

Carbon-neutral family

Taking up powerful challenge

Graham Readfearn

SWITCHING all their power to renewable electricity was more of a last resort than a first step for the carbon-friendly Cebuliak family.

"We cut our energy consumption to just about half of what it was," said 22-year-old Ben Cebuliak, of Mansfield. "Then, after we had saved as much as we could, we went over to 100 per cent renewable."

The Cebuliaks have one of the state's lowest household carbon footprints, an achievement *The Courier-Mail's* One Degree Challenge campaign is helping to promote.

On Monday we launched a search for five groups of Queenslanders — four households and one small business — to take on a challenge to cut their emissions.

The Cebuliaks' move to a low-carbon lifestyle started after father Bryan, a 53-year-old GP, read leading Australian scientist Tim Flannery's climate change book *The Weather Makers*.

"I had been aware this was a problem before but that book and a couple of others I read really did crystallise it," he said.

"This is an important survival issue for my children and maybe their children in the future."

To lower their emissions from electricity, they installed a solar hot water system and replaced their washing machine and



GREEN commitment ... Ben, 22, Zoe, 25, and Bryan Cebuliak at their carbon-neutral home in Mansfield, in Brisbane's south.

What the Cebuliaks did

- Read IPCC and Australian Government reports to learn about climate change.
- Audited household carbon emissions using an online footprint calculator.
- Bought energy-efficient appliances and a solar hot water system.
- Started growing vegetables and bought chickens to cut their food miles.
- Offset their travel emissions through a renewable energy offset program.
- Switched all their remaining electricity use to renewable energy.

fridge with more energy-efficient versions.

Then they switched their electricity supply to 100 per cent Government-accredited GreenPower from energy company Origin, which sources most of its renewable power from wind farms.

Ben, who is studying urban planning and transportation at Griffith University, said: "This is all about trying to maintain the quality of life that we enjoy today and saving ourselves from our own destruction."

The Cebuliaks are

among almost 160,000 Queensland households to get power from Government-accredited renewable resources.

Latest figures show that Queensland homes and businesses using renewable energy are saving more than 250,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases a month.

Away from their home electricity, the Cebuliaks also generate emissions through their travel habits — mainly through Bryan's annual flights to Canada to see relatives and his daily one-hour drive to and from work.

To compensate for those emissions, Mr Cebuliak has bought credits which go to investment in renewable energy projects.

Picture: Annette Dew

'Maturity' lightens CMC load

QUEENSLAND'S misconduct and corruption watchdog is planning to scale back the number of official investigations because it believes the public service has grown up.

In the group's annual report tabled in State Parliament, the chairman of the Crime and Misconduct Commission, Robert Needham, said more complaints would instead be referred to internal misconduct units.

The CMC would still investigate matters that were "more serious or systemic" but he wanted departments to take more responsibility. "Given the level of maturity I believe the Queensland public sector has now reached, the CMC is devolving more responsibility for complaints management back to agencies," he said.

Patrick Lion

Product Safety Recall

MINI CHRISTMAS CANDLE RING WREATHS

Myer Pty Ltd (Myer) is conducting a voluntary recall of selected **Mini Christmas candle ring wreaths** sold exclusively through Myer stores nationally since mid September 2008.

These candle rings, if used as decorations around candles may ignite if contacted by a candle flame.

Whilst there have been no incidents reported, in the interests of consumer safety Myer has decided to conduct a national voluntary product safety recall.

The mini Christmas candle ring wreaths impacted by this recall are:

- GOLD LEAVES MINI WREATH (C727167) \$12.99**
- SILVER BERRY MINI WREATH (C727179) \$12.99**
- GOLD LEAVES, GREEN WREATH (249226-R3) \$8.99**
- SILVER LEAVES, BEADS & BERRIES (249445I-WR3) \$9.99**
- RED BERRIES, GREEN LEAVES (24445RD-WR3) \$9.99**



Various styles impacted
24445RD-WR3
image only shown.

These products are approximately 15cm to 20cm in diameter and decorated with various imitation leaves, berries & flora. Style numbers can be found on price ticket.

Customers are requested to discontinue using these items and return them to the nearest Myer store for a full refund or exchange of the purchase price.

If you would like further details regarding this recall, please contact the Myer Customer Service Centre on 1800 811 611 (free call) between 9:00am to 5:00pm EDST or visit www.myer.com.au.

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused by this recall.

See www.recalls.gov.au for Australian Product Recall Information

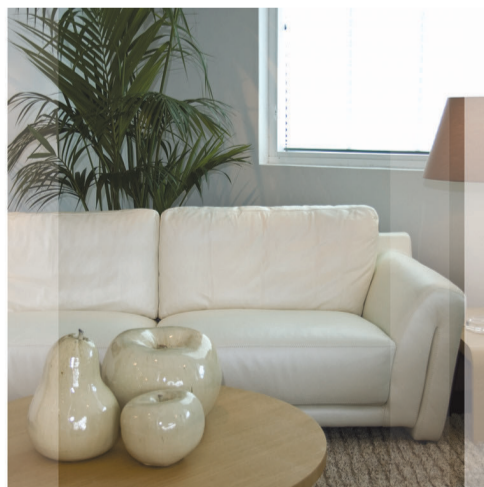
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1 For more information about how to enter our **One Degree Challenge** visit couriermail.com.au/one-degree

Tomorrow:
Low carbon business

New Collections Just arrived for Pre Christmas delivery

NEW



bedroom >> living >> dining >> furnishings

all

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