

How the US uses the sun

THE fourth in a series of videos on the use of solar energy in the US will be shown at a meeting of the local Solar Housing Interest Group on Mon-

day, February 11.

The changing attitudes of financiers and managers of public utilities to the funding and use of energy efficient power sources will be the theme of this month's videos.

Produced by Mr Jo O'Sullivan, the videos show energy efficient power sources enjoying increasing acceptance by various authorities. Huge costs and the long term uncertainty associated

with nuclear power are causing it to lose some favor.

Venue

The venue for the 7.30pm meeting is the extension building at the University of WA.

Slides featuring solar houses and energy efficient buildings in Europe also will be shown.

Ken McFarlane, a WA architect, will discuss the latest European trends.

Public seminar on solar power

SOLAR housing is not an idealistic dream. It is viable both technically and economically.

This is the theme of a special public seminar to be held by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects at 7.30pm on Thursday.

The seminar will take place at the RAIA headquarters, 22 Altona St, West Perth - booking is advised in order to secure a seat.

History

The history of solar housing in WA and proposals for its future direction will be examined at the seminar.

Speakers include Mr G. Baverstock, Mr Rob Shand and Mr G. Corrick.

Before any solar design is started, the prevailing climatic conditions must be determined.

In designing a solar house, it is desirable that the living areas are oriented to the north and bedroom areas to the south. There should be few windows on the east wall and if at all possible, no windows on the west wall.

combination of the two be considered.

A hybrid solar house is often designed of necessity when site limitations prohibit a completely passive design. A

The house should have a prolonged east-west axis which will minimise heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer. The design should incorporate means for collecting, storing and distributing heat.

Houses with only solar domestic hot water systems are not solar houses.

Solar houses fall into two main categories, passive and active. Some houses which have a combination of both systems are termed hybrid and both new and existing houses can fall into this category.

Passive

Passive solar houses do not rely on mechanical means but become their own collector, storer and distributor of heat using nature in combination with the building structure.

Windows on the north side of the house are vital elements for direct solar gain.

hybrid solar house can have independent passive and active systems for heating and cooling or a passive design assisted by active elements.

A passive solar house is generally lower in cost than an active solar house and the recommended approach is for every new project to be designed first in terms of passive methods. Only if these appear insufficient should an active system or a