



MEDIA RELEASE

For publishing from 19 JUNE 2014

THE NGEWANA FAMILY'S POOL TURNS GREEN, BUT NOBODY'S BLUE

Energy and water savings abound out of doors at 'My Green Home'

Zweli Ngewana lectures in mechanical engineering. So he knows about pumps. But even he was shocked to learn that the small pump for his pool was his second highest electricity consumer after the geyser.

Now his pool is greener – in the right way. Its energy use dropped by about 80 percent when he switched to an efficient Speck variable-speed pump and reduced its winter running time to 3 hours a day.

This is just one of many improvements the family are making as they step outside of their much greener house to see what could also be improved in their piece of the great outdoors.

Watering the garden and topping up the pool are the largest contributors to water bills in many houses. The Ngewanas are saving by using their bathing and washing water to irrigate the garden with a greywater system from Water Rhapsody. Cape Contours is assisting with a landscape plan for water-wise plants and a food garden – with Reliance organic compost to keep it green in more ways than one.

They also save water at the pool, with a settling tank that lets them reuse the backwash water. And on their water main, an Aquatrip monitor will warn them of unseen leaks that lead to utility-bill surprises.

Of course the greatest energy users outside of most houses are parked in the garage. Here, the Ngewanas are investigating more sustainable transport options for their future. Lutho, their son, is using a Cycology electric bicycle to get to classes. And their daughter, Thulisa, recently test-drove a hybrid car.

The Ngewanas may soon be paying nothing for electricity to charge the bicycle or run the pool pump. Citrine Energy is set to install solar photovoltaic panels on the roof to supply free, renewable energy from the sun for some of their daytime electricity needs. Then their blue pool could truly be green.

This coming week's theme at My Green Home is Outdoor and Transport. <http://mygreenhome.org.za/webisode/outdoor-transport/>

The website shows how to follow the Ngewanas' path toward a savings, including a video 'webisode' showing the green upgrades to the pool and garden. My Green Home also offers no-cost, low-cost and invest-to-save ideas for the garden, pool and road – and inside the home too.

My Green Home is led by the Green Building Council South Africa, with main co-funding from the German government through the South African-German Energy Programme (SAGEN). It's also supported by the 49M campaign, Karebo Systems, the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) and a range of product sponsors and partner organisations.

Those who participate in My Green Home stand a chance to win green prizes, including the grand prize: their own 'green home makeover'. Anyone who submits a 'selfie' photo of their pool pump wattage or their eco-friendly transport (such as walking) to the website or via Twitter (@mygreenhomesa) by 12h00 on Monday 30nd June is eligible for this week's prizes in a random draw, as well as the grand prize in early August.

Products for Outdoor and Transport sponsored by: Citrine Energy <http://citrine.co.za/> , Water Rhapsody <http://www.waterrhapsody.co.za/> , Speck Pumps <http://www.speck-pumps.co.za/> , Breathecoat <http://breathecoatpaints.com/> , Cycology <http://cycology.biz/> Cape Contours <http://www.capecontours.co.za/> Reliance <http://www.reliance.co.za/> Wizzard Worms <http://www.wizzardworms.co.za/>

Captions for photos:

- Bulelwa Ngewana saving water by using their bathing and washing water to irrigate the garden with a greywater system from Water Rhapsody
- Lutho Ngewana, using a Cycology electric bicycle to get to classes.
- My Green Home Media Release 8-Outdoor and Transport.docx Thulisa, Ngewana test-driving a hybrid car.
- Zweli Ngewana shocked to learn that the small pump for his pool was his second highest electricity consumer after the geyser.

Photo credits: Slingshot Media on behalf of Green Building Council South Africa

My Green Home is brought to you by:



Also supported by:

