



# Living Like Ed: One Man's Guide to Living an Environmentally Friendly Life

*Ed Begley Jr.*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Living Like Ed: One Man's Guide to Living an Environmentally Friendly Life

*Ed Begley Jr.*

**Living Like Ed: One Man's Guide to Living an Environmentally Friendly Life** Ed Begley Jr.  
FROM THE PIONEER OF ECO-CONSCIOUS LIVING

A committed environmentalist for more than thirty years, Ed Begley, Jr., has always tried to “live simply so others may simply live.” Now, as more and more of us are looking for ways to reduce our impact on the planet and live a better, greener life, Ed shares his experiences on what works, what doesn't—and what will save you money!

These are tips for environmentally friendly living that anyone—whether you own or rent, live in a private home or a condo—can try to make a positive change for the environment. From quick fixes to bigger commitments and long-term strategies, Ed will help you make changes in every part of your life.

And if you think living green has to mean compromising on aesthetics or comfort, fear not; Ed's wife, Rachelle, insists on style—with a conscience. In *Living Like Ed*, his environmentalism and her design savvy combine to create a guide to going green that keeps the chic in eco-chic.

From recycling more materials than you ever thought possible to composting without raising a stink to buying an electric car, *Living Like Ed* is packed with ideas—from obvious to ingenious—that will help you live green, live responsibly, live well. Like Ed.

## Living Like Ed: One Man's Guide to Living an Environmentally Friendly Life Details

Date : Published February 19th 2008 by Clarkson Potter (first published January 1st 2008)

ISBN : 9780307396433

Author : Ed Begley Jr.

Format : Paperback 240 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Environment, Sustainability, Green

 [Download Living Like Ed: One Man's Guide to Living an Envir ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Living Like Ed: One Man's Guide to Living an Env ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Living Like Ed: One Man's Guide to Living an Environmentally Friendly Life** Ed Begley Jr.

---

## From Reader Review Living Like Ed: One Man's Guide to Living an Environmentally Friendly Life for online ebook

### Bob says

This book is great. It offers really practical ways to alter your life in a more 'green' direction. The best part is, he's not some high and mighty Hollywood activist. Instead, he's warm and kind and funny. Most importantly he realizes that everyone isn't as crazy about this stuff as he is...but he encourages you to take steps in the right direction, even if you don't go all the way. Every little bit helps, and he recognizes that for some folks reading the book, a little bit is all they'll change.

Good info. Good writing. And a good reminder of how constantly we need to reevaluate our ways of living.

---

### Isabelle Roberts says

lots of little changes that can easily be made, and some bigger ones too.

---

### Jennifer Crispin says

I loved Ed Begley Jr.'s television show about his lifestyle and have always liked him as an actor. If he had been the only contributor to this book, I might have rated it higher. Unfortunately, someone felt the need to include his wife's reflection on their lifestyle, perhaps to appeal to the ladies? She contributes such insight as "With what we save on the electric bill, I get to buy more shoes!" (p. 24) and a random rant on people who paint their homes canary yellow. The editors helpfully marked her passages in green, to make them easier to skip, but since I'm one of those people who can't help but read words in front of me, her words got in my brain anyway. I stopped reading in the middle of the chapter about alternative transportation, when she rambles on about the one time she rode the bus (it was horrible! She was wearing a skirt! And heels! Clearly Ed has taken his lifestyle too far.) I would have enjoyed this book much more without her input.

---

### Amy says

Super inspiring - no matter what level your interest or commitment is to environmental consciousness, you'll come away with greater awareness. Lots of great, practical ideas and I love his wife's comments (she represents the "regular" person's perspective).

---

### Perryville Library says

Have you noticed that lately it's "in" to be "green"? It seems like nearly every product has jumped on the bandwagon, advertising itself as having some vague benefit for the environment, whether or not it is truly beneficial. (This reminds me of the syrup I had in the refrigerator years ago which proudly announced that it contained "real artificial chocolate flavor!")

Ed Begley, Jr., the actor, is not interested in bandwagons. He got involved with the environmental movement back in 1970, the year the first Earth Day was held, and has faithfully practiced what he preaches for nearly 40 years. It's not often you find someone as passionate about the environment as Ed. In the beginning he began recycling, composting, buying biodegradable soaps and detergents, and bought his first electric car. Then in 1990 he bought a small, old house (built 1936) in a neighborhood in Los Angeles, and has used it to try out many different ways, large and small, to gain energy efficiency and lessen his impact on our planet. In his book *Living Like Ed: A Guide to Eco-Friendly Life* he shares his successes (and his failures) with us.

