any years ago I was sitting around with a few University buddies getting high on Mullumbimby Madness and we all decided that we should put our heads together to try and give the English language some Australian meaning. So we all tried to come up with new words that may one day be accepted by the whole world...well it was our thing at the time. Anyhow I came up with a hybrid word, ENVIRONOMICS, which I defined to be environmentally friendly and economically viable. I thought it was a good word; however, it never seemed to take off. Maybe it was just a little ahead of its time. In any case I feel now is the right moment to share my literary contribution to the world for more than one reason or possibly it is due to the vaporizer of Mullumbimby Madness I just inhaled after 14 years?

A lot of things in my life started as a joke or a random thought that came to mind, so it is probably how my head works, and I have gotten use to it. But this philosophy of that single word ENVIRONOMICS has stayed with me ever since I came up with it. In fact it has lead me to a lot of things in my life’s journey and all of them I am proud of, so it has worked for me. Now I want to explain how it can work for growers and medicinal patients alike.

There has always been an ongoing debate by those who prefer Indoor growing verses those who prefer Outdoor growing. After a lot of thought and testing I came to the conclusion greenhouse growing was indoor with the use of outdoor elements. It was already a quantum leap in growing economically and definitely environmentally sound in comparison to an indoor set up. Not to mention the efficiency of planting directly into the greenhouse soil cut out all the mixing of mediums and repotting and individual sprinklers and so on...

Indoor grow rooms that run on artificial light do not get you a lot of carbon credits in today's society. However until the laws change or until there are new advances in technology this will probably remain the same. Sure you can try to use light movers and try to keep things simple with only minimal use of electricity but in the end indoor rooms are what they are...completely artificial facsimiles of optimum growing conditions where the grower controls all aspects of climate, with the aid of machinery and sensors etc... These indoor rooms revolutionized the Cannabis growing world and still do but I continuously try to minimize my carbon footprint and do my bit for the future of my kids. That is why I have slowly reorganized and honed the way I grow, without loosing quality or sacrificing the well being of the plants.

Most good growers keep a mother room and mother plants, make clones and then transplant them into their indoor flowering setups. I do the same but incorporate the seasons and use greenhouses for flowering. Whereas before I would have a large amount of lights drawing a lot of power, I use lights when the natural illumination falls below what is required for growing and prefer to use the free and natural sunlight.

Even in winter, the greenhouses function well below what a large grow room would consume as the hours of light are still 6-9 natural and the rest of the time the artificial lights kick in to make the required 12 hours light 12 hours dark for flowering. Of course you need to heat large areas but that is for night time mainly and applies to indoor rooms as well. Heating a greenhouse is done with earth gas and is only for a small part of the year. No air-conditioning is ever used, as we roll up the sides of the greenhouse and open the top areas in the summer months using only circulating fans to move the lower cool air around and expel the top hot air out of the greenhouse.

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per shelf. In the center of the mother room I hang several 400 watt lamps to keep the plants growing well and that light diffuses to the clones somewhat thanks to white painted walls and floor. I do nearly all my work in a mother room, and tend to dissect the room up into areas. Around the perimeter of the room I have several 4 shelf racks each with 2 fluorescent cent per shelf, all on wheels and with individual plugs for each fluorescent (so when the shelf is not in use it can be unplugged) and that allows for economic clone growing. I can fit 4 trays of clones each with 100 clones per tray making one rack capable of growing 1600 clones when done to capacity. Not to mention it can be unplugged covered and rolled directly into a van to be transported to a greenhouse not located in the same area.

In fact when I had a clone company running to full efficiency in Switzerland we rolled each rack into the mother greenhouse where a crew were cutting clones, filled up with the new cut trays of clones, rolled it to a Neem oil spray area outside, then rolled it into place in the mother room, plugged in and the room was filled up like that. All of this work was done by only one person and thousands of clones were made daily. Each mother room had 6x 400 watt lamps to keep the plants growing well and that light diffuses to the clones somewhat thanks to white painted walls and floor. I do nearly all my work in a mother room, and tend to dissect the room up into areas. Around the perimeter of the room I have several 4 shelf racks each with 2 fluorescent cent per shelf, all on wheels and with individual plugs for each fluorescent (so when the shelf is not in use it can be unplugged) and that allows for economic clone growing. I can fit 4 trays of clones each with 100 clones per tray making one rack capable of growing 1600 clones when done to capacity. Not to mention it can be unplugged covered and rolled directly into a van to be transported to a greenhouse not located in the same area.

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The down falls of Outdoor growing are many and it is easy to see why Indoor took over. You are open to the seasonal fluctuations, strong winds, pests, fungus and bacteria to mention a few whereas growing in a controlled area limits all of these things controllable. All the sterilized and delicate work now can take place in an Indoor mother room, and the plants can be flowered under the sun in a greenhouse rather than outside and open to the elements according the season. Taking it one step further, a greenhouse can have a darkening system fitted and setup with automatic timers meaning the greenhouse can have a darken period from 6 to 12 hours. The down falls of Outdoor growing are many and it is easy to see why Indoor took over. You are open to the seasonal fluctuations, strong winds, pests, fungus and bacteria to mention a few whereas growing in a controlled area limits all of these things controllable. All the sterilized and delicate work now can take place in an Indoor mother room, and the plants can be flowered under the sun in a greenhouse rather than outside and open to the elements according the season. Taking it one step further, a greenhouse can have a darkening system fitted and setup with automatic timers meaning the greenhouse can have a darken period from 6 to 12 hours. 

Growing all over the world, probably due in part to the Medical user/grower becoming increasing involved in Cannabis, have gained a lot of knowledge through communication on a world wide level. Ideas that maybe once were day dreams are becoming real and doable thing rather than a dream. Once you get several grows under your belt with this method then you can begin to use your knowledge of plants to increase and maximize the seasons according to indicas dominant and sativa dominant plants. 

For example if you plant in a greenhouse the last week of April grow the plants for 2 weeks, then darken for 7 weeks, harvest, replant within a week then harvest by late September, and so on... you can run a greenhouse and a small mother room making a grand sized operation a doable thing rather than a dream. Once you get several grows under your belt with this method then you can begin to use your knowledge of plants to increase and maximize the seasons according to indicas dominant and sativa dominant plants. 

Indoor cultivators. Our environment is now being seen through the eyes of economics and many are trying to forge new techniques to gain the same or better results but by using far less. ENVIRONOMICS which started out as a bit of a stoned joke all those years ago is now becoming a way of life, not only for me but for a lot of people who do similar work as I do. The technique is the same for small to large scale growers and the thinking is similar. I hope that as we advance into the 21st century a lot of these sorts of thoughts become reality.