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Hello, my name is Dave Blair, I am a retired Tech Ed teacher of 35 Years. I am here to talk about change and, how it can seem bad in some way at first, then become a good thing. .

One thing I taught near the beginning of my career was Wood Shop. One day I saw the schedule for the following year and learned that I would be teaching Power, Energy, and Transportation (referred to as Power Tech) instead of teaching Wood Shop. I had loved teaching Wood Shop and was devastated by the change, but eventually not only liked my new teaching assignment but thought I was doing something more important.

Today we are faced with the huge energy decision. Do we keep on doing what we have been doing or do we change as quickly as possible?

After I retired I asked myself what could I do to help? I looked around and noticed that so many people seemed to feel helpless on what we can do about climate change, and so I decided to show that net zero houses are possible, and not too far beyond the cost of a typical house built to code (after rebates) We did it for \$135 per sq. ft., not counting the garage, driveway, or landscaping and after the 30% tax rebate., We did not build it ourselves, and our combined fuel bill for last year (heat, hot water, and electricity) was \$22.46. Our energy bill of \$22.46 would have been on the other side of zero (net positive) except we do some charity work in my wood shop which uses more electric than average.

What does this have to do with this decision about coal mining on public lands?
EVERYTHING! We don't need all that coal! If we quit subsidizing coal which has been subsidized in this country for hundreds of years and subsidize renewables, we can change everything. Net zero houses ARE possible and with them we majorly diminish the need for coal.

What about jobs? Again I refer to the house we built. I didn't snap my finger and "poof" it was there, people built it and they had jobs. Jobs to build it, jobs to create building materials, etc, we helped create jobs. It is true that if there were more net zero houses there would be fewer jobs in the coal industry but there would be more jobs in other types of work.

If there were more net zero houses and therefore less coal we would also have less Asthma, less COPD, less lung cancer, less polluted water, less women bearing children with excessive levels of mercury and therefore less children born with neurological damage, and yes, less climate change. And there would probably be just as many jobs.

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