

## “Killowatt Ours.”

**Jeff Barrie Films, (2009). Running time: 56minutes.**

### **Introduction.**

Jeff Barrie and his wife live a typical N. American lifestyle. However, they want to reduce their energy consumption for two reasons: environmental issues and to save money! The movie begins by looking at wider issues of energy use and how that energy is generated, then looks at a few simple ways that Jeff and his wife have started to reduce their energy dependence.

0’00” Sponsors

2’30” Introduction

4’30” “Mountain top removal”. Open cast coal mining in the US. This is a very destructive process and typically removes about 24 million tons of rock for every 4 million tons of coal mined. It further destroys the landscape by causing water and soil pollution.

9’00” “Five tons of coal”. Barrie asks local people if they know where their electricity comes from. In the US, 50% of electricity comes from coal powered stations and every kWhr generated requires 1 ton of coal. Typical US homes consume the equivalent of 5 tons coal per year (??). Demand is increasing, not decreasing. Consumption is for even more labour saving devices – e.g. face cream warmers!

11’40” “Our planet is warming.” – climate change is real. The movie has some discussion around cause and effect. Nuclear is one alternative to coal. Or is it?

17’25” “Altering an Ecosystem”. Smog and air pollution.

19’30” “Poisoning our grandchildren”. Largest source of mercury pollution is from coal powered generating stations. Many US children today have asthma.

22’30” “Changing our Direction”. Here are some simple solutions:

- Use energy more efficiently
- Turn to green power when possible
- Swop out incandescent lights for compact fluorescents
- Use ‘Energy Star’® products
- Draft proof / insulate your home, seal windows/doors

29’30” “In search of savings”. Average US home spends 50% of its energy on heating / cooling. Turn to geothermal for home heating, “daylighting”, “performance contracting”, turn computers off at night to reduce phantom energy waste, change traffic lights to LED’s, re-cycle products.

36’00” “Conservation Power Plant”. Examples as in Austin, Texas and California.

43’00” “Green Power options”: wind, anaerobic digestion, solar hot water.

50’00” “Net Energy Zero” – living off the grid!