

Energy-savvy couple 'amped' with Eskom award

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AN ENERGY-savvy Port Elizabeth couple who managed to live almost completely off the power grid last year, are totally amped after receiving official recognition for their energy-efficient home at the Eskom eta Awards.

The awards recognise and reward excellence in energy efficiency in a number of categories.

Jacques and Wendy Engelbrecht were recognised as runners-up in the Energy Saving in Household category.

Their grid-tie home in Greenshields Park, which secured them their award recognition, was born out of their change in mindset and approach to energy saving over a number of years.

"We are really amped, thrilled at the recognition. We want to spread the word about energy saving and efficiency, particularly as the

country is facing increased load-shedding.

"Energy saving though is more than taking pressure off the electricity grid. It is about saving money, becoming more energy aware and about moving towards becoming more energy independent," Jacques said.

In terms of their own home the Engelbrechts have cut down their power usage to almost nothing through the use of what they term a hybrid system.

"We make use of solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, efficient lighting and a gas stove," Wendy said.

In addition, the Engelbrechts' system has the ability to feed excess power back into the municipal and therefore Eskom's grid.

"It is time power-users started load-shedding at their own homes. People can make energy efficiency part of their lifestyles and gain economic benefits and assist the utility," Jacques said.