



# GLEE's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Green Living Awards

## Individuals Category

*For Cumulative Efforts leading up to Expo 2008*

Name of Applicant:

Todd German

Key West

City/Island

### *Application Summary*

While at first blush many would not think of me as "Green", digging down a bit finds the environmentalist that lies in all of us. During my years in the military I spend a lot of time in the jungle and forest. I believe this is where my love of plants really took hold., My last two vacations have been to the Amazon and most recently to Panama. Being a Banker by profession and thus, particularly attuned to finances, the efficiencies of Green Living show themselves to be good common sense. Looking at it another way, anything that can be done to reduce long term cost and impact is good for everyone involved and is just good business. I truly believe that as technology improves and the "green intelligence level" of our population increases, the results and progress will be exponential. I plan on doing my part to help us keep moving forward.

### *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.

#### Renewable Energy

Demonstrated use and/or promotion of appropriate solar, wind and bio generated sources of renewable energy.

I live aboard a boat here in Key West and use a solar panel to supplement my DC power needs. A life long boater and havng sailed extensively, i can't think of anything more efficient than using the wind to move a boat across a body of water.

#### Clean Transportation

Demonstrated use and/or promotion of smart, clean and economically efficient uses of biodiesel, fuel cells, and hybrid vehicles. Or no vehicles at all!

Living in Key West affords me teh ability to minimize the use of my vehicle. I am an avid motorcyclist and my motorcycle while not a hybrid, does get better mileage than my car.

<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>On the boat on which I live, I have configured my holing tank in such a way that it is impossible to discharge any waste into the water. The only way to empty the tank is with an external vacuum system as used by various pump out facilities. I am not a fisherman, but instead enjoy observing marine life while diving and snorkling. I have lived in a number of fishing communities and have experienced firsthand the importance of conservation or lack thereof.</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>As a liveaboard, energy conservation is a way of life. Boats are inherently energy efficient. I have taken extra steps by installing energy efficient appliances and maximizing cross ventilation and the use of shade to bring air conditioning to a bare minimum. Water usage on board is similarly conservative.</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>Having already mentioned the greenness of my boat, I should mention that my role as construction manager at my former employer I gained a great working knowledge of LEED standards and principals and used that knowledge when designing and constructing our projects. My current employer has built it's last two buildings using LEED guidelines to maximize energy efficiency and minimize environmental impact. I also sit on the Lodging Association's Green Committee.</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>As the Corporate Development Officer for Marine Bank I am intimately involved with our Green Loan program. Marine Bank is a Community Bank and has a long term commitment to help our community grow and prosper. I am tremendously involved in the Community and serve on and have served on numerous Boards, allowing me to have influence as these respective organizations make decisions that affect everyone.</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>I always make an effort to make healthy choices when shopping, but I must admit that my eating habits could probably be better. I try to make up for my eating habits by being a bit of an exercise freak. I am an avid runner and go to the gym 4-5 times a week.</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> .
<p>I have served on the Board of the Key West Botanical Garden for a number of years. As a Board member I have helped the Garden double in size as well as establish an education program for our community's children that has been wildly successful. We have held a number of plant sales with some being only Keys-Friendly plants. This sale was particularly successful in the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma.</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>This is an area where living aboard has made this type of lifestyle a necessity. With space at a premium, being efficient when making purchases has become second nature. As I see plastic floating by my boat on a daily basis I am acutely aware of how important it is to avoid not degradable products whenever possible and I do my best to always keep that in mind when making purchase decisions.</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>A lifelong mechanic I have never owned a new vehicle, choosing instead to purchase used or broken vehicles and fixing them up to live another day. I use this same philosophy for appliances and power tools.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>R4 #3: Rot (Compost)</u></a>	Demonstrated waste diversion through composting of food scraps and yard trimmings
<p>You got me on this one.</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>Throughout my life I have always been one to make treasure out of other people's trash. I even owned an antique shop when I lived in Virginia. To me antiques are the ultimate form of recycling. I of course, recycle the normal garbage items that go in the bin.</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>A mentioned previously, living aboard a boat has taught me water conservation to the extreme. I have both freshwater and saltwater systems with fresh water being used only for washing and bathing. I also have the ability to capture rain water to fill my fresh water tanks if the need arises.</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>As mentioned above, 100% of the black water from my boat is kept in a holding tank and can only be discharged into a waste treatment system. It is important to point out that the entire Florida Keys is a no discharge zone and in my opinion, ANY vessel with toilet facilities should be equipped this way as there is no legal way to empty a holding tank within Florida Keys waters.</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>Our education programs at the Botanical Garden teach kids the importance of the environment and directly address "nature deficit disorder". As funny as the name may sound, this is a real issue as our children have become increasingly disconnected from the world outside Nintendo and television. I also serve on the Board of the Montessori School here in Key West. The Montessori method is very wholistic and in my opinion blends very well with the ideas that GLEE encourages.</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>While not an official member of the GLEE Board I have had the privilege of working with and giving input to the Board in preparation for this year's Expo and Awards Ceremony. As an Officer of Marine Bank I have been very active in our sponsorship of this same event.</p>	
<b>Other Factors</b>	Have you done something else not included in the scope of this application? Let us know!
<p>My favorite color is Blue, I like Sunsets over the ocean..... Oh yeah, I was a Green Beret, that should count. Seriously, during the past year, I ran "unsuccessfully" for the Key West City Commission. During the race I was asked what I would do to "go green". My answer which I still feel applies is that we need to concentrate on the low hanging fruit and proven technologies putting most of our efforts there, rather than spend too much time on bleeding edge technologies and areas where we do not get a good return on our investment.</p>	

**Green Pledge**

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

