

# COAST

REFLECTING ORANGE COUNTY'S FINER LIFESTYLE | AUGUST 2008







Jason Scheurer of Living Green Homes outside his latest project in Huntington Beach

## GREEN HOUSE GROWING

**A** few months ago, the house at 319 21st Street in Huntington Beach didn't look like much. There were no windows and several walls were missing. But when it is completed later this year, it may just be the greenest home in Huntington Beach.

Living Green Homes, a construction company based in Huntington Beach, broke ground for the house in February and anticipates its completion by Thanksgiving. It is being built in accordance with guidelines from Build It Green, a non-profit organization based in Berkeley that promotes resource- and energy-efficient building practices. Sustainable features will include concrete composed of 40% fly ash (a waste product), lumber that is 70% certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and stucco made from 10% recycled glass. The electrical system and water heater will both be solar-powered, and a satellite lawn watering system will conserve water by keeping the sprinklers off if it has rained, or is expected to rain.

Jason Scheurer, vice president of Living Green Homes, hadn't always intended to build such an eco-friendly house. But after taking building science courses through California Builder's Performance Contracting Association

(CBPCA), he says he couldn't continue to build a home understanding how many resources are typically wasted in the process.

Building sustainable homes isn't Living Green Homes' only contribution. This month, Scheurer and his colleagues are embarking on a five-day, 500-mile "green bike ride" to raise money for the Festival of Children Foundation, a Costa Mesa-based organization that offers resources, support and grants to more than 300 charities serving children. The trek will begin in the San Francisco area on August 4 and continue down the coast until it reaches the house at 319 21st Street in Huntington Beach on August 9, which by then, should at least look a little more like the city's greenest house.

For more information on Living Green Homes, visit [www.living-greenhomes.com](http://www.living-greenhomes.com). To learn more about the green bike ride, go to [www.festivalofchildren.org/greenride08](http://www.festivalofchildren.org/greenride08) -RACHEL TOYER

### Six Simple Ways to Green Your Home

1. Install high-efficiency water systems (drip, bubble, or low-flow sprinklers, showerheads, faucets, and toilets). Low-flow showerheads and faucets alone can save over 45 gallons of water each day.
2. The average household tosses 500 lbs. of perfectly biodegradable kitchen and garden waste each year. Create a compost for nutrient-rich plant soil.
3. To reduce water usage during the hot summer months, lay mulch on the tops of planting beds for its cooling effect.
4. Use low/no-VOC paint, since "volatile organic compounds" are linked to headaches and nervous-system damage.
5. Save water, energy and cold, hard cash by installing Energy Star appliances.
6. Replace incandescent light bulbs with CFLs (compact fluorescent lamps). Each CFL can save more than \$30 in electricity bills over the lamp's lifetime.

-MICHELLE MERONEK

(SOURCE: BUILD IT GREEN)