Ed's book is divided into six categories: Home, Transportation, Recycling, Energy, Garden/Kitchen, and Clothing/Hair/Skin Care, plus a workbook at the end where you can track your own progress. Throughout the book Ed introduces us to vendors who manufacture some of the products he has found useful. After Ed tells us about his experiences he lets the vendors tell us about their specific products or services, which include solar and wind power, electric cars, environmentally-safe insulation, electric yard tools, and others. The book is packed with suggestions, and for each suggestion Ed indicates whether it is a Small, Not-So-Big, or Big change, mostly relating to cost. Many of his suggestions are free or cost very little. He is also careful to include ideas for folks in apartments or condos, who might not be able to do things on a large scale.

One of the best things about this book is the commentary from Ed's wife, Rachelle. Let's face it--Ed can be a little...um...obsessed about environmentalism, even for those of us who feel as he does. Rachelle gives us the viewpoint of an average person who isn't willing to give up certain creature comforts and conveniences. As Rachelle puts it, she "married into a lifestyle", but that doesn't mean they can't compromise on some things. For instance, if they both have to travel from Los Angeles to New York, Ed will drive Rachelle's hybrid vehicle, and Rachelle will fly. He then purchases a TerraPass (see page 88) to offset the additional carbon generated by Rachelle's flight. In Rachelle's comments she tells it like it is. I was really laughing when she described some of her "adventures" with Ed, especially those relating to his alternative-fuel vehicles and his solar oven. Both Ed and Rachelle write as if they were sitting in your family room with you, having a conversation.

It's nice to have the Begley's do the experimenting, so we will know up-front what works and what doesn't work. All the small choices you make can add up to money in your pocket and a better world for everyone. If this is a topic you're interested in, you might also enjoy *The Earth Friendly Home* by Nancy Hajeski, and *Green Remodeling: Your Start Toward an Eco-Friendly Home* by John D. Wagner. Or ask at the Info Desk for titles on sustainable living.

---

## **Diane says**

This is a good primer of various ways you can live a more eco-friendly life. The chapter I appreciated most was about the different kinds of green power, specifically the economics of solar and wind power. Granted, I don't have \$35,000 to spend on a stand-alone solar power system, but Begley points out some less expensive ways to tap into green power, such as renting solar panels, investing in a wind farm or even buying green power from your utility company.

A lot of these tips you can see on his show, *Living With Ed*, which is an entertaining way to get some green ideas. (Ed often fights with his wife over green living. She can be a touch resistant and combative, as you will see.)

## Natalie says

I really liked this. Possibly even more than all of the other green books I've been reading. He breaks things into small manageable things and labels them in one of 3 groups. Anyone can change a light bulb to a CFL or clean the coils on the fridge. It's more \$/work to install a programmer thermostat. Replacing your windows is a big project.

Lots of tips, lots of reasons and examples, and a balanced view from his wife, who's not as green, to talk about how to incorporate some changes into a less obsessively eco-friendly life :-)

One additional thought now that I'm done. I've been reading a lot of these sorts of books. Most of them make me feel like a jerk at times because I don't do everything. This is one of the ones that didn't. Not feeling like a jerk actually inspired me to try more - I bought 7th Generation tp yesterday. We haven't tried it yet. Hopefully it feels like tp and not sandpaper :-)

---

## Lisa Janda says

Got this after I watched the show and I admit I was a little fearful that it would be a bit naggy and irksome. I'm glad I was disappointed because it's an entertaining book, full of very useful information, presented in a format that actually encourages the reader to make the small changes (the "low hanging fruit" as Begley calls it) in an effort to see almost immediate results. We all cannot go the electric car/solar panel route nor does he insist that we should. Each small change we make contributes as a whole to a better environment and getting that message out there is more important than hammering the negative. An added plus is the voice of his wife, Rachelle, inserted throughout because she's "one of us": An average mom and wife who wants to make the changes but also wants to strike a balance between what looks good and what does good. She, too, is inspiring, if only for her patience. A good primer on how to ease into making things a bit greener without going crazy.

