

The Heat Is On

JIM AND CONNIE HUGHES DECIDED TO BEAT THE HEAT BY GOING SOLAR.

In the Hughes household, planning has always been a priority. So it's no surprise that, in the '80s, faced with a national energy crisis at the same time they were to move to rural Hunterdon County, they converted their new house to solar power. "We found a company that offered this—the conservatory model—in their catalog," explains Connie (GSNB'76), who also works to keep energy costs affordable for all New Jerseyans as a commissioner on the state board of public utilities. "Unfortunately, the company stopped offering it when the energy crisis subsided."

They're happy with their decision now. Jim, dean of the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, boasts that from November through March, he wears shorts around the U-shaped, two-story house and lays out just under \$300 to heat its entire 2,800-square-foot expanse.

Situated on 12 acres atop a hill in East Amwell with a view of the Sourland Mountains, the house uses well water and has a solar-heated pool. Its centerpiece is a glassed-in conservatory, whose southward direction and ceramic wood-burning stove help keep the house toasty through the winter months.



SOLAR HEAT
FLOWS FROM THIS
CONSERVATORY
TO THE REST OF THE
HUGHES' HOUSE.