Imagine heating your home without relying on the local power plant. Wouldn’t it feel good to meet your

need for electricity without harming the environment? For a growing number of people, these ideas

have become reality. Out of concern for the environment and a desire for self-reliance, these people

have made the bold decision to live off the grid. What exactly is “the grid”? The grid, short for “the power grid,” is the linked system that supplies electricity to most homes and buildings in developed nations. Homes that are off the grid are not hooked up to the local power supply. Instead, they produce all of the energy they consume. As a result, people living off the grid avoid the environmental and financial costs that come with on-grid living.

The key to getting off the grid is replacing electricity supplied by a power plant with a renewable energy

source, like wind or solar power. Buildings that use solar power have solar panels on the roof or near

the building. When the sun’s light hits the panels, the panels collect the energy. Wind power is collected

by turbines, also known as windmills.