---

## Tish says

Not only do you learn to live a greener life, you enjoy the read. It is set up in a way so there are things for people at any income level to green up a bit. Ed rates every project in the book like fruit on a tree, low hanging being the easiest and the high fruit for those with a little more money to go green.

---

## Sara says

I found Ed Begley Jr.'s guide to green living very accessible to people getting more into this lifestyle. The overall tone of the book was very positive - Ed's enthusiasm for all things eco-friendly is pervasive. He shares his approach to energy saving or recycling, and gives good explanations for the why this each is a useful conservation habit.

I found that I liked the additional voices included in the book, Ed's wife Rachelle chimes in occasionally and

"Ed's Green Friends" have sections where they explain the benefits of specific products and practices. I appreciated Rachelle's point of view as someone who is adapting from a life of "regular" consumption to a more environmentally-aware lifestyle. I also liked that Ed left some of the more technical explanations to experts in his "Green Friends" sections. He clearly knows his stuff and has crunched the numbers and has a big-picture mentality when it comes to consumption, but he doesn't sound like a know-it-all, he sounds more like someone passing along helpful hints from their experience.

I jotted down notes about the types of recyclable plastics and found his recycling sorting guide very useful. I do think that this book is most helpful in Ed's own southern California area, because I took his advice and Googled my area and "hazardous waste" only to find that getting rid of it responsibly is not as easy as Ed makes it sound. Also, ridding my life of e-waste is not going to be convenient or free. Still, he answers a lot of valuable questions and lays out solid reasoning for cutting consumption. Thanks, Ed!

---

### **Morgan says**

So excited about this book. Just happened to pick it up on Earth Day too. Ed admits that he is over the top on being green, but his wife has little excerpts that really make it a fun read. It is well written and there are tips in this book that you can do that will cost you a little or absolutely nothing.

READ: This book has changed my life.....just wait and see!

---

### **D Books says**

Really good eco-friendly guide! There were things in this book that I would have never thought of to save energy as well as money. The first few things that we did that was easy to do and cheap were cleaning the coils on the refrigerator, washing clothes during off-peak or low-peak hours, keeping the blinds closed during the day that directly shines light on the refrigerator, and changed the light bulbs to CFL's (got these in bulk from Sam's: 3 for the price of 2). Things that we are planning to do in the near future include changing the A/C filter (when the boyfriend gets around to climbing up to the ceiling with a ladder), caulking around drafty windows, placing UV film on all the windows, and installing solar screening to the outer windows (that I plan on building myself). We are hoping to see some cost savings on our electric bill within the coming months.

The book touches on many other ways to cut back on gas and electric use as well as going about it in an environmentally friendly way. He also talks about eco-friendly transportation, recycling, gardening, appliances, and even clothing and cosmetics. Since Ed has been on this environmentally friendly journey since the 1970's, I think it is very safe to say that his book provides some of the best green ideas that any household can find useful in one way or another.

---

### **Elisabeth Britton says**

This was a very helpful guide - sometimes I find some books to be so overwhelming, but this one gave very specific ways to help the planet.

---

## **LibraryCin says**

Ed Begley, Jr. has been living eco-consciously since the 1970s. In this book, he brings lots of ideas and suggestions at various levels (marked by images for cost) to help other people try some of the green things he already does. Chapters include Home, Transportation, Recycling, Energy, In the Gardens and Kitchen, and Clothing and Hair and Skin Care.

I thought this was really good. Even with all the things I have read and already do, I still learned other things. I have just purchased my first home, so there are some ideas that I might be able to use there. This is one book that is probably worth buying so that you can look back on it later (I got this one from the library). There was a running line at the bottom of each page that took the ideas from that page and made it into one sentence. There were also little anecdotes by Ed's wife, who was leery of many of Ed's ideas at first, and had to be convinced of some things; she is quite conscious of style and aesthetics, so it was sometimes harder to get her on board. I think her comments are helpful for some people who are reluctant to try some of these things.

---

## **Tamar says**

There are certainly some good ideas in this book, and I appreciated its recognition that not all readers have a great deal of disposable income, even for an excellent cause. (There was also good coverage of more involved, and expensive, measures to take for those able to.)

At the same time, I felt there was a lack of recognition for individual preferences. It was pretty clear to me that this book was written by someone living in a warm and sunny climate. And even though I see the practical value of including sidebars by companies selling innovative products intended to save energy, water, etc., I'm not crazy about this type of "product placement" within the main text of the book.

In short, worth checking out from your local library.

---