system (five times bigger!) can be installed on its roof.

We're acutely aware of how blessed we are to have the resources at the ready to be able to make a jump like this. We thank each of you for the part you've played in helping us get this far! It's such a huge encouragement to our family.

Top: The installation of the new panels required attaching aluminum panel mounting rails to the roof trusses from underneath the cement-fiber roofing, then fastening the panels to them after carefully lifting up and placing them.

Bottom: The eight newly-installed solar panels are all wired up and producing power! This shot fills me with hope at all of the progress being made. On the left of the shot in the background is our house foundation!



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