

The Greening of Oak Hammock

In our dreams we can envision
The near greening of Oak Hammock
Fulfilling Doug Merrey's vision*
Will surely take a lot of pluck

In my apartment while watching
TV with all the new channels
I am happy it is powered
By Oak Hammock's solar panels

For the greening of Oak Hammock
Fulfill our efficiency plan
One simple thing - turn off the lights
And A/C whenever we can

Smart electric vehicles and
Many related variants
Will park under solar panels
To charge those silent chariots

Automatic shades will block the
Sun's rays at times when it is hot
And needless to say the shades will
Open whenever it is not

To cut our bill to GRU
Smart lights will be everywhere
This will also importantly
Help those confined to a wheelchair

All likely energy savings
Including those extremely small
Will have a sizable effect
When earnestly applied by all

While the performance of modern
Appliances are wonderful
One should not run the dishwasher
Until it is completely full

By operating clothes washers
On the coldest water setting
One can save loads of energy
Some habits are worth forgetting

The grass lawns may be replaced with
Mostly Florida friendly plants
Thereby reducing the need for
Mowing and chemical reactants

Of the many communities
That one can possibly recall
The sylvan grounds of Oak Hammock
Are by far the greenest of all

However we must continue
To address plant mortality
And stop invasive plant species
To boost our grounds vitality

Using the sun's free energy
Solar shingles could be installed
On all roofs exposed to the sun
GRU might not be enthralled

Oak Hammock gardeners will use
Composted food and campus waste
To grow fresh herbs and vegetables
Improving nutrition and taste

The linens plates cups and saucers
On every dining table
Will be made of plant substances
Which are biodegradable

Avoiding synthetic fibers
Will be a major achievement
To stem the microfiber flood
Polluting the environment

Let's strive to increase the volume
In our vast recycling campaign
And also pare the putrid trash
To check the release of methane

Smart programmable thermostats
Can optimize efficiency
And redeem our heedlessness and
Numerical deficiency

Electric landscape equipment
Will be the simple solution
To eliminate completely
The exhaust and noise pollution

Replace all gas appliances
Reduce the liability
Stop producing CO2 and
Increase sustainability

A gas boiler can be changed to
A smart heat pump water heater
This will use clean energy and
Eliminate the gas meter

When the old A/C units are
Failing and ready for the dumps
They can surely be replaced with
More quiet efficient heat pumps

Using digital media
Will eliminate all newsprint
With this change and others we can
Minimize our carbon footprint

Reduce our water consumption
Demonstrate our austerity
Save the Florida aquifer
Indeed for our posterity

No longer will we fret about
Recycling take-out containers
Made as a confection they will
Satisfy all the complainers

On a future dining menu
Tasty sizzling steak fajitas
Will possibly be replaced by
Grilled Armadillo carnitas

This rambling poem allowed me
To fulfill a few sleepless nights
Uh oh! I almost forgot to
Turn off the A/C and the lights
Gene Ziegler. Feb 2023

*Oak Leaf, Jul, Aug 2022