

lifestyle

Easy Bein' Green By Carly Bartkiewicz

It's rather fitting that Wayne and Amanda Green own a web-based consulting company that provides green solutions to everyday needs. Their last name just so happens to be the movement they are trying to emulate. But aside from their company, LiveGreen, they are also using their Encinitas home's gradual transformation towards waste-free living and energy-efficiency as a model for others wondering what changes small or large they can make to help brighten our planet's future.

The "green" way of thinking has exploded across the country and abroad with mega corporations such as General Electric, British Petroleum and every major car manufacturer creating big business out of environmental necessities. The Greens have bought into that fast-moving industry by dismantling the wasteful parts of their '70s-built home. Their 2400 square foot house off of El Camino Real and Santa Fe Drive is actually Amanda's childhood residence. She and Wayne bought it from her parents four years ago.

"The home is very different from when I grew up here as a kid," Amanda said.

Renovations show off conservational modifications that

vary in difficulty and cost and the Greens' company directs people to the local businesses specializing in making the transformations happen. Last year, the couple had Clean Power Systems in Poway install 14 Sun Power 220 panels, which provide 100 percent of their electricity. The Greens now accrue more energy than they can actually use, leaving them with an SDG&E bill that is in the negative. In one of Amanda's blogs on LiveGreensd.com, she describes the process of solar energy:

"The panels take the sun's energy and convert 22 percent of it (Sun Power panels have great efficiency) into DC (direct current). It runs through

the system's inverter and out comes AC (alternating current)...the stuff that powers our house."

Even though the Greens have chosen to make large lifestyle changes, "Our mantra is that it's the little things," Amanda said, noting that she and her husband are conscious that a major investment such as installing solar panels is very dependent on time and money. "We want to make it easy to be green."

So if solar, even though there are great rebates and tax breaks to be had, seems drastic, switching to reusable grocery and produce bags or buying only eco-friendly cleaning products can be a

great way to start small.

But again, Wayne and Amanda took on a larger project to decrease their home's waste—the installation of an organic garden in their back yard by the Solana Beach-based company Backyard Organics last July. The garden grows a variety of lettuce types, broccoli, scallions, parsley, snap peas and other vegetables the couple eats regularly and can use any ensuing waste as compost. Buying organic and local foods was a change they started making around six years ago, but "this is as local as it gets," Wayne said. The garden has organic soil, no sprays, was grown with organic seedlings



Clean Power Systems in Poway installed the solar panels to Wayne and Amanda Green's home.



Your own organic garden is the most local way to put fresh produce on your dinner table.

and has its own drip irrigation system.

Aside from already having a name that urges saving the planet, Wayne's work in biotechnology helped steer the couple towards different food and energy choices. While working on animal feed projects, he learned in-depth about all of the enzymes pumped into chickens to make them grow faster and the cramped conditions they live. "There is a lot of mortality, which leads to a lot of antibiotics," he said. After learning more about how food makes it to our dinner table, "We really started focusing on what we put in our body."

So whether they're being health-conscious or earth-conscious, the green attitude is constantly shaping the Greens' thought process. "It's the things that people want to do that can make the difference," Amanda said, such as habitually choosing items at



Scraps enter the compost bucket...



...and the mixture becomes mature compost that improves soil structure and protects plants from disease.

the grocery store that can be recycled or replacing appliances with the latest, energy-efficient models—which in the long run will save you money.

"Forty percent of a home's electricity bill comes from the refrigerator," Wayne said, noting that ENERGY STAR models use around 70 percent less energy than older appliance models. The Greens recently

replaced their dishwasher and have more projects in mind, such as replacing all of their insulation with either a recycled denim or soy-based foam when their finances will permit another big project.

After launching LiveGreen in 2006, the company has def-

initely garnered interest from people looking for turn-key providers and products that the Greens can recommend. Even though their company is a side job for the couple, it's a passion they hope contagiously catches on, because bein' green can be pretty easy. ☺

For more information about Wayne and Amanda Green's house or LiveGreen, visit Livegreensd.com