

# Being green: Trumbull real estate agent has environmentally-friendly designation

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Mary Whatley, the "Green Realtor" at Prudential

TRUMBULL -- For many kids, a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on Wonder bread is practically one of the major food groups.

But not for [Mary Whatley](#). When she was growing up, her family eschewed the mass-produced bread in favor of products made in a bakery. In fact, Whatley, now a real estate agent for [Prudential Connecticut Realty](#) in Trumbull, said her parents often emphasized that fresh, natural products were inherently better than the Wonder breads of the world.

That philosophy stuck with Whatley into adulthood, and grew into a passion for sustainable living.

"I've always been interested in the environment and green living in general," she said.

Today, Whatley is one of 85 Realtors in Connecticut -- and only 6,300 nationwide -- designated as a "green" agent by the [National Association of Realtors](#). The designation program, which the Chicago-based association has offered since 2008, provides training in green building and sustainable business practices so that agents can seek out, understand, and market properties with green features. The certification requires about 18 hours training.

Whatley, Trumbull's only green agent, received her certification in June 2009. In November, she started a website, [www.greenerallthetime.com](http://www.greenerallthetime.com), that instructs homeowners on how to be more environmentally conscious.

The green designation was created to help better equip NAR's membership for working in a world that's increasingly ecologically friendly, said [Amanda Stinton](#), coordinator for NAR's green designation.

"Green is something that agents need to learn about, know about and address," Stinton said. "Consumers are concerned with energy-efficiency issues and green-living issues."

Those issues concerned Whatley as well. A real estate agent for seven years, she's long been interested in making her own home more sustainable.

She has added features such as solar panels, energy-efficient appliances and a tankless water heater. When she heard that the NAR was offering the green designation, it seemed like a perfect fit. "I was thrilled," she said.

Unfortunately, she said, there are few houses on the market with green features to highlight. Instead, she's mainly used her training to advise people on retrofitting their current homes to make them more environmentally friendly.

"I guess this is a little ahead of the curve," Whatley said of the designation.

For more information, visit [www.GreenerAllTheTime.com](http://www.GreenerAllTheTime.com) or [www.mwhatley.prudentialct.com](http://www.mwhatley.prudentialct.com).

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