

Cleaners opt to go green

[BY ABBEY ROY](#) • Advocate Reporter • March 1, 2010



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Linda and Jim Lucas stand in Highlander Cleaners in Newark. In October, the Lucas' added a new dry cleaning machine that reduces the amount of hazardous waste produced by the business and uses less energy. (Matthew Berry, The Advocate)

NEWARK -- The hybrid dry cleaning machine recently installed in the back of Highlander Cleaners is one of only seven in the state, and it is both figuratively and literally green.

Highlander owners and husband-and-wife team Jim and Linda Lucas have owned the business on South 21st Street for 35 years, and they recently decided it was time to make a big change: the installment of the Ipura machine.

Its right side is bright green, but perhaps even more attractive, both to the Lucases and their customers, is the Ipura's ability to cut the business' utility usage by two-thirds -- among other benefits, such as a 95 percent reduction in hazardous waste emissions.

"This is the best machine and the most efficient one on the market," Jim said.

The 40-pound machine uses no steam and operates without the use of perchloroethylene, a chemical flagged as harmful by the Environmental Protection Agency.

An added bonus for customers: The machine doesn't leave clothes with the odor commonly associated with dry cleaning.

"A lady came in the other day and said, 'Have these been cleaned?'" Jim said.

The Lucases have gotten a great deal of positive feedback since they installed the machine in October and already have noticed some benefits: In the amount of time they've had it, they

normally would have had to replace their older machine's filters -- and paid to have them hauled away -- at least four times.

So far, they've not had to change the Ipura's.

The installation of the Ipura was made possible through \$50,000 in bond funding from the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority.

It was a bit of a risk, given the current shaky state of the economy, but the Lucases are confident their investment will pay off -- if it hasn't already.

"Since we've done it, we're happy with it," Jim said.

The installation of the machine is part of Highlander Cleaners' goal to become more environmentally conscious overall, Jim and Linda said. They also have a program that encourages customers to recycle their hangers.

They see the installation of the new machine as a move that will benefit everyone.

"We just felt it was safer for the customers and safer for the employees," Linda said.

Highlander Cleaners is located at 231 S. 21st St. in Newark. The business also has pickup locations in Granville at 1649 Granville Road and 1844 Lancaster Road.