Alternate Heating Sources

During a typical winter storm, most people stay indoors and enjoy the company of loved ones and a nice warm home, but what happens when the power goes out?

When the power goes out in the middle of summer it's not an issue, but if a snow storm causes power failures, it could be days before power is restored.

Ensure you have a secondary heating source that is safe, well maintained and properly installed.

There are alternative heating sources available, but you should take careful consideration when investigating which sources are right for you. Whether you want to change you present heating system, or prepare for a worst-case scenario where you are stuck without heat, keep in mind that these ideas are in addition to and not a replacement of your current heating system.

Here are 5 possibilities

- **Wood stove**
- **Pellet stove**
- **Corn stoves**
- **Not Coal stoves (please read why)**
- **Solar Power**

Wood Stoves
Do not rely on electricity. It emits enough heat to warm your home and as an added bonus bring a certain coziness to your room. It does require a little more work than other heat sources because of the wood cutting and piling, but the benefits are far greater. The main benefit is that you will keep heat if the power goes out.

Pellet Stoves
These stoves burn on small wood pellets that are made from recycled wood waste. They are considered environmental jewels because they burn cleanly. The benefit of a pellet stove is how the stove burns pellets. You can control temperature by the amount of pellets added to a stove, they burn longer, creates little dust and has no smell. The downside is that a pellet stove requires electricity, so if the power goes out, so does your heat.

Corn Stoves
Corn burning stoves are the new alternate heat source that is perfect for the environment. Corn is an excellent source of heat so dried corn kernels are used in these types of stoves. Corn burns a great deal cleaner than wood and doesn't emit hazardous chemicals into the air. It actually puts oxygen into the air as it burns! They are easy to operate and maintain.

The downside is that they too require electricity to operate. So as previously mentioned, if the power goes out, so does the heat!

Not Coal Stoves
There is no reason to have this stove in your home. The only reason it is in this list is to emphasize how important it is NOT to have one in your home. Using a coal stove is harmful to the people living in the house. Coal burning emits toxins into the air and increases risk of respiratory illnesses such as asthma and emphysema not only into your home, but to your neighbours as well.

Do NOT under any circumstance consider this as an option.

Solar power
Solar power has been around for years, but still overlooked due to the high ost of investment. It is a valuable heating source in its own right, but also a great energy source to power other heating sources such as electric heating, corn or wood pellet stoves.

Aside from powering outher sources, there are two ways to heat your home with solar power. The first is to use collectors mounted on the roof or placed in the yard. These will collect water and heat water to warm your home. The second is to use panels to heat the air that is distribute in your home.

The benefit of this is that you are causing no harm to the environment and as long as there is sun, you will never have to worry about power outages or ways to generate heat.

The downsides: they are very expensive, and if there is no sun, there is no energy.