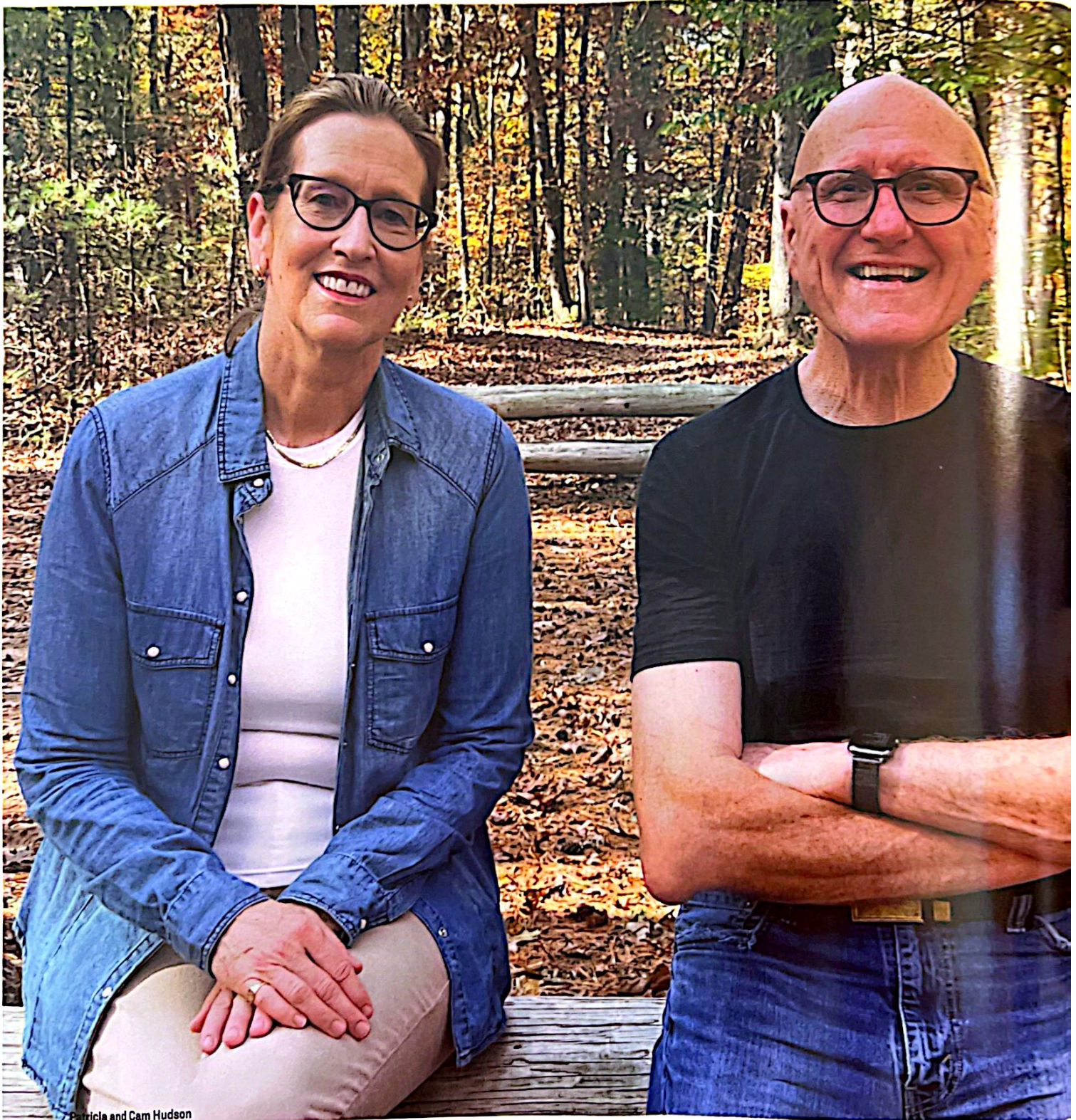


Our Journey to Build a **SUSTAINABLE HOME**

BY RESIDENT PATRICIA HUDSON



Patricia and Cam Hudson

Cam and Patricia Hudson have lived in Dover for 27 years. For the last five years, they have systematically worked to improve the energy and cost efficiencies of their home, transitioning to renewable energy and storage batteries that allow them to heat and cool their house and drive their cars without fossil fuels. To mark Earth Day this month, Patricia shares the story of their sustainability journey and encourages others to consider a similar path.

