



# 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: Tina and Dennis Henize Cudjoe Key  
City/Island

### *Application Summary*

As said last year, "We're hard-pressed to brag about ourselves, and are pretty ordinary." We merely try our best within our economic means to generate as little waste and live as 'green' as possible. We buy "clean & green" products and go organic to the extent that we are able -- appropriate items are not always affordable or available. We put time and effort into conservation of native habitats because we recognize that powerful forces want to destroy what's left of the "natural" Keys (and everywhere else) in the name of profit. As for energy conservation, it makes economic and environmental sense to reduce energy use; enlightened self-interest usually, if not always, coincides with the common good. We are honored to be nominated for recognition, and if our activities and efforts might encourage others to do more, this can only be a good thing.

### *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><a href="#">Renewable Energy</a></u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of appropriate solar, wind and bio generated sources of renewable energy.
We, of course, PROMOTE use of green energy, but are not set up to produce our own. Dennis, wearing his Last Stand hat, has participated the past three years in Last Stand's Leadership in Environmental Conservation and Sustainability (LECS) program at Key West High School, presenting some current topics in wind power, as well as global warming topics.	
<u><a href="#">Clean Transportation</a></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!
Unfortunately, where we live and responsibilities we have require that we're a 2-vehicle family. We bought a Prius in 2007, and have found that the kind of driving we do in the Keys is close to ideal for getting optimum fuel economy for the Prius. We're averaging an honest 52 miles per gallon. Last year we replaced our old gas-guzzling pickup with a new, smaller, and more fuel-efficient model. The gas-sipping Prius is the vehicle we by far use the most; the small pickup is used only when absolutely necessary.	

<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> .
<p>The only boating we do now is human-powered, kayaking. Back in our real boating days, for decades, we used wind power.</p>	
<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.
<p>Our home isn't sited or designed for flow-through ventilation, so we're tied to air-conditioning. We do without it when we can, keeping our thermostat at 80 (or higher), changing filter often. We have a timer on our water heater... one hour per day. We don't own a clothes dryer; we use clotheslines. Nearly all fixtures use CFLs (only a few rarely use bulbs are still incandescents); we will replace the last few as CFLs get better and as LEDs get better. LED flashlights have reduced our purchase of alkaline batteries.</p>	
<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.
<p>Our old, inefficient (not oriented to use ambient breezes; does not have deep overhangs all around) house is small (800 sq ft) and has good insulation; we use no heat and minimal AC. Unfortunately, retrofitting solar is not possible for us at this time.</p>	
<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.
<p>We have an SRI mutual fund IRA.          Buying our Prius in early 2007 qualified us for a nice federal income tax credit.          (An enlightened new administration and legislature may enact incentives available to us for more use sustainable alternatives -- read "solar retrofits"?)</p>	
<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.
<p>We buy some organic food (as much as we can afford), and certainly promote its proliferation. We use little household paper goods; what we do is from recycled, unbleached material (we mostly use cloth). We buy only non-toxic, biodegradable cleaning and laundry products, and many personal products are also organic. We buy in bulk as often as is available, minimizing packaging, and we maximize our purchase of recyclable packaging, all to the highest degree we can find.</p>	

<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> .
We put much effort into conserving Keys natural habitats, via promoting government policy aimed at preservation and public/private purchase of conservation land. As a Master Gardener, Tina is active in invasive exotic eradication, xeriscaping, promoting 'rain barrel' and compost use as well as the "right plant, right place" and "Alter-natives" concepts. Our homesite acre is 100% native plants; we sold another native acre to Florida Forever; we propagate native plants to give away. We are active also as: Scenic Highway/Overseas Heritage Trail/Florida Native Plant Society volunteer, and KDPA and Last Stand board members.	
<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.
Our ultimate goal is to reduce waste to zero; having little money helps with our minimal-consumer intention. We TRY to use only products made from or packaged in recycled material, and we TRY to avoid over-packaged products; we buy in bulk when available. We use both sides of computer paper; if not double-sided printing, we make note-pads from the back sides. We've cut magazine subscriptions to almost zero (Nat'l Geographic is the exception). We use cloth grocery bags, our habit for well over a decade; plastic veggie bags we use for kitty litter. All of the above we do as best as we are able, and have done this for many years.	
<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.
We buy NO new retail clothing (except personal items), using consignment stores, Sally Ann's Boutique (Salvation Army) and now Habitat's clothing store; we donate any still-usable items. We avoid disposables to highest level possible, but wash and reuse foodgrade plastic bags till they fall apart, or reuse for disposing of kitty-box material). Though you can't always avoid disposables, some disposable containers can be re-used a time or two for food storage or for disposal of cooking grease or other nasties. Even recyclables can be reused a bit before recycling. For at least 10 years have used only reusable cloth grocery bags.	
<a href="#"><u>R4 #3: Rot (Compost)</u></a>	Demonstrated waste diversion through composting of food scraps and yard trimmings
All veggie waste goes into compost. Yard waste -- we live in the woods -- rots in place. (We used to keep ALL large items on site as well, but Wilma forced us to change that practice as we found that logs become hazardous in a storm surge.)	
<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
We recycle everything they will take, including electronics and CFLs; we participated in R4 Fair on Big Pine and plan to continue same; involved to greatest degree possible (considering job limitations) to foster Monroe County's raising the recycling rate -- working toward eventual recycling ordinance to help others to alter non-recycling habits. We make weekly trips to the transfer station, for our household as well as for friends, and Tina and her coworker recycle all appropriate trash found on job sites.	

<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>Our place is native vegetation all the way; we do no supplemental watering. We collect rainwater from the roof in a large tank to help with dry periods for propagated native plants or newly planted natives. Low-flow shower heads, careful household water use, etc, keep our water bill just above the minimum. It's been our way for decades.</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 only non-toxic, biodegradable natural cleaning products; we use no bleach. We also use no fertilizer but compost.</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>Dennis is involved in education through Last Stand's KW High School Leadership Environmental Conservation and Sustainability (LECS) program , helping to educate students about current trends in alternative energy; he has presented Keys environmental 'lectures' for Mote Marine's Hood College program. Over the years, Tina has worked with Americorps groups, "alternative Spring Break" groups, and other youthful volunteer groups in her job and volunteer work with pest plant eradication.</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 a GLEE family member. Tina participated in the R4 Fair on Big Pine; we participate in all GLEE Expos via Last Stand, Master Gardeners, KDPA, and with our hybrid car.</p>	
<b>Other Factors</b>	Have you done something else not included in the scope of this application? Let us know!
<p>It's not what we have done, but what we continue to strive to do. The dream is that everyone would want to be 'green'; we could all then economically manage it. Right now, it is still more expensive in most categories to be 'green'; that should/must and, likely, will change (a couple of decades ago the hope was to go off the grid; it has not been possible with our current economic status, but we may be on the edge of that possibility for many others coming behind us). Everyone, wealthy and low-income, should want to and be able to be 'green' all the way in order to sustain and even improve the existence all humans and other living creatures.</p>	

**Green Pledge**

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

