



# GLEE's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Green Living Awards

## Individuals Category

*For Cumulative Efforts leading up to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009*

Name of Applicant: Carole and Bill deHart

Ramrod Key

City/Island

### *Application Summary*

We have been, and continue to try to live our lives by, leaving as little impact on our environment as possible. We have been coming to the Keys since 1994 and accomplished our goal of retiring here in 2007. We are now dedicated to doing our part to keep the Keys the beautiful string of pearls we came to love years ago. We feel our efforts to educate our neighbors and community, and our various volunteer activities continue our philosophy of "Think globally, Act locally". We are thrilled and astonished to be recognized for this award. Thank you.

### *Detailed Accomplishments*

Be as detailed as possible when summarizing your green achievements. Dates enacted, money saved, waste diverted, emissions saved and other such facts factor heavily in final awards.

<u><b>Renewable Energy</b></u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of appropriate solar, wind and bio generated sources of renewable energy.
<p>We utilized solar hot water for 15 years at our home in New Jersey. It was a no brainer for us to replace our aging hot water heater here with a solar system. Our new system has saved us at least 25% on our electric bill in the few months it has been in operation.</p>	
<u><b>Clean Transportation</b></u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of smart, clean and economically efficient uses of biodiesel, fuel cells, and hybrid vehicles. Or no vehicles at all!
<p>Altho we do not have any of the new technology we do drive a Mini Cooper - 40 mpg- and a Scion - 28 mpg. We combine trips as much as possible and use the Mini more than the Scion.</p>	

<b><u>Clean Boating</u></b>	Demonstrated adherence and/or promotion of eco-friendly actions whilst on the water, including cleaning products, propulsion, water conservation, fisheries conservation, catch and release techniques, and use of <a href="#">Florida Clean Marinas, Boatyards, and Retailers</a> .
NA	
<b><u>Energy Conservation</u></b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of energy-efficient appliances, energy audits, and retrofits for financial savings and pollution reduction.
We replaced all the bulbs in our home with CFL as soon as we arrived here. We replaced the refrigerator, washer, dryer and dishwasher with highly efficient units. We also replaced the old jalousie windows, entry door and drafty sliding doors with impact resistant units, which are energy efficient as well. We line dry our clothes regularly. Our home is a dome with few interior walls which also conserves energy naturally thru air circulation. Our home is also insulated underneath with spray foam insulation.	
<b><u>Green Building</u></b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of green techniques and technologies during retrofits on existing buildings and efficient designs for new buildings.
NA	
<b><u>Green Financing</u></b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of tax credits, rebates, and other incentive programs that help finance, sustainability projects. Also includes Socially Responsible Investing.
We have applied for the Florida rebate on our solar water heater system as well as the Federal tax credit on our 2008 return.	
<b><u>Healthy Living</u></b>	Demonstrated adherence and/or promotion of green procurement, green consumerism and healthy choices through buying organic foods and other non-toxic, healthy and sustainable products.
We use only plant based, non-toxic cleaners and a steam cleaner for our floors. We use canvas bags when grocery shopping and have a bag or two in the car at all times for other shopping trips. We recycle plastic bags at the Winn- Dixie and also reuse them for doggie-doodoo during our nightly dog walks.	

