1. MOTIVATIONS, GOALS, & OBJECTIVES *(rank priority)*
   * **Efficiency.** Lower monthly utility bills (*or no bills*) reduces your overall *cost of living*, allowing you to achieve a greater *quality of life* for less work. This means less stressing about rate hikes and less worrying about job security. Being less dependent on a paycheck makes you more *resilient* to recessions. It’s better than unemployment insurance.
   * **Long-term cost predictability.** Whether for general *peace of mind* or because you are or anticipate being on a *fixed income*, it’s important to be able to project your living expenses years into the future. *Peak oil* means that the cheap, easy fossil fuels have already been found, so going forward, they will be scarcer and more expensive. *Carbon caps* and environmental regulations place artificial scarcity and costs on fossil fuel use, exacerbating natural limitations. Global geopolitical instability means that sanctions or war may break out at any time, interrupting supply or adding a *risk premium*. Monetary policy may drive steep *inflation* causing costs to far outstrip income. All of these risks can be ameliorated with home utility production.
   * **Financial independence.** You don’t need to be “rich” to be financially self-sufficient; you just have to cover your living expenses without having to work 9-5. Through decreased living expenses, you might finally be able to retire (*or retire early*), or simply cut back your overtime or part-time hours, and still provide your household with *comfort, power, and clean water*. Then you can focus more on family, hobbies, education, starting a business, or other pursuits you’ve long dreamed of.
   * **Reliability & stability.** We live in volatile times with many threats to the infrastructure on which we rely. Changes in supply & demand may cause price surges. Government may add onerous new energy taxes. On-demand, just-in-time, supply chains mean a single point of failure may cause widespread shortages. Aging grid infrastructure makes catastrophic failures more likely. Terrorism, storms, or economic panics may trigger cascading failures. You don’t want to be subject to rolling blackouts, boil warnings, price gouging, or mandatory rationing.
   * **Emergency preparedness.** In the event of hurricanes, ice storms, flooding, civil unrest, pandemic plagues, economic depressions, trade wars, terrorist attacks, or come what may, you need to be individually prepared for grid-down situations to avoid having to burn furniture in a garbage can to stay warm or being herded into a crowded FEMA camp with desperate people and insufficient provisions. You want to have the *comfort and safety* of modern conveniences *in your own home* without depending on the government or market to ensure your *quality of life*.
   * **Freedom & privacy.** Government and industry are increasingly monitoring and metering your utility usage in order to impose taxes and fees, control your behavior, find out when you’re at home or away, search for illicit activities, regulate your economic activity, and otherwise intrude into your life. Disconnecting the utility meters empowers you to live on your own terms without Big Brother looking over your shoulder.
   * **Capital investment.** Energy efficiency and off-grid systems are not a consumable expense, but an appreciating investment which may provide future capital gains and which provides on-going tax-free non-monetary dividends in the form of electricity, heat, water, etc. Not only do you not pay income taxes on these returns, you don’t have to earn income to purchase these things, pay tax on that income, or pay the sales taxes and service fees associated with purchasing them. You may even get tax rebates or credits for this production. And if you decide to earn less money because you spend less, you’ll be in a *lower tax bracket* and thus keep more of your earnings. Likewise, if you own rental properties, you’ll achieve *higher profit margins*.
   * **Environment**. Reducing your energy footprint means emitting less pollution so that your environment and that of future generations remains cleaner and healthier. But while all energy efficiency and alternative energy systems help in this regard, some are more environmentally sound than others when it comes to manufacturing methods and embodied energy.
2. HOUSE SIZE & ORIENTATION

*(draw approximate dimensions & compass direction)*

*Total Wall Area:\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total Floor Area:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

1. BUILDING ENVELOPE
   * Exterior material:
   * Wall Insulation (type/thickness/R-value):
   * Ceiling/Attic Insulation (type/thickness/R-value):
   * Interior Walls (height/material):
   * Interior Floors (material):
   * Basement/Foundation (type/insulation):
   * Roof Overhangs (length/pitch):
   * Height between Windows and Overhang (inches):
   * Shading (trees/buildings):
2. HVAC SYSTEMS
   * Heating:
     + Type/Fuel:
     + Size/Efficiency:
   * Hot Water:
     + Type/Fuel:
     + Size/Efficiency:
   * Air Conditioning:
     + Type/Fuel:
     + Size/Efficiency:
   * Ventilation:
3. DOORS



1. WINDOWS



1. RESOURCE USAGE & CONDITIONS:
   * Electricity kWh Per Month:
   * Fuel Oil/Gas Gallons/BTUs/Therms Per Month:
   * Water (source, usage, filter/softener):
   * Preferred Indoor Temp: *winter summer*
   * # of Heating Zones / Thermostats:
   * Special Advantages/Disadvantages:
2. APPLIANCES:  
   
3. LIGHTING:  
   