Dear Mr. Berry,

Harmony; both simple and efficient. Let this sentence establish a perennial position within your frontal lobe for the duration of this letter. We understand the transcendentalist spirit you share with your forefathers: Thoreau, Proenneke, and Emerson. People have indeed become detached from the basic human need to interact and inspire. “Zombie puppets” marching blindly to technology’s drum. However, too much of anything is bad. The antidote is harmony and balance.

Our generation was born submersed in this world of technology, but we are not blind to its dangers. Because nearly all devices are reliant upon electricity, and most of our electricity is produced by nonrenewable resources, such as coal, we cannot turn a deaf ear to nature’s screams. All energy resources play some demand on Earth’s natural systems. Renewable energy resources which are powered solely by Earth’s systems still rely on some sort of mechanization to operate with optimum efficiency. Take for example a hybrid geothermal heat pump, which relies on a computer that chooses between propane heat or strict geothermal based on temperature. The common man is able to heat his home without stealing the benefits of photosynthesis by chopping down twenty acres of trees annually.

Although technology has the capability of limiting interpersonal communications, it also has the advantage of connecting people across the world instantaneously. We have all witnessed a couple sitting across from each other in a restaurant booth; noses buried in a phone, but Facebook can link us with disconnected family members from around the globe.

One can encompass all of Berry’s technological milieu by balancing technology with renewable energy with devices like the Detroit built Hybrid Solar Thermal Panels. The panels are able to harness both photovoltaic (the production of an electric current at the crossing of two substances exposed to light) and thermal energy by running thermo conductive fluid on the posterior of the photovoltaic panel, thus capturing heat normally lost in a traditional photovoltaic panel.

The answer isn’t to shun technology or completely turn our back to it. Rather, with great power comes great responsibility. We are the guardians.