<a href="#"><u>Land Conservation</u></a>	Demonstrated adherence and/or promotion of conservation of natural habitats by using Keys-Friendly landscaping practices and use of <a href="#"><u>GreenThumb Certified Nurseries</u></a> .
<p>Upon moving down here, we immediately replaced our front LAWN with a truckload of topsoil and now have a lovely tropical garden using drought-resistant plants. The garden mostly sustains itself and we have used the drip irrigation system infrequently since the garden's creation. Our garden is now a certified National Wildlife Federation "Backyard" Wildlife Habitat - no. 103, 345 (Our home in NJ was Backyard Habitat no. 1, something)</p>	
<a href="#"><u>R4 #1: Reduce</u></a>	Demonstrated reduction of waste through bulk buying, refillable products, double-sided printing, avoiding over-packaged products, closing the loop by purchasing products made of recycled, post consumer content; implementation of policies which encourage and/or mandate waste reduction.
<p>We buy paper products in bulk and look for larger containers of products. We use Arm &amp; Hammer Essentials, plant based, refillable cleaners. We reuse paper in our printer and use double sided printing as appropriate. We buy recycled paper. We try to buy products in containers that can be recycled. We have very little garbage as most of our waste is recyclable. We bank online and have enrolled in every "paperless" program available to us. When we have a package to ship, we download pre-paid shipping labels from USPS and put the package in our mailbox for pickup, thus saving a trip to the Post Office.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>R4 #2: Reuse</u></a>	Demonstrated reuse of products, buy second hand, donate unneeded items, and avoid disposables, and share magazines /other publications before recycling them.
<p>We reuse materials as much as possible. Bottle caps become kitty hockey pucks :-). Brown paper bags are used to hold our junk mail and other paper for recycling. We rejuvenated our kitchen by painting the cabinets. Old t-shirts become dust rags. We donate gently used clothing to Habitat for Humanity. Our old hurricane shutters went to Habitat for Humanity also. We donate used books to the library and take all packing peanuts to the nearest "mail" store. We now use a shammy in the kitchen to wipe up messes and general cleaning and hope to further reduce our use of paper towels.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>R4 #3: Rot (Compost)</u></a>	Demonstrated waste diversion through composting of food scraps and yard trimmings
<p>We hardly have garbage and most yard clippings are scattered around the garden to decompose and provide nutrients for the plants.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>R4 #4: Recycle</u></a>	Demonstrated recycling of items accepted by local waste hauler and/or other items which may be recycled elsewhere (e.g., electronics, CFL light bulbs, cell phones, printer cartridges); implementation of policies which encourage and/or mandate recycling practices
<p>We were appalled to see the lack of recycling here in the Keys. We are genuine hippies and recycling has been a way of life for as long as I can remember. Carole helped to start the very first recycling center in Cherry Hill, NJ back in the 60's. :-). Since we arrived here (Sept. 2007) we have educated our neighbors and our community about what CAN be recycled and the amount we see in recycling bins has increased substantially. We have participated in the GLEE Recycling Fairs to further educate our community on recycling. We send our empty printer cartridges to a recycler and take our used batteries to Home Depot.</p>	

<b><u>Water Conservation</u></b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of water use reduction through efficient irrigation, xeriscaping, cisterns, rain barrels, water audits and/or use of reclaimed water.
<p>We use drip irrigation, have a rain barrel under our AC condenser to collect the water that drips out. We use this water to water plants (with trace minerals added) and wash the cars. We use grey water to water the garden and potted plants. We have plans to divert the grey water from our clothes washer to water the banana plants in the front garden.</p>	
<b>Water Quality</b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of wastewater treatment, storm water retention, phosphorus free products, slow release fertilizers, animal waste reduction, etc.
<p>We use phosphorus free products and slow release fertilizers. We flush kitty solid waste down the toilet and use sawdust litter. The "wet" clumps are collected and spread in a corner of the garden to quickly decompose.</p>	
<b>Youth Leadership</b>	Involve local students in projects and research for healthy long-term choices in any of the above for the future of all.
<p>NA</p>	
<b>GLEE Participation</b>	Actively involved with GLEE via ideas, time and/or membership to help further GLEE's <a href="#">Mission and Goals</a> .
<p>We are active members of GLEE, participating in the Recycling Fairs, helping with the EXPO and doing other things as needed.</p>	
<b>Other Factors</b>	Have you done something else not included in the scope of this application? Let us know!
<p>Carole is an active volunteer at the Key West Botanical Gardens, working the Greeter desk and keeping the visitor database up-to-date. She also documents the various projects at the Gardens in unique photo books. Bill is a turtle nest surveyor for the City of Marathon.</p>	

**Green Pledge**

I certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

