



Year Built 1954
Home Size 1260 Sq.Ft.
Contractor:
Namaste Solar Electric
(see ad on page 23)

The Jones Home

Adding Up the Little Things

Blake & Alli Jones

We're excited about having our home on the tour again, even though it certainly isn't the flashiest. Our house provides a great example of how "little things" can add up to make a big difference. By "little things," we mean simple, inexpensive, or do-it-yourself features. We believe that by paying attention to the little things, in addition to the big things, we can combine our efforts to make big impacts. Yes, it's always a nice option to remodel your home – or even build a new home from scratch – in order to incorporate more efficient, sustainable, and green features, but not everyone can afford to do that.....AND it may not be the best of use of time and money.

The good news is that you don't have to spend a lot of money to make a difference. We implemented most of the features in our home at a gradual pace, usually on weekends, using a limited budget. One exception is our solar PV system, which was a big investment we decided to make last year in order to produce clean, emission-free electricity. As far as PV systems go, ours is of a modest size, but by making smart investments in energy efficiency FIRST, our system powers 100% of our home's electricity needs. We thought that a solar PV system would fit our situation quite nicely.....and it did!!



Blake, Alli & Sunny

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We believe that every one of our actions has a long term impact. While we are only one family in our vast global community, we know that all the little things that we do can add up to make a big difference. Ultimately, by implementing as many little things as possible, we hope to set an example of how easy it can be for any of us to promote positive change in our world.

ENERGY FEATURES

- 2.0 kW solar PV system, grid-tied (provides 100% of home's electricity needs)
- 72 W DC lighting system with battery back-up
- Energy and water efficient clothes washer
- Xcel's "Saver's Switch" for A/C on-off cycling during grid peak demand
- Whole-house electricity usage monitor
- Portable evaporative cooler for room-specific cooling
- Additional weather stripping for doorway gaps
- Home-made, insulated cover for attic entrance
- Additional layer of attic insulation
- Variety of high-efficiency CFL and LED lighting
- Low E windows
- Outdoor clothes-line and portable, indoor clothes-drying racks

WATER FEATURES

- Xeriscaped front yard (see article on page 44).
- Low flow toilets, faucets and showerhead
- Timers and flow meters for automatic garden watering

GREEN FEATURES

- Homemade compost bins.
- Electric lawnmower (emission-free, powered by solar system)
- Organic vegetable garden