Cam grew up in outback Australia on a sheep farm, and I grew up in inner city Boston. We met in Munich in the late '80s when I was the Germany correspondent for Radio Free Europe covering the fall of the Berlin Wall and German unification, and Cam was an economist writing about Eastern Europe.

We married in 1990, and both our sons were born in Munich. We moved to Heidelberg in 1994 when Cam switched into technology and became the European technology head for SAS Institute, and I was working for Bloomberg News in Frankfurt as their Germany Editor.

We moved to Dover in 1998 when our older son was starting elementary school in order to be closer to the boys' American grandparents. Both boys went through the public schools here and were active in hiking and camping with the Scouts (going all the way to Eagle), with Cam as one of their leaders. We value the benefits of Dover's beautiful woodlands and are active in town government to help preserve that natural capital.

All four of us love the outdoors, and our best family trips have focused on exploring the natural world, such as the Great Barrier Reef and the mountains of Europe and North America. Cam and I recently fulfilled a bucket list dream of hiking in Patagonia and circumnavigating Cape Horn. Certainly the nearly 20 years Cam and I spent in Europe raised our environmental awareness, in terms of both the natural beauty we experienced hiking and skiing in the Alps and the increased threat posed by rising greenhouse gas emissions. We've impressed upon our sons the importance of protecting the environment, building on a proud tradition in Cam's family. Cam's grandfather in Australia was an early environmentalist, warning of the dangers of pesticides in the 1950s and was awarded a British Empire medal for his water conservation and irrigation innovations in New South Wales.

After a stint as a stay-at-home Mom, I moved into finance and was increasingly focused on the investment opportunities around climate finance and the energy transition. For the last three years I was Executive Director of an international climate finance coalition that brought together more than 700 of the world's leading banks, fund managers, pensions and insurers to help mobilize private capital for the energy transition. Central to that work was understanding the physical and financial risks of a warming planet and the urgency of decarbonizing economies.

That was the macro background against which Cam and I decided to decarbonize our own home. And because of our experience in Europe, we knew that there were meaningful cost and efficiency advantages in investing in better insulation and tighter windows (many of our windows are high-efficiency, triple-glazed imports from Germany) as well as solar panels (we have 43), heat pumps, and batteries. We love our induction cooktop and would never go back to gas! The same goes for our two electric vehicles. We estimate we have cut our energy costs in half, despite increasing the footprint of our house and now charging two EVs at home. And the peace of mind of moving away from fossil fuels and associated health benefits are priceless.

We encourage our Dover neighbors to consider similar savings and efficiencies and hope our example inspires others to get started. Cam spent many hours researching the technologies, talking to providers, and sorting through the various tax credits and rebates and would be happy to share his knowledge with others. He can be reached by email at cam@hudsona.com.



Example of a solar panel installation



The Hudson's home

David lives at SweetTree Farm, a zero carbon home

WANT TO SAVE MONEY AND CUT YOUR CARBON EMISSIONS?

David Green lives at Sweet Tree Farm in Dover and has cut his heating and electric bills to zero. His "Fab Four" recipe is:

1. Install 12 of insulation in your attic and in the ceiling of your basement,
2. Replace your AC units with heat pumps,
3. When you replace your windows, replace them with triple-pane windows, and
4. Install solar panels on your roof




David, who has a BS in physics from Oxford and an MBA from Harvard, has written three books on how to get to net zero and regularly presents free webinars on how to do it. You can get a free report on how to save money by cutting your carbon emissions by simply entering your address and type of heating fuel here into a form on David's website. Scan the QR code to visit his site and complete the form (scroll to the bottom).



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Dover resident David Green, author and sustainability expert




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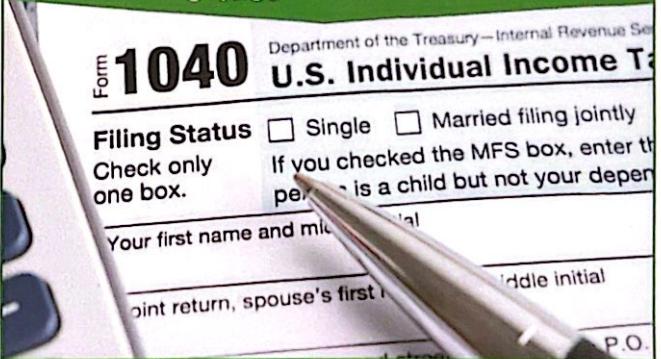
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